

TV ANCHOR IRIN MURDER

Husband, his brother get death

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man along with his brother to death for killing his wife Irin, a TV anchor in October 2001.

The convicts are the victim's husband Abul Kausar Chisty and her husband's brother Mahmud Hassan Chisty.

The court acquitted Mahmud's friend Sohel Haider Chowdhury as the allegation brought against him was not proved.

Judge Golam Mortuza Majumder of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 gave the verdict in the presence of the convicts.

After cross-examination of 19 prosecution witnesses, the court pronounced

the judgement.

According to the prosecution, the conjugal life of Abul Kausar Chisty and Irin deteriorated as Irin used to protest her husband's affairs with one Labonya. Irin used to press her husband to put a flat and a printing press in the name of their daughter Chhoya, which made her husband and brother-in-law Mahmud Hassan Chisty angry.

Later, the two killed the victim at Green Road in the city's Dhamondi area at about 10:00pm on October 10, 2001.

The investigation officer pressed charges against them on January 6, 2003 and the court framed charges against them on May 21 the same year.



PHOTO: STAR

Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan speaks at the inaugural ceremony of an international workshop on 'Building an information society: Road 2 Tunis' in the city yesterday.

'Use ICT as a tool to establish good governance'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an international workshop yesterday called for the use of information and communication technology (ICT) as a tool to strengthen democracy, establish good governance and ensure accountability of the government.

The dramatic advancement of ICT has transformed the world into a 'global village' and no country can survive keeping itself distanced from this modern trend, they said at the workshop

entitled 'Building an information society: Road 2 Tunis'.

The Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology and the UNDP, Bangladesh jointly organised the workshop at the Bhasani Novo Theatre complex in the city to prepare a 'Dhaka Declaration' for the World Summit on Information Society to be held in Tunis next month.

The speakers said the ICT have continued to drive economic changes, restructure businesses, affect skill and

employment models and contribute significantly to economic growth. But these developments are largely uneven as many people in the world have been deprived of access to information.

Speaking as the chief guest, Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said, "Using ICT, anyone can directly post questions to ministers about the government activities, whereas it usually takes a lengthy procedure in parliament to ask questions."

Stressing the need for promoting ICT for rural development, he said around 70 percent of people in South Asian countries, including Bangladesh, live in rural areas and the development of these states is impossible without their participation.

Dr Moyeen Khan said the ICT provides the opportunity to break the so-called digital divide and this is the only advanced technology which offers more benefits at cheaper rate.

He, however, said the lack of access to, affordability of and awareness about ICT is the major obstacle to spreading it across the country.

Bhutanese Minister for Information and Communication Layonpo Leki Dorji, who was present as the special guest, stressed the use of ICT as a tool for development.

Resident Representative of UNDP Jorgen Lissner said the ICT is a sector essential for all sections of society -- from professors and peasants to vendors and tycoons.

However, it is creating the digital divide among many countries in the world, he said, adding that countries like Bangladesh have to come a long way to catch up with other countries to bridge the gap.

Secretary of ICT Ministry Mian Mushtaque Ahmed and Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP Larry Maramis also spoke.

Later, Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan inaugurated a three-day 'Bangladesh showcase and WSA Road Show' at the Bhasani Novo Theatre complex where different IT firms and organisations showcased their products and services.

Twenty local and international experts are taking part in the workshop. Two plenary sessions were held yesterday and three plenary sessions will be held today.

PM leaves for S Arabia today to perform Umrah

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will leave for Saudi Arabia today in the evening on a week-long visit to perform the holy Umrah Hajj.

Khaleda's visit is taking place at the invitation of the Saudi King and she will be treated as a Royal guest during her stay there.

The Prime Minister will perform jariat at the Rawza Mubarak of Prophet Muham-mad (SM) and offer prayers at the Masjid-e-Nabobi.

Khaleda will arrive at Makkah on October 27 and perform the holy Umrah Hajj.

She will also observe the holy Shab-e-Qadr and Jumatul Wide in Makkah.

The Prime Minister is expected to return home on October 31.

'Dhaka believes in One China policy'

BDNEWS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday reiterated Bangladesh's stance on 'One China' policy.

He was talking to a delegation of the Chinese Association For International Understanding (CAFIU) at his office in the city. CAFIU council member Jiang Shuxian led the delegation. Bhuiyan told the Chinese delegates that Bangladesh attached high importance

to the friendship with China, and recalled Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's several visits to China after assuming state power in 1991 and 2001.

He supported the Chinese government's stance on Taiwan issue saying: 'Bangladesh too believes in the 'One China Policy.'

Shuxian thanked Bangladesh for supporting China in various international issues and insisted on exchanging of youth and NGO delegations between the two countries. Besides, they discussed various bilateral issues.