

Arnab murder trial resumes tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Arnab murder trial will resume at the District and Sessions Judge's Court here tomorrow.

Judge Ashish Ranjan Das of Satkhira District and Sessions Judge Court passed the order to this effect last month after more than six years of the gruesome murder.

Arnab Kumar Das, 8-year-old son of Bimal Krishna Das of Saihati village in Kaliganj upazila was abducted by a gang of criminals in the afternoon of June 18, 2000.

Later, villagers recovered the trisected body from a ditch near his house after three days on June 21, 2000.

Victim's father Bimal Das filed a case with Kaliganj Police Station on the same day.

The brutal murder evoked protest from people in the area who brought out processions and held rallies demanding arrest and punishment to the killers.

Senate members and 41 teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) in a statement condemned the brutal murder and sought Prime Minister's intervention to arrest the culprits on June 28.

Over 10,000 people including women and students brought out a procession in the town and laid a siege to the office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) on August 8. They demanded arrest and punishment to the culprits and withdrawal of the then Kaliganj Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Rabiul Islam for allegedly sheltering the killers.

The then home minister Mohammad Nasim visited the victim's house and assured stern action against the culprits on September 5. He also suspended OC Rabiul Islam for his failure to arrest the culprits. The case was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for investigation.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case Shahruzzaman, a sub-inspector (SI) of CID submitted



chargesheet with a Satkhira court pressing charges against eight people on July 2, 2002.

The accused are Mukul, Abdus Sattar, Khalilur Rahman, former Champaphool Union Parishad (UP) chairman Matiar Rahman, Golam Farooque, Alhaj Rafiqul Islam, Raihan Ali and Shushil Chowkidar.

The trial was delayed in 2003 as two main accused Abdus Sattar and his son Khalilur Rahman of Godara village in Assassuni upazila submitted a petition to the High Court (HC) seeking quashment and the court suspended the trial of the case for certain reason.

Ultimately, the court rejected the petition after a long hearing and asked the lower court to resume trial of the case on March 1, 2006.

Later, on April 3, 2006, the immediate past government allegedly took a move to drop the names of Abdus Sattar and his son Khalilur Rahman from the list of accused as they were local BNP leaders.

Civil society leaders expressed resentment when the PP submitted a petition to drop their names from the charge-sheet on July 14, 2006.

After long hearing, the district and sessions judge's court judge rejected the petition and framed charges against all the accused.

OC closed, SI sent to jail in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

The Officer-in-Charge of Galachipa police station was closed and a Sub inspector of Kalagachi police camp in Patuakhali was sent to jail for taking bribe at Patuakhali.

Police sources said, OC Golam Rahman took Tk 3000 from Unus Ali Mridha of Haridevpur village under Galachipa upazila to remove his name from a case on land dispute filed on March 17. Mridha came to thana on Saturday and gave the money to the OC.

SI of of Kalagachia police camp, Motiur Rahman, was sent to jail for taking bribe.

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested Motiur Rahman Thursday evening while he was taking Tk 3,000 as bribe from Khalil, a UP member to drop his name from another case.

'Outlaw'dies in police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

An alleged cadre of an outlawed party died in police custody after five hours of his arrest in Chuadanga yesterday.

The dead is Nazrul Islam alias Nazu, 42, son of Harun Mandol of Patchbaria in Mirpur upazila in Kushtia, police said. According to police, Nazrul was a top cadre of an 'outlawed party.' But they did not mention the name of the party.

Police said, a police team of Hijolgar camp in Chuadanga raided a house at Kashipur in Jibonnagar upazila and arrested him at about 1.30am. Earlier, they were informed about Nazrul's presence in the area 'to carry out criminal activities'. Police recovered 20 bullets from his possession before taking him to Hijolgar police camp.

Police said Nazrul fell sick at the police camp at around 5.30am during interrogation. He was immediately rushed to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Turn common rivers into bonds of friendship, not bones of contention

International conference on water in Sylhet told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Speakers at an international conference here stressed the need for understanding and co-operation among countries in South Asia in sharing water resources for the benefit of all.

"We must convert the cross-boundary rivers from being sources of contention into bonds of friendship", Advisor to the caretaker government Mainul Hossain told the conference. Not only between Bangladesh and India, regional partnership is essential for better management of life sustaining water resources, he said while inaugurating the conference on Sunday.

About 50 scientists and water resources experts from Asia and Europe are participating in the four-day 'International Conference and Exhibition on Water and Waste Water Treatment, being held at the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology'. The Department of Chemical Engineering and Polymer Science of SUST organised the

conference as a concluding programme of the EU project 'INNOWA' supported by the ASIA Eco Programme.

The experts also deliberated on pollution of water of common rivers in the region and said this is affecting Bangladesh, India and Nepal. Urgent steps should be taken together to harness the water resources for the benefit of millions of people in the region, they said.

Water is a matter of great concern now because of population growth and rapid industrialisation in Asia. This calls for a comprehensive and pragmatic police for sharing water and reduce pollution, the experts said.

SUST Vice Chancellor Prof M Aminul Islam chaired the inaugural function.

Sylhet city Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, First Councillor of the Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh Anthony Goodwin and Chairman of University Grants Commission Prof M Asaduzzaman attended the inaugural function as

special guests.

Prof E Drioli of the Institute of Membrane Technology at the University of Calabria, Italy; Prof J Hoinnkis of University of Applied Sciences,

Karlsruhe, Germany and Prof Rong Rong Huang of Jiangsu Polytechnic University, China also addressed the inaugural session.

Mainul Hossain said, experts are expressing deep concern over possible scarcity of water in future and its ecological impact in Bangladesh due to diversion of water of rovers in the upstream.

"Nothing is more important for good and constructive relationship between India and Bangladesh than equitable sharing of water from joint rivers", he said.

The SAARC must prove helpful for better utilisation of water resources in the region, he said. Otherwise, the water issue may threaten peace in the region, the advisor for Information, Law

Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Land said.

Sharing knowledge, expertise and transfer of technologies among countries of Asia would play a vital role in properly harnessing the water resources. Researchers and policy makers should work jointly towards achieving this objective, Mainul said.

"At home, we must satisfy ourselves that our experts do not

lack decisiveness to move forward with what we can do ourselves".

He also stressed the need for keeping rivers and water bodies free from encroachment.

Massive disposal of industrial wastewater into rivers in the region is causing a real threat to the surface water as a source for drinking water.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Three houses were gutted as some miscreants, in a sequel to previous enmity, poured petrol and torched those at Dalima village in Baufal upazila in Patuakhali district Sunday night. Police said the victims filed a case accusing 28 people.

11 BNP men sued in Gaibandha for 'abduction threat, looting'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

A case has been filed against 11 leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations in Palashbari for allegedly threatening abduction of a minor boy for toll and looting.

Khandker Al-Amin Karim Babu of Nuniagari village in Plashabari upazila filed the case with Polashbari police station on March 29.

The accused include Palashbari upazila BNP secretary Ziaul Hoq Rubel, party leaders Moazzem Hossain and Idu Mia, Jubo Dal president Faridul Hoq Rubel, its organising secretary Mosfiqur Rahman and Sramik Dal activist Mohammed Israafil.

In the complaint Babu said he returned home from Saudi Arabia three years ago and has been working in Dhaka since then,

leaving his wife and a minor son at the village home.

In his absence, the BNP men often claimed toll from his wife and threatened to kidnap our son Babu alleged.

On December 24, 2003 a gang led by the BNP men attacked his house, tortured his wife and demanded Tk two lakh toll on gun point. As his wife Shahanaz Begum refused to pay the toll, the miscreants kicked her and forcibly took her signature on two blank non judicial stamps.

While leaving, they looted valuables worth about Tk 2,37,710.

The plaintiff said he could not file case earlier out of fear of retaliation by the miscreants.

In the blank signed stamp, the miscreants wrote that Shahanaz Begum he mortgaged his house to them against a loan and was trying to file a false case.

Police yesterday confirmed filing of the case by Babu and said they recovered some of the looted goods from the house of a BNP leader.

Police said the BNP men were also accused earlier in Lipu murder case (GR No. 903/98) and school student Rejbul Huq Plabon murder case (GR No. 131/05).

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