

KERANIGANJ TRADER MURDER

Two brothers to die, 10 get life

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced two brothers to death and ten others, including three brothers, to life in jail for killing Delwar Hossain, General Secretary of Keraniganj Shop Owners and Co-operative Society in July, 2001.

The convicts with death are Mamun Shath and Omar Shath while three brothers Hanif Shath, Ali Shath and Aslam Shath and Selim, Jahangir, Babul alias Heroin Babul, Moktar, Abdul Mannan, Akmal and Anwar were given life in jail.

Of them, Jahangir, Omar, Akmal and Anwar were present in the court during the delivery of the verdict while the rest were tried in absentia.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their

arrest or surrender and the convicts with death can appeal to the High Court against the judgement within seven days from receipt of the judgement copy, the judges said.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul Haque of the Seventh Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court handed down the sentence at a packed courtroom.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 15 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, Delwar, 35, was killed by a group of miscreants led by Mamun at about 7.45 pm on July 27, 2001 while he (Delwar) along with his friends was discussing about business. The victim was killed following a feud over previous enmity. Moreover, the victim

protested the accused's extortion from the shops of Alam Shopping Plaza and other business institutions, sources said.

Thousands of people from Keraniganj gathered on the court premises and chanted slogans demanding capital punishment to the culprits.

Victim's elder brother Abdur Rashid expressed his satisfaction over the verdict.

Meanwhile, additional police forces were deployed on the court premises to avoid any untoward incident.

District Public Prosecutor Mohammad Mohsin Mia appeared for the state while advocates Mahbub Ahmed and AFM Abdul Wadud for the accused.

CHEQUE BOUNCE CASE

Court issues summons to former justice

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued summons to a former justice, asking him to appear before the court on January 30 in connection with a case of dishonouring of cheque.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mizanur Rahman issued the order following a case filed by a bank official against M Bazlur Rahman Talukder.

In his complaint, Aftabuddin of Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd mentioned that Talukder received a loan of Tk 12.7 lakh from the bank.

Later, Talukder gave a cheque for Tk 3 lakh but it bounced on September 26 this year as there was no enough money in his account.

RUBEL MURDER CASE

Hearing on appeal begins in High Court

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Hearing on the appeal of Rubel murder case began in the High Court yesterday.

A division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Hassan Ameen and Justice Ataur Rahman Khan heard part of the submission of the counsels of the petitioners.

Shamim Reza Rubel, a student of the Independent University, was killed in the custody of Detective Branch (DB) of police on July 23, 1998. The following day, on July 24, 1998, Abdur Rob Miah, father of Rubel, filed a murder case with Ramna police station against 14 accused, including, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Akram Hossain and Roksana Begum alias Mukuli Begum, a neighbour of Rubel.

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka, on June 17, 2002, delivered judgement with life-term rigorous imprisonment to 13 convicts, including AC Akram, and one year to Mukuli Begum.

The 13 convicts who were awarded life term imprisonment filed appeal against the trial court judgment in the High Court.

Advocate Syed Monsurul Haque and advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun moved for the petitioners while deputy attorney general for the government.

JUDGES' KILLING CASE

Police fail to submit charge sheet within deadline

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Jhalakathi Sadar police has failed to submit charge sheet in the judges' killing case within seven days of the incident, a deadline set by the state minister for home affairs.

As the deadline expired yesterday, Investigation Officer and Officer-in-Charge of Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station Sohrab Hossain argued that they have two more days to meet the deadline because last Friday and Saturday were holidays.

Earlier, he said that they would be able to submit the charge sheet within the seven-day deadline.

However, he yesterday denied making such a statement and said more time may be needed to prepare the charge sheet as the main accused is under treatment in Dhaka and his accomplices are now on remand in Jhalakathi.

"In that case, we will request the higher authority to extend the deadline for submission of charge sheets," he added.

Police sources hoped that the interrogation of the 13 arrestees, including suicide bomber Mamun Ali, would be completed within this period and more people may be implicated in two cases lodged in this connection.

GAUTAM MURDER

Punishment to killers demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the killers of Journalist Gautam Das.

They made the demand at a rally at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla on the campus. They also took out a procession wearing black badges and holding banners and festoons.

The procession started at the Aparajeo Bangla and paraded Teacher Student Centre (TSC), Central Library and Modhu's Canteen.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) president and acting chair of the department Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Sheikh Abdus Salam, Robaet Ferdous, Fahmidul Haque and Associate Press (AP) Bangladesh Bureau chief Farid Hossain attended the rally.



President Iajuddin Ahmed, right, and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, left, place wreaths at 'Shikha Anirban' at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day.

PHOTO: PID

Foreign aid, investment largely depends on future election

Says British Minister Howells

UNB, London

British Minister of State and Commonwealth Office Kim Howells yesterday said foreign aid and investment will largely depend on the future election in Bangladesh, which he said is very important.

Addressing a press conference at British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Howells, who has just ended his visit to Bangladesh after talks with both government and opposition leaders, said, "The entire world is looking at Bangladesh with deep interest to see if the elections are free

and fair."

Calling for an independent and neutral election commission, he said, "A neutral election can not be achieved through Rab, police and political leaders and workers--it will require an independent election commission on the basis of consensus."

Howells said the British government is ready to provide all possible assistance for holding a free and fair election in Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh is a promising country where majority people are religious-minded and lead their life in accordance with Islamic ideology," observed the British minister, who also had interaction with religious leaders in Bangladesh.

Howells referred to the vast natural resources of Bangladesh and said the country could achieve economic progress by exploiting minerals, including coal.

He deplored the killing of two judges and a journalist, saying that this is not good news for the country. He criticised the killing of judges as a "heinous act".

Howells deplored non-completion

of proper investigation into the grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury in Sylhet. "The life of our high commissioner is very important to us," he said, expressing the hope that Bangladesh government will be able to complete the investigation and hold trial quickly.

Howells said after the attack, the Scotland Yard visited Bangladesh assisting Bangladesh police and intelligence agencies. He said the British government will publish the investigation findings very soon.

Rajuk sues 7 for filling up Gulshan Lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Umnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) filed a case against seven people with the Gulshan Police Station under the Wetland Protection Act for filling up the Gulshan-Badda Lake.

Executive Engineer of Rajuk Mohammad Rafiqul Islam filed the case late on Sunday following a report published in The Daily Star on the same day.

The alleged violators of the Wetland Protection Act are-- Dr Tarafder Rabul Islam, Mohammad Moslehuddin, Mohammad Alamgir Hossain, Haji Abu Sayeed, Mohammad Nurul Haque Chowdhury, Syed Abdul Gafur and Mohammad Asad Mia, duty officer of the police station said.

DU exams postponed

Dhaka University authorities have postponed all the examinations scheduled for today due to unavoidable reasons.

Fresh dates for the postponed examinations will be announced soon, says a press release.

NON-BALLOTTEE HAJJ PILGRIMS

Decision to fix airfare at US \$ 1050 rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Olama-Mashaekh Samonnoy Parishad yesterday rejected the government decision to fix airfare for non-ballottee hajj pilgrims at US \$1050.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium, they also demanded fixation of same airfare for ballottee and non-ballottee pilgrims at US\$950.

The leaders urged the government to allow private airlines companies who showed interest in carrying the pilgrims at a comparatively low fare.

Parishad President Abdul Latif Chowdhury said some private airlines like Asia Travel Networks, Bismillah Airlines and Air Parabat have agreed to carry pilgrims at US\$950 but the government is not giving them permission for mysterious reason.

He however praised the government for firing the state minister for civil aviation and demanded punitive measures against other government officials who have link to airfare 'corruption'.

Latif also demanded formation of a National Hajj Committee with top olamas and non-government officials who are working for smooth management of hajj.

President of Islami Intellectuals Front Abdul Hannan Al Hadi alleged that the ballottee pilgrims face various problems and irregularities due to mismanagement of religious affairs ministry every year.

"We have information that this year the government has rented houses for the pilgrims at a distance of 1400 to 1500 metres from Makkah Sharif, but much better houses within 300 meter of Makkah Sharif could be rented with the amount taken from the ballottee pilgrims as house rent," said Hadi.

He asked the government to find out the persons responsible for looting the house rent money of ballottee pilgrims.

The speakers vowed to continue their agitation until their demands are fulfilled.

Parishad General Secretary Wahiduzzaman and member Washif Uddin Nurani were present at the press conference.

Indian smuggler killed by BSF

UNB, Meherpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead an Indian smuggler and injured three others on Ichakhali border of the district early yesterday.

Villagers said Tarok Chand Ghose, 32, of Lalbazar under Tehotta Police Station of Nadia district died on the spot. The injured managed to flee. Tehotta police recovered the body in the afternoon.

The Indian smugglers cut open the barbed wire fence and were trying to cross the border with cattle heads and other goods.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Commander Lt Col Shakhawat Hossain confirmed the incident.

Indian smugglers and criminals often cross the border with cattle, drugs, bombs and bomb making materials, said the villagers.

Qualifications @ UK Fair 2005 begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to provide the UK degree locally, the British Council is going to organise education fair in the country.

The fair titled 'Qualifications @ UK Fair 2005' will be held in three places starting from tomorrow.

The first phase of the fair will be held at its Fuller Road office in the city on November 23 and 24.

Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk will inaugurate the fair as chief guest.

The second phase of the fair will be held at Metropolitan University, Zindabazar, Sylhet while the last phase will be held at Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong on November 28 and 29.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Richard Sunderland, deputy director of British Council, said the aim of the fair is to bring educational providers from the UK and Bangladesh together to help interested students find out what internationally recognised degrees are available through studying in Bangladesh.

He said as only few students can manage to go aboard for higher studies the fair will allow many more students to have their international standard degree locally through distance programmes now available in Bangladesh.

The fair will provide information on different UK degrees like LLB, NCC, CIMA, CCA, BBA and MBA, said Raigha Ripa Walie of British Council.

Shahin Reza from British Council and Rubaba Dowla Matin and Galib Ahmed Ansari from Grameen Phone, is the official co-sponsor of the fair.

Arms haul at Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered four .303 rifles and equipment for repairing arms at Naikkhonchhari upazila yesterday.

BDR sources said acting on a tip off the 40th battalion of BDR led by Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Awal dug out the arms and arms repairing equipment at Faitong Jhiri area.

BDR personnel also recovered 50 cleaning kits of AK-47 rifles, seven kits of sub-machine carbine (SMC), two bolts of Chinese sub-machine gun (SMG), six magazines of SMC and 30 springs.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Hosne Ara Begum, wife of former Jute Controller late Kabir-un-Nur, died at the DAB Cardiac Hospital, Birdem in the city on Saturday.

She left behind her one daughter and three sons to mourn her death. Her qukhwani will be held at Kabir Villa at 118/1 Matikata, Dhaka Cantonment after Maghrib prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qukhwani.

Death anniversary



Today is the eighth death anniversary of Ashfia Nigar Reema, daughter of Hamida Ali, principal of South Point School and College, and Mohammed Ali says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at 98, Bara Maghbar, Eastern Rokaya Tower on Friday at 4:00pm.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend and pray for the salvation of the departed soul of Reema.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Manjusree Chowdhury speaks at a memorial meeting on M A Samad at the Dhaka Ladies' Club Central Hall in the city yesterday. On her left is Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury and Mahbulul Alam Chowdhury and on her right is Mofazzal Karim.

Tribute paid to MA Samad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday paid tribute to MA Samad, a pioneer in insurance industry and patron of the arts, culture and literature, saying that he was a man of progressive outlook and amiable qualities.

Samad was the founder-managing director and chairman of Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC), the first private insurance company in the country. He passed away on October 18 at the age of 82.

MA Samad Memorial Meeting Parishad organised the meeting at the Dhaka Ladies' Club, with National Professor Kabir Chowdhury in the chair. Singer Tapan Mahmud moderated the programme.

Samad was known for his wit, liveliness and outspokenness, said Prof Kabir Chowdhury.

He had the ability to make people feel friendly within a very short time, said Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star.

Born in Sylhet on January 1, 1923, MA Samad graduated from the Presidency College in Kolkata. He also worked in All India Radio in New Delhi as a Bengali newscaster.

MA Samad, who was the managing director of Iban Bima Corporation, is considered as the pioneer in insurance education and training in the country.

Founder of the Bangladesh Insurance Academy, he authored a book titled 'Life Insurance Selling in Action and Successful Agency Building'.

His name is inscribed on the list of insurance experts of the United Nation's Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Language Movement veteran Mahbulul Alam Chowdhury, Dr Manjusree Chowdhury, Ramendu Majumder, Fayeze Ahmed and wife of MA Samad and President of Dhaka Ladies' Club Fowzia Samad and son Towhid Samad were also present at the memorial meeting.

Correction

Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani Parishad organised a photography exhibition on veteran political leader Bhashani at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city on November 18. But in the caption of a photograph of the event published in The Daily Star on page 2 the next day, it was inadvertently mentioned that Bhashani Smriti Sangsad organised the event. We regret the error.

Return land grabbed from us

Demand indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, an organisation of plain land indigenous people, yesterday demanded return of the land grabbed from the indigenous people, taking legal actions against torture and deprivation done to them.

They also asked the government to arrange five percent quota for them in higher education and service, and primary education in their mother languages.

At a press conference arranged by the Jatiya Adivasi Parishad at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday, its leaders also demanded that the government form a separate ministry for the plain land indigenous people and arrange 10 seats for their representatives in parliament.

Referring to the incidents of killings and rape, they said in independent Bangladesh, the indigenous people are undergoing torture and deprivation more severe than during the Pakistan regime.

"The innocent indigenous people do

not get justice in most cases as the land grabbers get favour of the ruling party members as well as the police and administration," said Rabindra Nath Soren, secretary general of the Jatiya Adivasi Parishad.

Nearly 15 lakh people of 38 indigenous communities living in 16 districts of the northern region of the country have lost hundreds of acres of land, he said, adding, "As the government does not have any regard for community ownership system of the indigenous people, their lands are acquired as khas lands."

People from the majority Bengali speaking community are misusing government's Special Affairs Department funds for income-generating programmes for the plain land indigenous people, said Anil Marandi, president of the parishad.

During the last five years in Godagari upazila, the government allocated Tk 76 lakh for the purpose but most of the fund has been misused, he said.

He demanded inclusion of indigenous people's representatives in the fund grant committee.

The indigenous leaders also demanded the provision for the post of Adivasi Affairs Secretary at the local and central levels of the political parties.

Professor Mesbah Kamal, Binod Chandra Rajowan, Ratan Rabi Das, Dewan Hamron, among others, were present at the conference.

4th meeting of Wage Board held

BSS, Dhaka

The fourth meeting of the 6th Wage Board, constituted to fix salary, allowances and other benefits for the journalists, press workers and general employees of newspapers and news agencies, was held yesterday.

Board Chairman Justice Mohammad Fazlul Haque presided over the meeting held in the conference room of the Press Institute of Bangladesh in the city.

The meeting decided to send questionnaires to the unions of journalists or organisations at divisional and district headquarters regarding the present salary and allowances of the newsmen and other employees.

It also decided that a team of the Board led by its chairman will visit some district towns and divisional headquarters to assess the existing situation prevailing in the newspaper industry.

The meeting discussed the matter relating to the gazette notification of 40 percent dearness allowance announced by the Board in its 3rd meeting.

Bodies of 2 newborns found in dustbin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dead bodies of two newly born female children have been recovered from dustbins yesterday in the city.

Seeing the dead body of a female child in a dustbin, local people of West Tejuri Bazar in Tejgaon informed the police at around 9:00 am.

Another dead body of an infant girl child was found at a dustbin at Post Office Lane in Badda area at around 1:45 pm.

Police recovered the bodies and sent those to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.