

Verdict shifted

Syed Nazrul Islam, acting president of Bangladesh government in exile, Tajuddin Ahmed, prime minister, M Mansur Ali, finance minister, and AHM Qamaruzzaman, minister of home affairs, relief and rehabilitation, were killed inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, lawyer for an accused-on-bail Taheruddin Thakur, submitted two petitions to Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on Saturday in the last-minute bid to save his client that experts think will lead to further judicial tangles.

He appealed to court to visit Bangabhaban to identify the room where Taheruddin had allegedly been conspiring with former president Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed, the alleged mastermind of the killings.

The other petition appealed to court to ask witness Saifuddin Ahmed, the then deputy superintendent of police and second investigation officer, to appear in court as he is yet to deposit his statement as an important witness.

Law enforcers kept journalists and lawyers waiting at the entry to the court near Dhaka Central Jail since morning and said they would be allowed in before the court begins at 10:30am. But the police drove away the journalists and closed the entrance minutes before schedule.

Although it was not an in-camera trial, journalists and lawyers (not involved in the case) were barred not only from the courtroom but the court premises that remained policed by Bangladesh Rifles, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), intelligence agencies and the police in the name of tightening security.

The law enforcers allowed counsels of both sides, eight of the 23 accused and their relatives into the court premises. They even permitted relatives to take in food for the accused.

The police clubbed journalists as they protested the restriction on their entry. The newsmen held a token sit-in in front of the court to protest the bar and the attack.

BEEFED-UP SECURITY
About 400 undercover and uniformed policemen guarded the court building, high-rises in the court area and Chawk Bazar. Bakshibazar and Chankharpool crossings and roads in and out of Dhaka Central Jail.

The security men allowed the vehicles of only the accused and their relatives, law enforcers and journalists and let other people go into the court area after metal detector checks. They also closed all shops close to the court.

An archway metal detector was set up at the main entrance and Rab, the dog squad and police guarded the court as part of beefed-up security measures.

ARRIVAL OF ACCUSED
Accused-on-bail Nurul Islam Manzoor went to court in a white car at 10:00am, followed by Khairuzzaman, director general of Fareast wing of the foreign ministry, in an official white microbus.

Ailing Shah Moazzem went to court in a white jeep at 10:05am, the back is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while Rozina and Shathi took first aid from local clinics.

In the other incident, two home-labourers were injured as two home-made bombs hidden in piles rubble near the volleyball stadium at Gulistan exploded.

Faruq, 25, received splinter injuries to his right leg and hands and Karim, 16, to both his legs. They were treated at the DMCH.

While 18 day labourers were clearing the rubble at about 9:00am, a spade hit the bombs kept beneath the rubble pile making them explode, witnesses said.

Police could not say who kept the bombs there.

BOMB THREAT TO CUVC
Police yesterday arrested two youths for giving bomb threat to the Vice-chancellor's (VC) office of Chittagong University (CU), reports Staff Correspondent from Chittagong.

The two – Mohammad Shahjahan and Jagadish Rudra – were arrested at around 7:00pm at their phone-fax shops – AH Traders and Palli Phone – at CU No 1 gate near the Chittagong-Hathazari Road, police said.

They told police that two unidentified bearded persons made the phone calls at 11:15am to the VC office.

Time bomb' at Willes

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dared not dismantle the bomb.

At last Assistant Commissioner (M-T) Mohammad Shahjahan took the explosive container to safety at around 2:00pm.

"An explosive expert from Criminal Investigation Department at around 5:30pm dismantled the container and found a scotch tape wrapped piston inside it," a Ramna Police Station officer said.

As the news spread to the guardians waiting outside the school gate, they got panicked and lined the school boundary shouting "Stop examination, give our children back to our laps," when examinations were going on inside.

Assistant Headmistress of the school Khaleeda Akhter said she could not suspect who might have done it. The school authorities were firm on holding examinations.

In Jurain, 18-month-old Yanoor, Rozina, 5, and Shathi, 7, suffered splinter injuries while playing with a homemade bomb they did not know, in jorda container that went off at around 8:30am.

"Yanoor's two elder sisters Rozina, 5, and Shathi, 7, found the bomb abandoned on a road near their house at 200/12 Minshibari at Jurain in Shyampur," said Faruq Shikder, the victim's father.

Yanoor with five splinter injuries in

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