

HC asks cops not to torture ETV chairman's assistants

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday directed the government and police not to torture Ziaur Rahman Zia and Faizul Karim, two assistants of Ekushey Television (ETV) Chairman Abdus Salam, during their remand.

After hearing two writ petitions filed by Ashraf Alam, brother of Abdus Salam, challenging the validity of their remand, the vacation bench of Justice SK Sinha also directed the chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka not to extend the remand period.

On November 5, Ramna police arrested Ziaur Rahman Zia and Faizul Karim under Section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). They were taken on a five-day remand the next day.

In the writ petitions, Ashraf Alam submitted that police have been inhumanly torturing Zia and Karim during the remand.

Dr M Zahir assisted by Barrister Tanjib-ul Alam and Barrister Sarah Hossain moved the petition while Deputy Attorney General Karunamoy Chakma appeared for the government.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurates the six-storey BEPZA Complex at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

PM asks BEPZA to fill up all vacant posts

BEPZA Complex inaugurated

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) to fill up all the vacant posts under its jurisdiction soon.

She gave the directive while presiding over the 23rd meeting of BEPZA Board of Governors at the newly built BEPZA Complex at Dhanmondi in the city.

Earlier, she inaugurated the six-storey BEPZA Complex constructed at a cost of about Tk 10 crore on 13.5 'kathas' of land at Dhanmondi in the city.

BEPZA Executive Chairman Brig Gen (Retd) M Zakir Hossain said more than 400 recruitments would be made following the Prime Minister's directive. Zakir was briefing the journalists after the meeting.

The Prime Minister said the BEPZA's proposal for creation of new posts would be sent to the ministries for establishment and finance for examination to take final actions in this regard.

The board meeting approved nine agendas, including the proposal for offering 20 percent cash incentive to attract investments in agro-based industries in the EPZs in Ishurdi, Mongla and Uttara (Natore).

The PM, who is also chairperson of the BEPZA, asked the authorities to ensure use of local items as raw materi-

als in the EPZs.

She also directed the authorities to keep the present trend of investment, production and exports on in the EPZs.

According to official statistics, the total volume of investment in eight EPZs in the first four years of the present government from fiscal 2001-02 is 392 million US dollars compared to 224 million dollars during the previous four years of the past regime.

The volume of export earnings from the EPZs in last four years stands at 5.18 billion US dollars showing a 57 percent growth against the exports in the previous four years.

The EPZs presently employ 1.55 lakh people, of them, 60 percent are women.

The BEPZA Board of Governors approved allocation of land for Patenga police station in Kamafuli EPZ and Siddhirganj police station in Adamjee EPZ and also the setting up of a police outpost on priority basis in Comilla EPZ.

The meeting approved establishment of a fire service station in Comilla EPZ area and upgrading the fire service stations in Dhaka and Chittagong EPZs to grade one with modern equipment.

The meeting also approved in principle the expansion of Shimrail-EPZ-Narayanganj road in front of the Adamjee EPZ and establishment of EPZ labour tribunal, formation of EPZ labour appeal tribunal, and their organogram and financial expenses.

DU teacher commits suicide

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University (DU) professor allegedly committed suicide yesterday, hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his residence.

A security guard of the teachers' quarter found Prof Quazi Salamatullah of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science hanging from the ceiling fan of his university residence when he went to call the teacher at about 8:00am.

Salamatullah in a suicide note on his departmental pad wrote, "I am leaving this world on my own." However, the second line of the note

read, "Allah will punish those who forced me to commit suicide."

In the letter, Prof Salamatullah requested his relatives to lay him at the Azimpur Graveyard. "Do not bother any of my relatives, friends, colleagues, domestic help or driver," it also said.

Police recovered the body and the suicide note but could not find any reasons behind the suicide immediately. Some police officials, however, said the professor might have committed suicide over family affairs.

The body of Salamatullah was sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy where the doctors found nothing unusual.

Prof Salamatullah hailed from Natna under Ashashuni upazila of Satkhira district and used to live in the flat alone.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Proctor AK Firoz Ahmed, Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and its General Secretary Prof Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman visited the residence.

Prof Siddique and Prof Aktharuzzaman expressed deep condolence over the death of Prof Salamatullah.

The university authorities filed an unnatural death case with the Ramna police.

The namaz-e-janaza of Prof Salamatullah was held at the DU central mosque after Asr prayers and his dead body was buried at the Azimpur Graveyard at 10:00pm.



Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka inaugurates the Saarc fountain at Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday.

SAFMA confce begins today

BSS, Dhaka

SAFMA leaders will meet for the second time with a view to realising their demand to ensure free flow of information and establishing a media university in addition to launching of a common website and a journal in the Saarc region. The two-day conference of South

Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) begins at the Hotel Lake Shore in the city at 10:00 am today with the theme 'Journalists Beyond Frontiers'.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam will attend the inaugural function as the chief guest while Chairman of Grameen Bank Dr Muhammad Yunus will be the keynotes speaker.

Buet admission tests today

UNB, Dhaka

Admission tests of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) for 2005-2006 academic session will be held on the campus today.

A total of 3,602 applicants have qualified for the tests.

Fugitive JCD robber arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested a former Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, also a convict in a robbery case in Motijheel, from Jhenidah town in the early hours of yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Ruhul Amin, former assistant general secretary of JCD Dhaka College unit, with the help of Jhenidah police at 1:00am.

Ruhul Amin was sentenced to jail for five years for robbing Tk 12 lakh from an employee of Uma Jewellers on June 19, 2005.

Ruhul Amin along with two others -- Golam Ohab Liton and Azizul Hakim -- abducted Abul Kashem, employee of Uma Jewellers, on his way to Janata Bank at Purana Paltan.

As the three were fleeing on a private car, Kashem cried for help when the car stuck in a jam at Nightangle crossing. The local people and police caught the two but Ruhul Amin managed to flee.

DB police raided Ruhul Amin's room at Dhaka College and recovered Tk 10,04,900.

A Dhaka court sentenced Ruhul Amin in jail for five years and two others for four years.

Ruhul had been evading arrest since the incident.

JCD sources said Ruhul Amin was expelled from the college committee a year ago for extortion and mugging.