

TEJGAON TRADER MURDER Four to die, 3 others get life term

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced four people, including a listed criminal to death and three others to life in jail for killing a businessman of Tejgaon in the city in May, 2004.

The convicts with death are 'Japani' Babu alias Akbar Ali, Mohammad Jahangir, Pial alias Hedayetul Islam and Montu while Rahim Gazi, Abul Bashar and Radi Babul were given life term imprisonment.

Of them, Japani Babu, Jahangir, Rahim and Bashar were present in the court while others were tried in absentia.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 handed down the sentence in presence of six accused at a packed courtroom.

The court acquitted Billal and Jewel, as the charges brought against them were not proved.

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 verdict within 30 days from the day of receipt of the judgement copy, the court said.

According to the prosecution, a group of miscreants led by Japani Babu picked up Sohel Rana from his residence at Indira Road and took him to Dhanmondi where they killed him and dumped the body there, as he refused to give extortion on May 14, 2004.

TIB DEBATE ENDS Moshfeka adjudged best debater

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day Shadow Parliamentary Debate Competition ended in the city yesterday.

It was organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) ahead of the International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9.

The debate competition was aimed at raising awareness among the youth against corruption, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman told The Daily Star.

A total of 125 participants from different colleges and universities including Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Vigarunissa Noon College, North South University, East West University and Stamford University took part in the competition with the slogan, 'Invincible Youth Will Defy Corruption'.

The final session of the debate was held at the auditorium of Brac Centre with Speaker Prof Asif Nazrul in the chair.

Speaking as Leader of the House and Prime Minister Kazi Teuni Binte Zinnat claimed that only the Jatiya Sangsad could play the main role in establishing good governance and eliminating corruption.

Opposition Leader Tahmid Khanam opposed the view saying that parliament can only play the supportive role while the ministries concerned play the major role.

Moshfeka Karim of Vigarunissa Noon College was adjudged best debater while Manzur-al-Matin of Dhaka University and Kazi Teuni Binte Zinnat were the first and second runners-up respectively.

TIB Trustee Board Chairman Prof Mozaffar Ahmed handed over the prizes to the winners as chief guest.

Dhaka University Debating Society, East West University, North South University, Rokeya Bitarka Angan of Dhaka University, The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and private TV channel Bangla Vision supported the programme.

Cuet admission test postponed

CU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for Level 1 of BSc Engineering Courses (2006-2007 session) at Chittagong University of Science and Technology (Cuet) has been deferred here yesterday.

The admission test scheduled for December 5 will now be held on December 22 at 9:30am, said a Cuet press release here last evening.

The press release further said that any information regarding the admission test can be found at Cuet website www.cuet.ac.bd and on university notice board.

Chehlum



Chehlum of Sultana Rezia Chowdhury, wife of late Ali Hussain Chowdhury, an electric trader of Nawabpur, will be held at

Chowdhury Villa, 102/B, Abul Hasanat Road, Satrawza residence in the city after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

'35,000 acres of hilly areas turned into plains in 20 yrs'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and rights activists at a rally yesterday demanded an end to hill cutting in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Sylhet in order to prevent an environmental disaster.

They also demanded punitive action against those involved in hill cutting activities. Hill cutting involves levelling hillsides to make room for building.

Taking the advantage of current political crisis, unscrupulous people have become active again and are cutting hills to grab lands, they said.

Jubo Nagorik Odhikar Jote and Green Voice jointly organised the

rally in front of the National Museum at Shahbag in the city.

Despite a ban on such activities, the land grabbers are cutting hills and trees in different areas of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Mymensingh and Sherpur districts, depleting forest resources, said Alamgir Kabir, convener of the Green Voice.

He said about 35,000 acres of hilly areas in Chittagong have been turned into plains in the last 20 years due to rampant hill cutting.

Unscrupulous people in connivance with local political leaders and a section of forest officials have resorted to such activities in order to

develop residential plots and also to collect soil, he said.

Even some government officials have developed residential plots on 51 acres of hilly areas illegally along Cox's Bazar bypass road recently, he added.

Mohammad Shahidullah, convener of the National Ato Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Electricity and Port, said environmentalists have long been raising their voice against hill cutting, but the authorities have a turned a deaf ear.

He demanded proper enforcement of laws protecting the environment.

Implement Saarc Convention to combat human trafficking

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Willingness of the government to implement Saarc Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking is a must to prevent human trafficking, said the speakers at a workshop yesterday.

They said monitoring mechanism on extradition and formulation of taskforce is also necessary to achieve the objective.

The workshop titled 'From national to regional perspective of human trafficking: Sharing reflection on Saarc Convention' was held at the Brac Inn in the city.

It was jointly organised by Action Against Trafficking and Exploitation of Children (ATSEC), Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA), Uddipan and Incidin Bangladesh.

"The definition of trafficking in the context of Saarc needs to be broadened. There are several articles within the Saarc Convention which

needs to be discussed further," said Executive Director of BNWLA Salma Ali while presenting a paper.

Deputy Secretary to home ministry Abdur Rouf stressed the need for specific laws among the Saarc countries to combat trafficking.

In regional perspective a concerted effort of government and non-government organisations is a must for this purpose, he added.

"Along with free flow of information and maintaining a close network, we should focus the vulnerable group, take preventive measures against violence and exploitation and strengthen the civil society," said Director General of foreign affairs ministry Mahub-Uz-Zaman.

The speakers also stressed the need for women and children friendly mutual legal assistance, rehabilitation and repatriation of the victims, dissemination of trafficking-related information, and coordination mechanism among govern-

ment's different ministries for initiating comprehensive support service.

Besides, creation of missing persons' databank with link to different South Asian states and establishment of separate cell in Saarc Secretariat for implementation of Saarc Convention on Trafficking is important, they added.

The workshop also discussed the TIP (trafficking in person) Report 2006 prepared by the ATSEC and its activities to combat trafficking.

National Programme Officer of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Mizanur Rahman, CEDAW Committee member Ferdous Ara Begum, Director General of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training Abdul Malek and Director of Uddipan Emranul Haque were also present.

Lift ban on blended edible oil Experts tell govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts yesterday urged the government to lift the ban on blended edible oil, a judicious mixture of more than one kind of edible oil, as it is more heart-friendly and likely to reduce the risk of heart diseases.

Speaking at a press conference organised by Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (Dab) at its office at Birdem in the city, they also laid emphasis on strict quality control of blended edible oil in the country.

"If a total of 68 countries including India, China and the United States allow the consumption of blended oil, then why it would be banned in Bangladesh?" asked Dab

Secretary General Prof AK Azad Khan.

Quoting a study conducted by American Heart Association he said, "No single edible oil contains the desired proportion of saturated and un-saturated fatty acid in itself. But when it is blended with any other oil its quality improves."

The experts said the ingredients of the desired blended oil would depend on the availability of different oils and their prices and on the taste and culture of the respective community.

They suggested a blend of soyabean oil, palm oil and mustard oil in the proportion of 50: 40: 10 in the context of Bangladesh.

"The taste of this blend would not be different from that of soyabean oil," said Prof Azad.

While speaking about the quality and availability of palm oil, Prof Keramat Ali of food and nutrition department of Dhaka University said, "We are in favour of using palm oil in the blend as it is cheaper and its quality remains almost intact after several burns."

Chairman of Cardiology Department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof KMHS Sirajul Haque and Chief Executive Officer of Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute MA Mokaddem were also present at the press conference.



Winners of Merit Scholarship of East West University pose for photograph with Yasmeeen Murshed, adviser to the caretaker government.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog is likely over the river basins of the country during morning, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 29.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 9.3 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.10pm today and rises at 6:25am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.5	15.3	67	55
Chittagong	28.4	16.0	72	67
Rajshahi	25.9	11.7	82	78
Khulna	27.0	14.0	74	75
Barisala	27.4	13.0	83	86
Sylhet	26.8	14.2	72	72
Cox's Bazar	28.8	16.5	57	60

28 get Ewu merit scholarships

The Merit Scholarship Awarding ceremony of East West University (Ewu) for the Fall Semester 2006 was held at the university auditorium yesterday. Twenty eight students received full tuition merit scholarships in the ceremony.

Yasmeeen Murshed, Adviser for Women and Children Affairs, Primary and Mass Education and Social Welfare Ministries, distributed certificates amongst the merit scholarship winners as the chief guest.

Jalaluddin Ahmed, president, board of directors of Ewu chaired the programme.

This semester 28 students have got merit scholarship for 30 credits in one year. A total of 1,227 students have been awarded merit scholarship and financial aid amounting to 3.25 crore which is 10.08% of the total tuition fees.

Founding vice chancellor of the university Dr Mohammed Farashuddin and acting Vice Chancellor Dr Mohammad Musa greeted the merit scholars.

World AIDS Day today

UNB, Dhaka

World AIDS Day-2006 will be observed across the country as elsewhere around the globe today renewing the pledge to continue fight against the deadly disease.

The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is 'Accountability', which will be promoted with the slogan: Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise.

In a message on the occasion of World AIDS Day, President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed said AIDS is a threat for human beings and the civilisation.

The Department of Mass Communication has undertaken elaborate programmes with a view to creating mass awareness about prevention of the deadly disease.

Under the programme, the folk artists of the department will render motivational songs at 30 points in the capital with two mobile trucks.

Alamgir, Shahed DRU president, general secretary

UNB, Dhaka

Alamgir Hossain and Shahed Chowdhury yesterday have been elected president and general secretary of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) for the year 2007.

Alamgir bagged 297 votes while his opponent Quasem Humayun got 177 votes. General Secretary Shahed secured 473 votes, the highest in the election, while his opponent Sohel Sani bagged only 69 votes.

Ajmal Huq Helal and Mujib Masud were elected joint secretary and organising secretary.

Other office-bearers are Vice President Jafor Wazed, Finance Secretary Siddiqur Rahman, Publicity and Publication Secretary Mujibur Rahman, Office Secretary Hasan Mahamud, Cultural Secretary Simanto Khokon and Training and Research Secretary Shariful Islam.

Both Kazi Imrul Kabir Sumon and Morsalin Ahmed have got same 262 votes for the post of Sports Secretary.

Keep children away from violent political activities

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children should be kept away from violent political activities, political leaders and civil society members said at a roundtable discussion yesterday.

"In most cases, underprivileged children are used as pickets in different political programmes. The situation has worsened further," said Awami League presidium member Tofail Ahmed at the discussion on 'Political activities and protection of children' at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, termed the situation the obvious result of corporate culture, where politicians do business and businessmen do politics.

"Since politicians need readymade crowd, the event manager brings in children who are paid less than adults," he added.

Rashed Khan Menon of the



Police intercept a lawyers' demonstration on the High Court premises yesterday protesting stay order of three writ petitions, top, while protesters vandalise the windowpanes of the room of chief justice, below.

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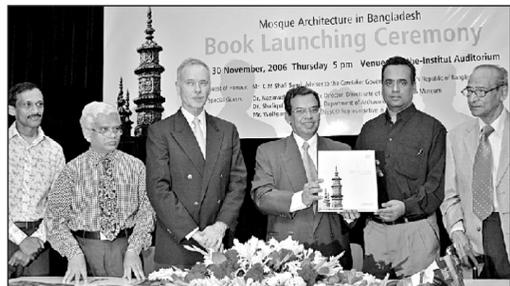
Workers' Party called for an end to social and political violence.

Citing the examples of revolutionary Khudiram Bose, poet Sukanta Bhattacharjee's Kishore Bahini (juvenile brigade) and the young martyrs of the Liberation War, he said children should be inculcated with political ideologies in order to prepare them as future leaders.

Suman Sengupta, country

director, Save the Children UK, said the political parties should consult with children while drawing up plans for them in the election manifesto.

Brigadier (ret'd) Sakhawat Hossain and UM Habibunnesa of Save the Children UK also spoke at the roundtable moderated by Rahman Mostafiz moderated the programme.



Adviser to the caretaker government CM Shafi Sami, 4th from left, launches a book entitled 'Mosque Architecture in Bangladesh' by Dr Abu Sayeed M Ahmed, 2nd from right, and Syed Zakir Hossain, extreme left, a photojournalist of The Daily Star, at Goethe-Institut Auditorium in the city yesterday. Director of Department of Archaeology Dr Shafiqul Alam, 2nd from left, Unesco Representative Wolfgang Vollmann, 3rd from left, and Dr Nazimuddin Ahmed, extreme right, were also present.

DHAKA TODAY

The inaugural ceremony of World Aids Day 2006 will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am.

Prize giving ceremony
Prize giving ceremony of Swarkalpan Recitation Award will be held to mark a decade of Swarkalpan. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Poster exhibition
Dhakabashi organises a Bangladesh-Malaysia poster exhibition. Venue: Nolinikanta Bhattashali Hall, National Museum. Time: 5:00pm.

International Congress
A two-day international congress on Cardiology, organised by National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh, will begin. Venue: Ballroom, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:00am.

Dhaka Boimela
The 13th Dhaka Boimela will begin. Venue: Shilpakala Academy premises. Time: 3:30pm.

Dress exhibition
A seven-day dress exhibition organised by Bortul will begin. Venue: Zainul Gallery-2, Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 5:00pm.

World Aids Day

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Roundtable
National Integration and Development Council (NIDC) will organise a roundtable on 'Democracy and elections in Bangladesh: Recent perspective'. Venue: Biam auditorium. Time: 2:30pm.

Discussion
Dhaka University Debating Society will organise a roundtable discussion between political leaders and teenagers. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Human chain
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon will form a human chain demanding abolition of the encroachments on the banks of Buriganga, Shitalakha, Turag and Balu rivers. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 10:30am.

Workshop
Other Vision Communication organises a workshop on 'Mass media for standard education: policy environment setting' for the journalists of education beat. Venue: South Asia Partnership auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Obituary



Badrun Nahar Abed, a teacher of Silverdale Preparatory and Girls High School, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at her residence at the age of 62 yesterday, says a press release.

School managing committee and headmistress Lutfun Nesa consoled her death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Death anniversary



Today is the death anniversary of freedom fighter Shaheed Mizanur Rahman Mizu, says a press release.

On this day in 1971, Mizu sacrificed his life along with 95 others during the 'Ghorashal Massacre' by the Pakistan occupational forces in Ghorashal National Jute Mills.

Cultural worker and student of Business Faculty of Dhaka University, Mizu was born at Munshipara in Dinajpur.

Mizu is son of eminent personality Muhammad Bazul Rahman.

His younger brother Obaidur Rahman, cousins Mohammad Shaidullah and Mohammad Salimullah, brother-in-law Muzammel Haq and nephew Abu Taleb were also killed by the Pakistani forces on this day in 1971 at the same place.

Kabiruddin Ahmed



Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Kabiruddin Ahmed, son of late Khan Bahadur Hemayet Uddin of Barisal, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his eldest son's residence at Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for his departed soul.

Selina Bahar Zaman

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the second death anniversary of eminent educationist and distinguished cultural personality Selina Bahar Zaman.

Selina Bahar Smrity Parishad will organise a memorial lecture at 3:00pm today at National Museum auditorium here in observance of the death anniversary, a press release said.

With Prof Anisuzzaman in the chair, the memorial lecture will be delivered by Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Engineer Abu Bakar Siddique, former director generation diesel (DGD) of Bangladesh Power Development Board, will be held at 1 North Road, Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Eng. AB Siddique passed away at Central Hospital on Monday due to a massive heart attack. He was buried at Azimpur graveyard on Tuesday.

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

Anisuzzaman



Qulkhwani of Anisuzzaman, retired general manager of Bangladesh Forest Industry Development Corporation (BFIDC), will be held at his mother's residence at 6:00pm today, says a press release.

He passed away on November 28. Friends and relatives are requested to attend the milad mahfil to be held on the occasion. (Phone: 9111057)

Dr ATM Abdul Baset

Qulkhwani of Dr ATM Abdul Baset, executive committee member of Brothers' Union and a sports organiser, will be held at his 9, Gopibagh residence in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Brothers' Union officials, players and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Jahangir Hossain Arju

Qulkhwani of Jahangir Hossain Arju, former director of KT Series, will be held at his residence at 23/1-C North Jatrabari in the city after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away due to stroke on Tuesday at the age of 42.

He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter to mourn his death. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.