

SUTRAPUR DOUBLE MURDER Verdict on Nov 28

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will deliver the verdict of the sensational Sutrapur double murder case against Jubo Dal leader Rafiqul Islam Kajal and eight others on November 28.

Kajal and his accomplices allegedly abducted Mohammad Shamsul Haq, 52, owner of a hosiery market in Old Dhaka, his son Russel Sheikh, 29, and chauffeur Moazzem Hossain, 37, on March 26 last year and killed them in a bid to grab Shamsul Haq's hosiery market and Tk5 lakh.

The gang cut the bodies of the victims into 159 pieces and dumped those at different places of Gazipur and Savar to destroy the evidences.

After completion of arguments from the prosecution and the defence, Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 set the date for verdict of the case.

Eight other accused are Kajal's brother Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Moloy Sarker, Bhutto alias Abu Taleb, Kazi Noor Qaiyum, Kalam alias 'Narsingdi' Kalam, Mohammad Mintoo, Nizam and Mohammad Rahim.

Of them, Rahim is now in the custody while Kajal and seven others have been absconding since the incident.

Sufia Khatun, wife of Shamsul Haq, filed a murder case with the Sutrapur Police Station against Kajal the following day.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Police pressed charges against Kajal and eight others on October 5 last year showing 59 people as prosecution witnesses.

During the investigation, Rahim gave a confession statement to a magistrate disclosing the names of his fellow culprits.

Special Public Prosecutor Abdul Latif Talukder appeared for the state while Advocate Mosharrif Hossain Kajol defended the accused in the case.

1376 mobile sets worth Tk 96 lakh seized at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zia International Air Port Customs yesterday seized 1376 mobile phone sets worth about Tk 96 lakh.

Acting on a tip off, the customs officials searched a luggage in the container of a Chittagong-Dubai flight and found the mobile sets of different brands and models.

A case was filed in this connection.

Rickshaw, van licence renewal from Dec 5

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will start renewing the licence of rickshaws and vans from December 5 for the current fiscal year.

It was decided at a meeting of the tax officials and representatives of rickshaw owners and workers' organisations at the DCC Bhawan yesterday.

Mainul Haq, Deputy Chief of Tax Department of DCC, was present at the meeting.

Meeting sources said the DCC will renew the licence of 79,616 rickshaws and about 8,000 vans in the current fiscal.

Of those, the licence of 1,700 rickshaws and 200 vans will be renewed on working days.

The renewal cost, including the price of application form, for each rickshaw is Tk 210 and Tk 170 for each van for one year.

The licence of rickshaws and vans were renewed in November and December last year. At that time, the licence was renewed until June with outstanding dues of previous three years.

Khaleda greets new Lankan PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted her Sri Lankan counterpart Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka on his assumption of office of the Prime Minister.

In a message, Khaleda also sent her best wishes for the people of Sri Lanka and hoped that Bangladesh and Sri Lanka would enjoy excellent bilateral relations during his tenure as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

She expressed firm confidence that the two governments would continue to work together for further strengthening the existing friendly relations in the coming years.

"In this task, I am sure, we will be benefited from our experience in the arena of politics and governance," she said.

"I also look forward to receiving Sri Lanka's cooperation in discharging my responsibilities as the Saarc chairperson," she added.

Khaleda also wished her counterpart's good health and long life and well-being as well as the people of Sri Lanka.

'Make friendship with India in light of liberation war'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said due to Indira Gandhi's great diplomacy, Bangladesh achieved freedom in the War of Liberation in 1971 even after the hard obstacles created by the United States of America and China.

The country would have been prosperous with the friendly support from India if Indira had not been assassinated in 1984, they observed.

Bangladesh-Bharat Friendship Society (BBFS) has organised the discussion on "Indira Gandhi's

Contribution in the Liberation War of Bangladesh" to mark the 88th birth anniversary of former Indian prime minister at the National Press Club in the City.

Former Army chief Major General (ret'd) KM Shafiullah said, "Due to her humanity about one crore people of the country got shelter in the Indian land for nine months during the war."

"We have to build Bangladesh and Indian friendship in the light of liberation war," he maintained.

Addressing as chief guest, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP said Mrs

Gandhi continued her support braving all kinds of obstacles in the war of liberation of Bangladesh.

"She was secular, democratic and humanitarian," said Selim adding that's why she was assassinated.

Mrs Gandhi wished that Bangladesh get progress on it's own and that's why she signed various bilateral agreements including Farakkh Barrage agreement, maintained the chief guest.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddiq said Indira was one of the founders of secular democracy in India.

Prior to the liberation war of Bangladesh, Indira visited many countries to get support in favour of the war, he said.

At first Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indira Gandhi conceived the philosophical idea of Saarc in 1972 for the development of South Asia, Prof Arefin observed.

Prof Dr Azad Chowdhury, president of BBFS, presided over the discussion while BBFS General Secretary Nim Chandra Bhawmik, presidium member Ismat Kadir Gama, Amirul Islam Bedu, Bangladesh Federal Journalist Union President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Awami League Cultural Secretary Alongir Kumkum spoke.



Awami League Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP speaks at a discussion on "Indira Gandhi's Contribution in the Liberation War of Bangladesh" at the National Press Club in the City yesterday.

MIG29 CASE

Quashment petitions out of cause list

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday delisted the petitions for setting aside the graft case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and six others involving the MIG-29s purchase deal.

The order was given following the filing of petitions en masse by the counsels for the petitioners, who sought out of the cause list the petitions set for hearing yesterday, without mentioning any grounds.

A division bench comprising Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice AFM Ali Asgar passed the orders.

About the extension of stay that expired yesterday on the graft case pending with the trial court, the HC passed no orders, court sources said.

A counsel for one of the petitioners, requesting anonymity, told the news agency that they do not feel "comfort" with the bench in advancing with their arguments perceiving an "over-enthusiastic" mood.

The now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case with Tejaon Police Station, two months after the BNP-led alliance government assumed power in October 2001.

Sheikh Hasina along with six others was accused of causing a loss of \$124 million equivalent to Tk 720 crore in the purchase deal for the Russian-made eight MIG29 warplanes for Bangladesh, while she was in power.

Rail link restored

BDNEWS, Narsingdi

Rail communications between Dhaka and the eastern region of the country resumed yesterday after remaining snapped for eight hours following a collision between two passenger trains near Amirganj rail station under Narshingdi district.

Railway control room at Bhairob said at least 100 people were injured in the accident that took place at about 10:25pm on Tuesday. The injured were admitted to Narshingdi Sadar Hospital and different private clinics for treatment.

Rail communications on the Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Sylhet and Dhaka-Noakhali routes resumed at 6:43am yesterday after a relief train from Dhaka removed the two damaged trains from the rail track.



14-party opposition combine takes out a procession at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting arrests of and attack on their activists on Tuesday and in support of today's hartal.

Janajuddho leader held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a regional leader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Janajuddho faction Gazi Iqbal Hossain alias Khuni Iqbal on Tuesday noon near Metropolitan clinic at Musalmanpara in Khulna.

According to a press release issued by Rab, the arrested outlaw is a regional leader of Rampal upazila unit of Janajuddho in Bagerhat.

Rab also recovered a pipe gun and three live gun cartridges from the kitchen of his village home at Baintala under the same upazila on Tuesday night.

Outlaw Gazi Iqbal is an illegal arms trader and an accused in several criminal and murder cases filed with Rampal Police Station, the press release added.

He was handed over to Rampal police, it said.



Women's rights activists, cultural activists and NGO representatives stage a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killers of Advocate Dilruba Haque Papia, a human rights activist.

Pope lauds religious harmony in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Pope Benedict XVI has appreciated religious harmony in Bangladesh where he said Christians and other communities are working together for their common good.

"People of Bangladesh will be in my prayers," he said in his remark while giving a private audience to Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan in his library in the Vatican City on Tuesday, a message received from Rome said.

Morshed Khan conveyed the greetings of President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to the high priest of the Catholic Church.

Appreciating the Pope's remarks about Bangladesh, he said the government is fulfilling its constitutional obligation to provide full freedom in the exercise of religious and other human rights to all communities. "This has enabled Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and other groups to live in harmony."

Morshed Khan said many of the problems in the world arise for a lack of tolerance and understanding of one another's views. "His Holiness the Pope with his high moral authority could play a lead role in advancing understanding among cultures and peoples," he added.

Later, Morshed Khan had a meeting with His Eminence Cardinal Sodano, Secretary of State of the Holy See. Cardinal Sodano also appreciated the situation of religious minorities, particularly the Christian community in Bangladesh.

About global war against terrorism, Cardinal Sodano stressed that the Palestine problem needs to be resolved immediately.

Moeshed Khan welcomed the remarks of Cardinal Sodano and discussed initiatives that could be taken for furthering international understanding and dialogue among different faiths.

Roadmap for reforms in power sector soon

BSS, Dhaka

Power Division under the guidance of Power Cell is preparing a three-year roadmap for institutional reform and development of the power sector.

A demonstration meeting to the draft of the roadmap, designed to implement during 2006-2008 period, was held at the power division at secretariat in the city yesterday an official handout said.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud presided over the meeting. Power Secretary Nazrul Islam, Chairman of Power Development Board (PDB) ANH Akhter Hossain, Director General of Power Cell BD Rahmatullah, heads of different office under the division and senior officials were present.

The state minister said the three-year roadmap is part of the government plans to provide electricity to all parts of the country by 2020.

Under the roadmap, the PDB will be transformed into a complete holding company by next three years. Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) and all power stations and power distribution zones will be modified as companies.

In addition, shares of Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) and Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) will be released in the capital market.

To reduce the system loss of power sector and increase its revenue, the roadmap suggested for fixing up the target for all concerned, formulate captive power generation policy and introduction of metering system.

Tribute paid to Enayetullah Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a condolence meeting yesterday paid glowing tribute to Enayetullah Khan, editor of the New Age and editor-in-chief of the Holiday, saying that he would be remembered forever for his contribution to the development of journalism in the country.

A pioneer in upholding the freedom of speech and the freedom of press, he showed the way of speaking the truth without fear and favour, they said.

They said that when the country was under autocratic rule, Enayetullah Khan took the risk of his life and brought out newspapers to convey public opinion. Barisal Bibhagh Unnayan Forum organised the condolence meeting at the Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium at National Museum in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, eminent jurist and President of Gono Forum Dr Kamal Hossain said, "Enayetullah Khan always respected the differences of opinion and tried to establish the people's right to speak."

"He even suffered jail term for speaking the truth."

Dr Kamal said the nation is now realising the importance of freedom of press at this critical moment.

He also recalled his long association with the renowned journalist who gave valuable opinion during every critical moment of the nation.

Khan could not gain cheap popularity due to his difference of opinion on important issues, he observed.

Dr Kamal urged the young journalists to uphold the tradition of speaking the truth.

Barisal Bibhagh Unnayan Forum President Abul Hossain presided over the meeting where family members of late journalist were also present.

Enayetullah Khan was born in Barisal, but he always thought of the entire nation

and the humanity, said Rashed Khan Menon, Workers' Party president and Khan's younger brother.

Describing him as a great man, Menon said Enayetullah was also involved in various development activities in greater Barisal division.

Golam Sarwar, editor of the daily Shomokal, observed that the death of Enayetullah has created a vacuum not only in journalism but also in the political arena.

He showed the path of uncompromising journalism, Sarwar said, adding that the young journalists can easily follow his path while practicing objective journalism.

Khan was a politically conscious journalist and always followed the path of progressive democracy, said Nurul Kabir, acting editor of the New Age.

He also gave full freedom to his colleagues and courageously faced all the troubles for publishing objective news, he added.

Poet Abdul Hai Shikder, Abu Saleh and Nowazes Ali Khan of ATN Bangla also spoke.

13 woodcutters kidnapped in Bandarban

BSS, Bandarban

A group of armed tribal terrorists abducted 23 woodcutters from an inaccessible area of Nakhyanghhari upazila here on Tuesday.

Of them, the kidnapers later released 10. They demanded ransom for the release of the remaining 13 abducted men.

The unidentified terrorists took the woodcutters blindfolded to the frontier.

Bangladesh Rifles have started special drive for their recovery.

Trials to start in Jan

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vacation [December], State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar said yesterday.

A committee is monitoring all the cases and much headway has been made in the investigations, the minister told reporters after a meeting of the committee on the August 17 blasts.

The special committee was constituted to monitor the investigations into the countrywide bombings, submission of charge sheets and government functions during the trial process.

Charge sheets of 61 of the 154 cases have so far been filed until yesterday. The Speedy Trial Tribunals will try the cases and dispose those in 60 days according to rules.

The home ministry has asked the police administration to take necessary steps to complete investigation so that the trials can be started in time.

As the state minister enquired about failure in submitting charge sheets in some cases, police officials said there are 'bottlenecks' in those.

To remove the 'bottlenecks', the committee later formed a four-member committee with officials from the home and law ministries.

The committee will hold discussion with the law secretary and other officials to work out steps to remove the blocks.

On legal complications, Additional Attorney General Abdur Razzak Khan said: "We have to follow some rules if the accused are on the run after the charge sheet is submitted."

"It includes issuing warrants, confiscating their property and publishing advertisements in newspapers."

Babar said: "...we'll try to remove the complications in next seven days [before the court vacation begins]."

Arrest killers of Papia

Demand women's rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded immediate arrest of the killers of Advocate Dilruba Haque Papia, a human rights activist.

They said police are yet to arrest her husband Tuhin who is accused of killing Papia in Barisal on November 3.

Women's rights activists, cultural activists and NGO representatives joined the rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city to voice their demand for the arrest of Tuhin and a fair investigation into the murder case.

The speakers also demanded stern action against those who have been sheltering the killer and trying to divert the incident into a different track.

Due to pressure from an influential quarter, the police are yet to extract any vital information from an arrestee, Swapna, one of the accused, they said, adding that the case is also becoming weaker.

They also said Papia's nine-year-old daughter Saptarshi has virtually been kept as a hostage at her father's house.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam, Advocate Salma Ai of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association and women's rights activists Hamida Hossain, Maleka Begum, Latifa Akand, Rekha Chowdhury, Rebeka Saniyat and artist Ferdousi Priyobasini spoke at the rally.

Papia Hatya Bichar Dabi Parishad, a forum formed to press home the demand for trial of the killers, organised the rally.

Papia, an official of the Canadian International Development Agency, was killed allegedly by her husband and in-laws in Barisal where she went from Dhaka to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr.

Security measures for judges in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The police administration has taken security measures for judges in the port city following a directive from the higher level of the government.

The directive came through a circular on Tuesday. Accordingly, the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) assigned one gunman each to 11 district judges, including the additional divisional commissioner (general), also the district judge for three districts.

The CMP also deployed a four-member team of house guards at the residences of each of these judges.

The police also made security arrangements for 18 additional and assistant judges. Two policemen will now travel in each vehicle carrying the judges to and from courts, sources said.

"Moreover, we have made arrangements to provide special police escorts for the district and metropolitan sessions judges on their way to courts," said Deputy Commissioner Humayun Kabir.

"We have decided to provide these two judges with special police escorts as their courts were dealing with sensational cases filed in connection with the August 17 serial bomb blasts and October 3 bomb attacks on Chittagong courts," he said.

The CMP has also deployed additional police forces in and around the areas where the additional and assistant judges reside, he added.

Youth stabbed to death in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Unidentified miscreants stabbed a youth to death at South Nalapara area in the port city on Tuesday night.

The dead identified as Md Yakub, 25, was the youngest son of late Shahabuddin Sowdagar of Bhara Pukur Par at South Nalapara, police said.

Police quoting victim's relatives said the murder took place at around 11:30pm on Tuesday. Yakub was gossiping with others in front of his residence when suddenly some unidentified youths came there and attacked him with knives. They stabbed him twice on his left chest and fled away hurriedly leaving him seriously injured in a pool of blood.

Relatives, on hearing hue and cry, rushed to the scene and sent Yakub in unconscious state to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the on-duty doctors pronounced him dead.

Police suspect that Yakub was a drug addict.

No case was filed till filing of this report yesterday afternoon.

WEATHER TODAY No change in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)