

GRAFT CASE AGAINST HEALTH MINISTER

Court decision on charge-framing on Aug 29

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set August 29 to decide whether charges will be framed in a graft case against Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and former Petrobangla chairman SKM Abdullah.

Judge Rezaul Karim Khan of the Special Court for Dhaka Division fixed the date after an hour-long hearing on discharge petitions.

The defence lawyers submitted two discharge petitions and made submissions on the issue but the prosecution opposed those.

Moving the petition, Mosharraf said the charges brought against him are false, fabricated and baseless.

The case was filed against him during the previous Awami League rule as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically, he added.

Kala Shaheed sent to Khulna jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Shahidul Islam alias Kala Shaheed, second-in command of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), was brought to Khulna on Monday night.

Shaheed, an accused in eight murder and 13 criminal cases, was arrested in Dhaka on Monday.

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) sent him to district jail yesterday showing him arrested in two murder cases.

Daulatpur thana Officer-in-Charge Makbul Hossain said Kala Shaheed is a listed criminal and wanted in eight murder cases. He is son of Shawkat Hossain of Pable under Daulatpur thana. Shaheed is now undergoing treatment in Khulna Jail hospital as he fell sick during interrogation by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Dhaka.

Kala Shaheed is also a suspect in the journalists Shamsur Rahman and Manik Saha murder cases. He is also FIR named against in KCC employee Masud Akunji murder case filed with Daulatpur thana.

Police said Shaheed was involved in drug and women traffickings, toll collection and abduction for ransom.

Special Public Prosecutor Fazlur Rahman Khan opposed the petitions and prayed for framing charges against the accused.

In the case filed with Ramna Police Station, it has been alleged that Mosharraf, while he was in charge of energy and mineral resources ministry during the tenure of previous BNP government, awarded Tk 674.44 crore work to a foreign company for exploration of Barapukuria coal mine at Dinajpur without floating any tender for personal gains. It caused a loss of Tk 16 crore to the state.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) filed the case against Mosharraf Hossain on September 1, 1998. Later, the investigation officer included Abdullah's name in the chargesheet.

On January 28 in 2001, the defence lawyers for Mosharraf filed a petition with the High Court for quashing the case.

After the hearing, the HC issued a rule upon the government to explain why the charges should not be quashed and stayed all the proceedings till disposal of the rule.

On April 11 this year, the HC rejected the petition and discharged the rule. It also directed the lower court to dispose of the case.

Advocates Mojibul Haq Chunnu and S Quamruzzaman Mahub appeared for the accused.

Four traffickers arrested, five rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested four traffickers and rescued two children and three women only hours before their trafficking to India in the early hours of yesterday.

Being tipped off, BDR members raided the house of one Sher Alam at the bordering Bhanukor village under Bagha upazila, and rescued the children and women.

They are Rahima, 7, Noor Nahar, 12, Noor Zahan, 32, Laal Banu, 30, and Marium of Tangail.

Sher Alam fled away, but traffickers Abul Hossain, Zaman, Ariful Islam and Kohinur were arrested.



Bazlur Rahman, editor of the daily Sangbad, speaks at a condolence meeting in memory of noted journalist, writer and columnist Santosh Gupta at the National Press Club yesterday. The Sangbad organised the event.

CASES AGAINST EX-DU VC

Judgement on Aug 22

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed August 22 for delivering the judgement in two corruption cases against former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed and former director of Welfare and Research Institute (WRI) Hafizul Islam.

Judge Rezaul Karim Khan of the Special Court for Dhaka Division set the date after a hearing on arguments by the defence and the prosecution.

In the case filed with Ramna Police Station, it was alleged that Emajuddin, during his stint as VC, asked the WRI director to enrol 15 students in Master's degree course under 1992-93 session although 14 of them could not pass in the admission test and the other did not even take part in the test.

Ratul Krishna Halder, inspector of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC), filed the case against Emajuddin and Hafizul on September 19, 1997. The investigation officer pressed charges against them on November 30, 1998.

In the second case, it was alleged that Emajuddin, when he was the VC of DU, visited Montreal, Canada, and Colombo, Sri Lanka, to attend conferences in 1995 and the expenses were borne by the two countries but he received Tk 18,216 as pocket allowance from the university fund after he returned home.

The BAC filed the case against Emajuddin on September 19, 1997.

Tributes paid to Santosh Gupta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a condolence meeting yesterday paid rich tributes to Santosh Gupta, a veteran journalist and columnist, for his contribution to objective journalism.

They said he had inspired the people through his writings at times of national transition and difficult days of the country.

The condolence meeting was organised by the daily Sangbad at the National Press Club in the city.

Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman said Santosh Gupta inspired the people in all progressive movements including the libertarian war in 1971.

He spent 11 years in jail for his writing against imperialism, fundamentalism and autocracy, said Motiur Rahman.

Sangbad Editor Bazlur Rahman said the nation will always remember the noted journalist for his progressive role in all democratic movements.

In the death of Santosh Gupta, a vacuum has been created in the field of journalism that cannot be fulfilled, he added.

Jugantor Editor Golam Sorwar said Santosh Gupta pursued honest journalism and his criticism was very constructive.

Santosh Gupta proved that journalism is one of the most effective ways to serve the nation, said Justice Quazi Obaidul Huq.

National Press Club President Reaz Uddin Ahmed said the works of the Santosh Gupta would inspire the new generation in the field of journalism.

Journalists Foyez Ahamed said Santosh Gupta translated English sonnets and our Bangla literature could be rich if the translations were preserved properly.

The Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobahan Chowdhury, Prof Anisur Rahman, Laila Rahman, Mahmudul Salim, Manjurul Ahasan Bulbul, Santosh's son Prietosh Gupta and Kashem Humayn also spoke.

At the beginning of the meeting, a one-minute silence was observed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Musical evening

BSS, Dhaka

The High Commission of India, in association with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, will present a musical evening by Johar Ali Khan and his troupe at the National Museum auditorium at 7:00 pm on August 23, said a press release.

The troupe will also perform at Rajshahi and Chittagong on August 20 and 22.

Australia to provide 45,000 tonnes of wheat

The Australian government will provide 45,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh in 2004-05, says a press release.

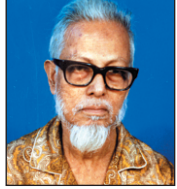
The food aid grant worth over Tk 60.3 crore will be utilised for the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme, the Integrated Food Security (IFS) programme and the School Feeding Programme (SFP).

A Memorandum of Subsidiary Arrangement was signed in this regard in the city yesterday. Lorraine Barker, high commissioner of Australia, and Mirza Tasadduq Hussain Beg, secretary, Economic Relations Division, signed the agreement.

Australia will ensure that its first shipment of wheat arrives as soon as possible to assist the flood-affected people.

Australia's food aid to Bangladesh supports the ultra-poor and offers opportunities for income generation and progress to sustainable livelihoods, particularly for women.

Obituary



Artist Shamsul Islam Nizami, a professor of Institute of Fine Arts, died yesterday at the age of 67, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife and three sons.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at Lalanagar village under Sitakundu thana in Chittagong today.

Ferdousi Begum



Ferdousi Begum, wife of late Yusuf Ali Chowdhury Mohan Mia and mother of Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury

Kamal Ibne Yusuf, died of old age complications at the Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 87, says a press release.

She is survived by her seven sons, three daughters, a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She will be buried at Banani graveyard after namaz-janaza in Faridpur Stadium at 10.00am today.

Ferdousi was the second daughter of Peer Badsha Mia and sister of Peer Mohsin Uddin Ahmed Dudu Mia.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk, and Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury condoled the death of Ferdousi, prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Md Ahsan Ullah Bhuiyan, owner of Messrs' Nobel Enterprises, will be held at his Lalmatia residence after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Ahsan died of cardiac arrest at the National Institute of Cardio Vascular Disease (NICVD) on August 15 at the age of 36.

He left behind his wife, six-month-old son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Australian High Commissioner Lorraine Barker shakes hands with ERD Secretary Mirza Tassadduq Hussain Beg after signing an agreement on food aid in the city yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Tagore song

In aid of the flood victims, the Rabirag, in association with Nriyanchal, organises an evening of Tagore song on monsoon. Venue: Shaheed Zia Auditorium, National Museum. Time: 7.00pm.

Get-together

The Jagorook, a humanitarian forum, organises a get-together of Silva Graduates. Venue: Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.30pm.

Condolence meeting

Sammitto Sangskritik Jote will hold a condolence meeting in memory of veteran journalist Santosh Gupta. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 5.00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir will hold a seminar to mark the Islami Education Day with Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami as chief guest. Venue: BCIC Auditorium. Time: 10.00am.



HeidelbergCement Bangladesh Ltd. has set up a medical camp at Kanchpur near the ScanCement factory recently to provide treatment for the flood-affected people.



Rukhsana Nazir and KM Akhtaruzzaman of Lions Club of Dhaka, Bay of Bengal, distribute relief among the flood victims at Nabinagar in Brahmanbaria recently. The relief materials were received from the Lions Clubs International Foundation.



Members of Sutorang Sangskritik Sangsad distribute relief among the flood-affected people at Louhajang in Munshiganj recently.



Teachers and students of Lalmatia Women's College prepare ruti (bread) on the college premises in the city recently for distribution among the flood-affected people. They also distributed other relief items among the distressed people in Keraniganj.



Kohinoor Chemical Co. Ltd. provided treatment for the flood victims in Savar and Narsingdi recently.



The Fantasy Kingdom celebrated the birthday of Prince Ashu with a daylong programme at the theme park in Ashulia recently.

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over the country in the next 24 hours till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and the lowest 24.7 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:29pm today and rises at 5:35am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.2	26.6	76	66
Chittagong	32.4	25.3	77	80
Rajshahi	34.4	26.6	82	67
Khulna	33.2	26.7	80	75
Barisal	32.0	26.5	82	76
Sylhet	34.4	26.9	78	72
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.4	73	83