

KIBRIA KILLING

**A quarter at PMO influencing probe: Asma Kibria**

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Asma Kibria yesterday blamed a certain quarter at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for influencing and controlling the normal proceedings of the investigation into the killing of her husband former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria.

"Once the Prime Minister said that she herself would take care of the case, but I came to know that some one from her office was influencing and controlling the normal proceeding of the inquiry," she told BDNEWS at her Dhanmond residence.

The diplomat-turned politician Shah AMS Kibria was killed on January 27 this year in a grisly grenade attack just after a public meeting at Boilder Bazar in Habiganj.

"Till date, actually no progress was made in identifying the mastermind behind the brutal assassination of Kibria," Asma said. "They arrested Abdul Quaiyum, the main accused in the killing, but could not or did not want to find out the source from where he collected the grenade used in the assassination," she added.

Asma expressed her doubt about the neutrality of the probe process as the charge sheet was submitted without recording the confessional statement of Quaiyum under section 164 of CrPC.



FILE PHOTO

Asma Kibria, wife of slain Awami League leader Shah AMS Kibria.

She said that as the lower court in Habiganj rejected their 'non-acceptance petition' (Na-razi petition) on the charge sheet twice, they filed a writ petition with the High Court demanding further inquiry into the case. The hearing on the writ will be held today.

Accusing the PMO of creating obstacle in way of proper investigation, she questioned: Is it a proof of neutrality of the PM?

Asma pointed to the role of the then deputy commissioner of Habiganj Emdadul Haque, who favoured the conspirators indirectly. Haque's hot-connection with the PMO was proved

when he was made a member of the entourage of PM during her Japan visit, she said.

She said the government is not sincere or committed to rendering justice in the case at al. "As a part of the ongoing process to block the way of justice, Sultan Mahub, a director (adm wing) in the PMO, was appointed DC of Habiganj," she said.

"How Habiganj becomes so important that they set an 'own man' on the top of the local administration?" Asma questioned demanding withdrawal of the DC.

When FBI agents came to investigate the case in Bangladesh, Quaiyum was not allowed to talk thoroughly with the FBI despite his willingness, she said terming the incident 'mysterious.'

"Quaiyum's confessional statement is not being recorded as his revelations might create trouble for the government," Asma said demanding a fair international probe by FBI or Interpol into her husband's assassination.

"I have confidence in the capability of our intelligence agencies if they are allowed to work fairly, but often they are not, especially in this case that carries a highly political significance," she said.

**ETV chairman gets anticipatory bail for four months**

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for four months to Ekushey Television (ETV) Chairman Abdus Salam in three criminal cases filed by his divorced wife and the government.

After hearing separate bail petitions, a division bench of the HC comprising Justice MA Rashid and Justice ATM Fazle Kabir also issued a rule upon the government to show cause within four weeks as to why Abdus Salam should not be granted regular bail in these cases.

Abdus Salam, also the managing director of ETV, appeared in person before the court for bail.

On October 7 and 19, Farzana Shilpi and Sub-Inspector Nasimul Islam filed three criminal cases against Abdus Salam with Kafur Police Station and Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

The HC on October 25 and 27 ordered the government not to arrest and harass Abdus Salam till November 20 in the cases and directed him to surrender before the court on November 20.

Advocate TH Khan and Dr Kamal Hossain assisted by Barrister Tanjibul Alam, Barrister Sarah Hossain and Advocate Rezina Chowdhury moved for the petitioner before the court while Deputy Attorney General ABM Waliur Rahman opposed the bail.

**2 killed in city road mishap**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her minor daughter were killed and five others injured in a road accident yesterday morning in the city.

Police sources said an Uttara bound speeding human hauler lost control near Dhourat Ashulia and turned upside down killing mother and daughter on the spot and wounding the other five in the hauler.

The dead were identified as Mansura Begum, 25, and her daughter Brishti, 4. Mansura with her child started from her residence Mirpur for her sister's at Abdullahpur in Uttara, said Mansura's sister Salina Begum.

Local people rescued the wounded, now undergoing treatment at Tongi General Hospital.

The dead bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.



PHOTO: STAR

A fish trader sleeps on a wooden box at the New Market kitchen market during a strike yesterday. Dhaka City Fish and Kitchen Market Small Traders' Association called the strike to realise its five-point demand.

**'Orbis training to increase expertise of local ophthalmologists'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Orbis, an international humanitarian organisation for Saving Sight Worldwide, formally launched a two-week-long ophthalmic training programme at its Flying Eye Hospital aboard a DC-10 aircraft at Shah Amanat International Airport (SAIA) in Chittagong yesterday.

The programme titled 'Orbis Plane Programme, Chittagong- 2005' is aimed at training ophthalmologists, nurses, ophthalmic assistants and biomedical engineers to strengthen the capacity of in-country eye care service.

Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex and

Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh, Chittagong chapter have organised the most technologically advanced training programme for the second time in Chittagong after September 2002.

It is the eighth visit of Orbis in Bangladesh since 1985.

Speakers at the inaugural ceremony on SAIA premises in the morning hoped that the expertise and skills of the local eye-care professionals would increase significantly through on-hand training, lectures, symposia, computerised simulation and surgical demonstrations at Orbis Flying Eye Hospital in preventing blindness in the country.

They said with seven lakh blind

people and forty thousand blind children, Bangladesh has one of the highest prevalence of blindness in the world.

It was due to lack of awareness and education on eye care issues amongst the general public, particularly the rural people, they added.

The speakers also hoped that the programme would create public awareness, which is so vital to improve the situation, alongside the transfer of technology and sharing of experiences.

Director General of Health Service Prof Shahadat Hossain and OSB President Prof MA Hadi Faquir were the chief guest and special guest respectively at the inaugural ceremony

presided over by Prof Dr Rabiul Husain, chairman of Orbis Plane Programme Organising Committee.

Orbis Flying Eye Hospital Director Drew Boshell, Medical Director Gordon Doglus, Country Director of Orbis in Bangladesh Dr Md. Khairul Islam and Dr SM Tareq of OSB, Chittagong also spoke on the occasion.

The organisers informed the audience that Orbis plans to conduct the flying eye hospital programme at Osmani International Airport in Sylhet during its next visit in Bangladesh and gradually at other places of Bangladesh if the concerned airport authorities provide the facilities and other requisites.

A 30-member multinational staff as well as volunteer doctors, nurses and anaesthesiologist from the USA, the UK and Ireland would conduct the programme that focuses training on sub-specialities of retina, paediatric ophthalmology and cornea operations.

Surgical operations would be conducted on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday every week during the flying eye hospital's stay here, sources said.

About one hundred patients will receive consultations and medical treatment while some 45 patients would receive surgical and laser treatment during the period, they added.

Dr David Laws of the UK, Dr Clifford Salinger of the USA and Dr Michael Eckstein of the UK would conduct the surgical operation and other demonstrations in the first week.

Dr Wayne Fung, Dr Scott Olitsky and Dr Michael Vrabec of the USA would be there during the concluding week.

Anesthesiologist Dr Andrew Choyle and nurse Ann Marie Ablett of the UK would be there for providing volunteer service.



PHOTO: STAR

A three-day exhibition titled 'Amar Chithi' (my letter) begins at the British Council auditorium in the city yesterday. International Republican Institute and British Council jointly organise the event.

CPB programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has chalked out month-long agitation programmes in December in order to compel the four-party alliance government to resign because of its 'failure' to govern the country.

The CPB leaders took the decision at its two-day long central meeting that ended on November 19.

Presided over by CPB president Manzurul Ahsan Khan, the meeting was addressed by the party's central leaders.

They called upon all sections of people to make the programme successful.

The month long agitation programmes will begin with countrywide rallies and processions to be held on December 1. Beside, the CPB also announced for a grand rally on January 20.

**Body to regulate kindergartens**

BSS, Dhaka

A seven-member convening committee headed by Director General, Primary Education Directorate, has been formed to formulate a time befitting rules and regulations for registration of private kindergartens.

The committee will formulate the rules and regulations within two months and place those in the next meeting.

The meeting decided that the Chairman of under-privileged Students Assistance Programme

(USAP) place the list of private kindergartens at the Primary Education Directorate within two months.

USAP Chairman A Wadud told BSS that under the Director General, Primary Education Directorate, all the Primary Kindergarten throughout the country will be enlisted through the upazila office of the directorate.

"According to USAP statistics, the number of private kindergartens across the country is 63,000 while the government says the figure is 4,000 only," he added.

**28 Comilla AL men get anticipatory bail**

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to 28 Awami League (AL) leaders and activists of Comilla in two vandalism and looting cases filed by a local leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal with Devidwar Police Station.

After hearing a bail petition filed by the accused, a High Court bench comprising Justice MA Rashid and Justice ATM Fazle Kabir also issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail.

Devidwar thana Chhatra Dal leader Mohammad Shamim on November 12 filed two vandalism and looting cases against 28 leaders and workers, including Rawshan Ali Master, a prospective AL candidate for Comilla-4 constituency in next general election.

The 28 accused appeared in person before the High Court for seeking the bail.

Advocate Mohammad Abul Hossain moved for the petitioners before the court while Deputy Attorney General ABM Waliur Rahman for the government.

**'Cancel 27th BCS or face tough movement'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Fair BCS Movement (FBCSM) demanded a fresh preliminary test and resignation of 'corrupt' and 'unfit' PSC chairman and its members for their utter failure to prevent questions paper leak out.

They threatened to launch a tough movement if Public Service Commission (PSC) does not cancel 27th preliminary examination right away as questions papers leaked out before the examination starts.

They alleged that through the question leak the ruling party-men are being rehabilitated and consequently the meritorious candidates are being deprived.

They also sought support of all and urged people to build up strong movement against leak out of question papers and corruption of PSC in the educational institutions across the country.

**Ruhul Amin acting Chief Justice**

UNB, Dhaka

Justice M Ruhul Amin of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will act as Chief Justice-in-charge from November 26 to December 2 during the absence of Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain, an official handout said here yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Christine I Wallich, country director of the World Bank, speaks at a discussion titled 'World Bank's role in the private sector development of Bangladesh' at the BCI Bhaban in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Chamber of Industries organised the discussion.