

Five get life in Toha murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Masud Ahmed Talukder and Khorshed Alam Bachchu defended the accused.

A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced five people to life imprisonment for killing former general secretary of Sayedabad Terminal Bus Owners' Samity on February 4, 2002.

The convicts are Billal, Amin, Mostafa, Bachchu and Sentu. Of the convicts, Sentu was tried in absentia while the rest four were present in the court during the delivery of the verdict.

Judge Abu Hanif of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 gave the verdict for killing Abu Naser Mohammad Toha.

The court acquitted Abul Kalam, Razzak, Babul and Fakir Chand as the charges brought against them could not be proved.

The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the date of his arrest or surrender, the judge said.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 17 prosecution witnesses.

In the case filed with Sabujbagh Police Station, victim's wife Ferdousi Akhter alleged that her husband along with his assistant Mustafizur Rahman went out of their Sabujkanon residence at 43/31 under Sabujbagh thana in the city at about 11:30am on February 4, 2002. As soon as her husband made attempt to get on his private car in front of their residence, a gang of assailants led by former general secretary of Sayedabad Bus Terminal Owners' Association Abul Kalam shot dead Toha.

Later, Ferdousi filed a murder case accusing Abul Kalam and seven others the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against Kalam and seven others on June 20 last year.

Special Public Prosecutor Nurul Iman Babul conducted the case on behalf of complainant while advocates TM Akbar, Mahub Ahmed,

Two-day festival for working children begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day festival began on the Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises in the city yesterday to increase awareness about working children in the society.

The festival also aims to provide jobs to 500 working children who participated at the vocational training organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (Dam) with the assistance of Unicef titled 'Livelihood Skills Festival.'

AK Mohammad Wahidul Hoque, Vocational Training Institute for Working Children (VTIWC) Director of Dam, presided over the inaugural function.

Wahidul Hoque said only the primary education could not eliminate the uncertainty of the livelihood of working children. The vocational training would increase their skills as well as help for better employment, he said.

"The festival is a great opportunity for them to show their skill that they achieved at the training and it is expected that the children will properly utilise this chance and enjoy it," said Unicef programme officer Syeedul Hoque Milkey.

Fourteen non-government organisations working with the working children participated in the festival. An exhibition of their products was also held at the festival.

Besides, workshops will be held today to increase awareness among the guardians, children and their employers, said Prof. Nurul Islam, director, public relations division of Dam.

Unicef started the vocational training for 1,000 working children under its pilot project.

Free cleft lip, palate operation

Selection of patients on September 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation (CLPF) has organised a free cleft lip and palate operation for the poor and distressed people, said a press release.

Selection of patients will be held on September 22 from 12:00 noon to 5:00pm, and surgeries will be performed on the following two days.

Dr Samanta Lal Sen, project director of the specialised burn and reconstructive plastic surgery of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dr Syed Shamsuddin Ahmed and Dr Ashraf-uz-Zaman will perform the surgeries.

All interested patients and attendants have been requested to contact the foundation at House- 78/E, Road- 12, Banani, Dhaka-1213 or phone 8829222.