

GRAFT CASE AGAINST
TARIQUE RAHMAN
Decision on
charge-framing
February 10

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday re-fixed February 10 for decision on charge-framing against Tarique Rahman, son of late president Ziaur Rahman and a director of Dandy Dying Limited, and four others in a graft case.

Judge Rezaul Karim Khan of the Special Court for Dhaka Division did not pass any order on the issue as Tarique Rahman and others were not present in the court due to hartal.

The defence lawyers submitted a time petition saying that the accused could not appear before the court due to hartal. So they prayed for adjournment of the passing order.

Four other accused are Dandy Dying Managing Director Maj (retd) Syed Iskander Mirza, MP, Director Giasuddin Al Mamun, former managing director of Sonali Bank M Ehsanul Haq and Abdul Khaleq Pathan.

Earlier, the defence lawyers submitted a discharge petition and made submission on it saying that charges mentioned in the first information report (FIR) are absolutely false, and the case was filed to harass and humiliate the accused, the defense lawyers told the court.

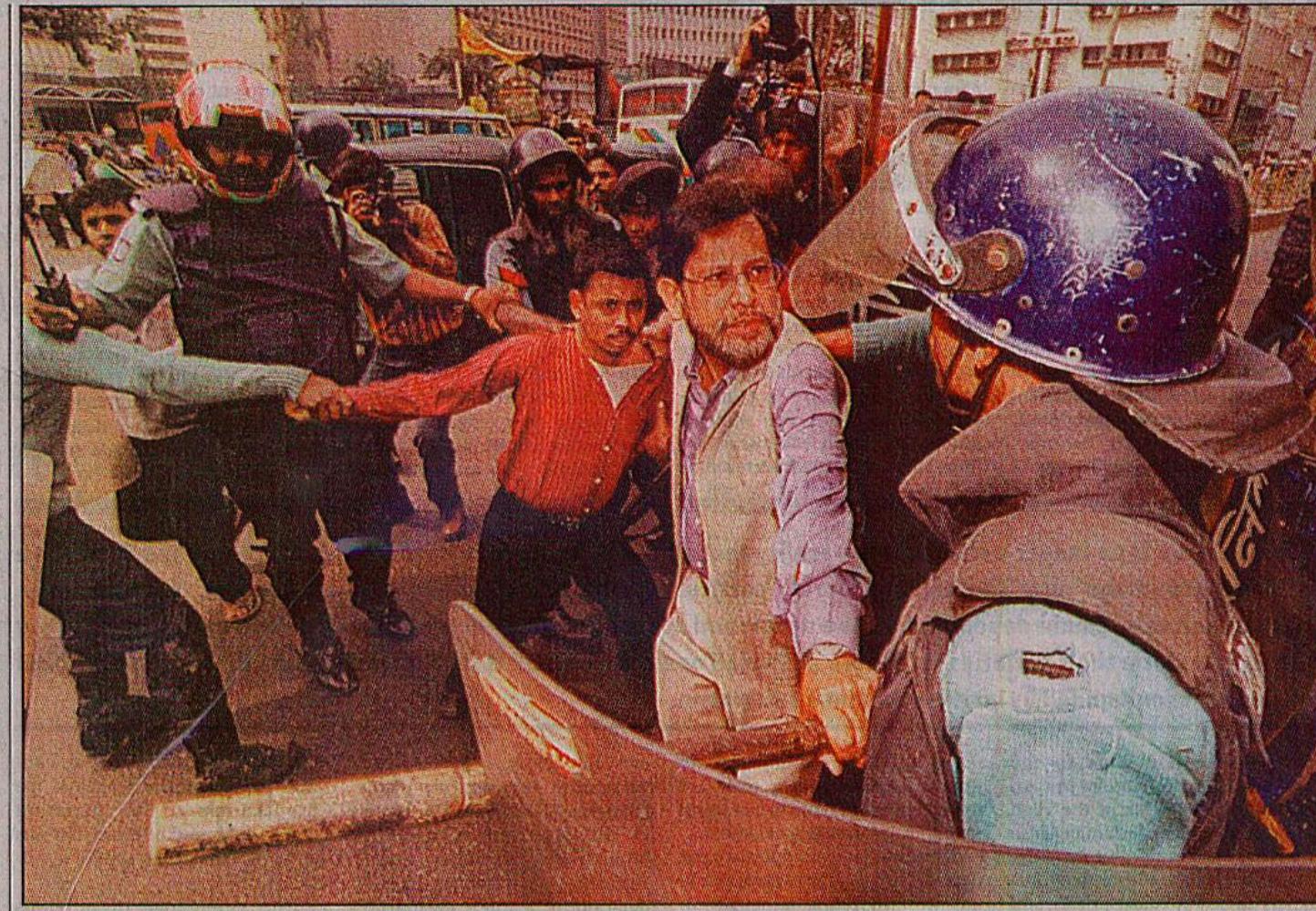
They prayed for discharging the accused from the charges.

Opposing the petition, the prosecution prayed for framing charges against them on the grounds that the charges were primarily proved.

Now defunct the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) filed a case with the Motijheel Police Station accusing Tarique Rahman and four others on September 14, 1996 and the investigation officer pressed charges against them on May 22, 1997.

In the name of M/s Dandy Dying Ltd., the accused sought loans of Tk 15.30 crore for setting up a textile dyeing factory on February 15, 1993. But the equity was fixed in collusion with the bank authorities at only Tk 1 crore, instead of Tk 5.60 crore, the amount proportionate to the loan, the FIR read.

Moreover, the value of the mortgaged land was shown to be worth Tk 18 lakh, whereas the real value was only Tk 1 lakh and 20 thousand.



Awami League lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor comes to the rescue of a party activist while police batoncharge him at Motijheel during hartal hours yesterday.

More bodies
condemn
killing of Kibria,
4 AL activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and social organisations yesterday condemned the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and four Awami League (AL) activists at a grisly grenade attack at Boidder Bazar in Habiganj on Thursday.

National Democratic Party (NDP) said the government has no right to remain in power as it has again failed to stop the grenade attack on political leaders.

At a meeting at its central office, the NDP leaders also demanded immediate trial and punishment to the culprits.

Bangladesh Human Rights Commission has said the grenade attack was carried out as the persons responsible for the previous bomb attacks were not brought to justice.

The commission in a press release said the killing of an internationally reputed personality like Shah AMS Kibria has tarnished the image of the country.

Dhaka University Journalists' Association also protested the killing of Shah AMS Kibria and four other AL activists.

The association demanded immediate arrest of the culprits behind the Habiganj grenade attack and other such previous attacks.

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government wants to exterminate the country's pro-liberation forces forever.

The committee alleged that the criminals, backed by the government, are carrying out the series of grenade and bomb attacks in the country.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury, former state minister for foreign affairs, condemned the killing of Shah AMS Kibria.

In a condolence message, he also prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, Bangladesh Sanjukta Sramik Federation, Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research, People's Solidarity, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, Bangladesh Sramajibi Kendra, Dhaka Ainjibi Samiti, Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club, Pro-liberation Doctors' Association, Mahila Parishad, Progressive Lawyers' Forum, Muktiuddo Pather, Bangladesh Krishak League, Chittagong and Juba Moitri also issued statements condemning the attack and demanding exemplary punishment to the culprits.

BCL calls strike
at CU on Feb 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Bangladesh Chittagong League (BCL) will enforce a strike at Chittagong University (CU) on February 2 in protest against the killing of noted economist, lawmaker and former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria in a grenade attack in Habiganj.

The CU BCL announced the programme at a meeting held in the city on Friday night, with its joint Secretary General Mohammad Yakub in the chair.

Central BCL leader Hafez Shahidul Kauser, CUBCL leaders JM Rasel, Joynal Abedin, Rajesh Paul and Saifur Rahman Badal addressed the meeting.

The leaders vowed to avenge the death of Kibria by toppling the four-party alliance government.

They also urged all progressive forces to be united in this regard.

Ekushey Book Fair begins Feb 1

DU CORRESPONDENT

All is set for the month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair beginning at the Bangla Academy premises on February 1.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the fair at 4:00pm.

The Bangla Academy has been organising the fair for the last three decades to commemorate the martyrdom of the Language Movement of 1952.

Some 304 publishing houses would take part in the fair by setting up 449 stalls, said Bangla Academy Director General Prof Monsur Musa at a press conference yesterday.

He said tight security measures would be taken at the fair.

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They also urged all progressive forces to be united in this regard.

Prof Musa said Bangla Academy Literature Award 2004 will be announced from the Amar Ekushey Mancha on February 20, and prizes will be distributed on February 22.

Director of the academy and Chief of the organising committee Muhammad Nurul Huda said they would check the pirated copies of books at the fair very strictly this year.

The committee will blacklist those publishing houses and take measures against them which will violate the rules and regulations of the fair, he added.

Bangla Academy will publish a total of 54 books on this occasion.

The fair will remain open for all from 3:00pm to 9:00pm everyday except on Friday when the fair will remain open from 11:00am to 9:00pm with a two-hour break from 12:00noon.

On February 21, the International Mother Language Day, the fair will continue from 8:00am to 9:00pm without any break.

The publishing houses will sell books at 20 percent discount at the fair.

Seminars, symposiums and cultural functions will also be held everyday at the academy stage where noted litterateurs and educationists will deliver speeches and poets read out their poems.

Transport strike in Khulna from February 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

South-western regional committee of 'Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation' has called for indefinite strike from February 2 protesting attack on three employees of Shohag Paribahan on January 19.

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9 Ctg AL men sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Nine leaders and activists of Awami League and its front organisations were sued by police under section 4 of Speedy Trial Act and sent to jail yesterday.

Police picked up the nine from Darul Fazal Market and New Market areas during a clash between AL supporters and the police.

They were arrested for vandalising public and private property and attacking the on-duty cops, the duty officer of Kotwali Police Station said.

The arrestees are Baharul Alam, Sanjay Chandra, Mohammad Bachchu, Anwar Hossain, Subal Dev Nath, Monirul Islam, Mohammad Shahjada, Sujit and Belal Hossain.

Shahjada is a BCL leader of Hathazari upazila unit and others are activists of city AL, Sramik League, Jubo League and BCL," said MA Salam, general secretary of AL north district unit.

The nine were produced before the court which sent them to Chittagong jail yesterday.

BAU admission test Feb 11

UNB, Dhaka

Admission test for undergraduate students of level-1, semester-1 of the session 2005 at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in Mymensingh will now be held on February 11 from 10:00am to 12:00noon.

The admission test was scheduled for January 31, but postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

1,474 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,474 people, including five listed criminals, on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered three firearms, seven others weapon, two bullets and three explosives and filed six cases against eight people under Arms Act.

Citibank Program Postponed

Citibank program scheduled for January 30, 2005 at Dhaka Sheraton has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

Inconvenience regretted.

citibank

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Interview by Bhanu Srikant, Manager, International Marketing, IIBIT

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