

2 ex-Jamaat MPs sued on criminal charges

Maulana Subhan for misappropriating govt relief, Abdullah Taher for looting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Separate criminal cases were filed against former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmakers Maulana Abdus Subhan and Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher in Pabna and Comilla yesterday.

Maulana Subhan and three others were sued for misappropriating government relief materials in Pabna while Taher, his brother and 33 other Jamaat leaders and activists for attacking and looting a saw-mill in Comilla.

Pabna police filed the case against Subhan yesterday after 160 corrugated iron (CI) sheets were seized from Al-Amana Hospital in

Pathertala in Pabna town Wednesday night. Subhan, elected in 2001 from Pabna-5 constituency, is the president of Al-Amana Foundation which owns the hospital.

Vice-president of the foundation Alhaj Abul Kashem, Secretary Moslem Uddin and Director of Al-Amana Hospital Nurul Islam were also accused in the case.

Sub-inspector Kamruzzaman of Pabna Police Station filed the case with the same police station yesterday afternoon. In the case, the complainant alleged that the accused misappropriated CI sheets meant for government relief only. The four people embezzled govern-

ment assets, he said.

Pabna police seized the 160 CI sheets of Relief and Rehabilitation Department at a room of the hospital and arrested Nurul Islam in this connection on Wednesday night.

A police team of Pabna Police Station led by Officer-in-charge Iqbal Shafi raided Al-Amana Hospital around 11:00pm following a tip off.

Al-Amana Hospital is a concern of Al-Amana Foundation, which was established in 2000. The foundation is run entirely by Jamaat men, sources said. The former lawmaker's house is just 200-300 metres from the hospital.

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DoE director Mosharraf stand released

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

M Mosharraf Hossain, director of the Department of Environment (DoE), Chittagong, was stand released yesterday allegedly for negligence of duties.

Sources said Mosharraf will be replaced by the Director of DoE, Bogra, Nazmul Haque.

When contacted, Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Mokhlesur Rahman confirmed the government order in this connection.

He said Mosharraf was transferred to Bogra.

Sources said the role of Mosharraf during his long stint as DoE director in Chittagong raised many questions and it was alleged

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Dhaka, Delhi to sign MoU to remove non-tariff barriers

Indian foreign secy arrives Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon is set to arrive Sunday on a three-day trip, during which Dhaka and New Delhi will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to remove non-tariff barriers and restart secretary-level talks after a two-year hiatus.

The meetings are also expected to kick-start the process of renewing and reviving a number of mechanisms that are to address some issues that have been neglected

over the past few years.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury in April, following his meeting with his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee on the sidelines of the Saarc summit in New Delhi, promised regular secretary-level talks as part of a "new upward trajectory" in Dhaka-New Delhi relations.

Although both sides had agreed to hold secretary-level talks annually, flagging Dhaka-New Delhi relations turned the meetings into a biennial affair, held alternately in

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PHOTO: STAR

An elderly woman prepares to live on the streets bringing all her belongings outside her Chakuli home in Mirpur Cantonment area in the capital as the army was supposed to evict nearly 3,000 locals from there yesterday.

Manmohan offers \$10m for landslide victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has offered \$10 million to Bangladesh government for relief and rehabilitation of those affected by the recent Chittagong mudslides.

Manmohan made this commitment in a letter to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, where he expressed his "sincere condolences" to the bereaved families.

"At this time of urgent need, I would like to inform Your Excellency that the government of India has decided to extend immediate assistance of \$10 million to the government of Bangladesh for relief and rehabilitation of those who are in distress," the letter read.

DU admission 80 new cases of forgery detected

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University committee on admission forgery has identified 80 new cases of suspected forgery in admission to the political science department of the university.

"The department has sent a list of about 80 students to the committee after it found flaws in the admission documents," Assistant Proctor Siddiqui Rahman Khan, also member on the committee, said.

He said the committee on admission forgery has begun further scrutiny of the documents of the 80 cases.

MIRPUR CANT

Illegal occupants asked to vacate land by Aug 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army has asked the "illegal occupants" on its land in Chakuli Mouza beside Mirpur Cantonment to vacate the land by August 30.

The time was extended as the illegal occupants had given written undertaking that they would voluntarily leave the area, said a statement issued by the directorate of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) yesterday.

The army had taken an initiative yesterday to evict the illegal

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Liberation War memorial opens at Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another initiative to preserve Liberation War memories from oblivion began with the inauguration of Jalladkhana (Butcher's Den), a memorial site in Mirpur in the capital.

"This is very emotional for me to find the place where my father has been lying for the last 36 years," said Abul Ahsan, son of martyr Khandkar Abu Taleb, whose mutilated body was thrown into an underground tank of the pump house.

The once abandoned pump house at Mirpur in the city is now a memorial site, excavated and renovated by Liberation War Museum. The pump house stands witness not only to the demise of journalist Abu Taleb but many more during the Liberation War in 1971.

The museum in cooperation with the Bangladesh Army exhumed the mass grave and recovered 70 human skulls and 5392 bones from there, Liberation War Museum Trustees said yesterday at the inaugural programme of the memorial that was held at the site. The relatives of the martyrs inaugurated the memorial by opening its door and hoisting the national flag.

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PHOTO: STAR

Family members of the Liberation War martyrs lay wreaths at the Mirpur Jalladkhana memorial after its inauguration yesterday.

14 more US soldiers killed in Iraq

Suicide bomber kills 15, offensive claims 41 insurgents

AFP, Baghdad/ Kirkuk

At least 14 more US soldiers have been killed in Iraq in the past two days, the military said yesterday, taking its losses to 59 this month alone.

Twelve of the dead were killed in separate attacks in Baghdad where US and Iraqi forces are involved in a major crackdown to curb the daily bloodshed.

In the deadliest attack, five soldiers and four Iraqis, including an interpreter, were killed on Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle during combat operations in northeastern Baghdad.

One soldier and two Iraqis were also wounded.

In northern Baghdad, one soldier was killed and three wounded when their vehicle was attacked by a rocket-propelled-grenade.

On Wednesday, four soldiers were killed when their convoy was struck by a roadside bomb in western Baghdad. Another soldier was wounded.

Two marines were killed in the restive western Anbar province on Wednesday.

And two more US soldiers were killed in southwest Baghdad and four wounded when a bomb exploded near their vehicle.

The latest fatalities took the

military's losses in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to 3,536, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures.

Earlier a suicide bomber exploded an oil tanker south of Iraq's oil-rich city of Kirkuk yesterday, killing 15 people and wounding 66, including policemen and local politicians.

The bomber blew up the tanker outside police headquarters and a cluster of government buildings in the town of Suleiman Beg, about 90km from the northern city of Kirkuk, police and hospital officials said.

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Eight get 38-yr jail for killing student

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced eight persons to 38 years' imprisonment each for killing Tejgaon College student Nurul Islam Rifat.

The convicts are Russel Kabir Roman, Manik Ahmed Khan, Shantu Habib Bidyut, Sharfaraz Uddin Karzon, Tajuddin Titu, Abu Raihan Rana, Omar Faruq Russell and Selim Khan. All are aged between 18 and 24 years.

Of the convicts Selim has been absconding while seven others were on bail. The court cancelled their bails and sent them to Dhaka Central Jail.

Judge Nazrul Islam of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court handed down the sentence in a packed courtroom.

Following the verdict the seven convicts and their relatives present in the courtroom broke down in tears.

Rifat, youngest brother of Ha-Meem Group Managing Director AK Azad, was killed on January 27, 1997. His body was recovered the next morning from the railway track at Mohakhali.

Rifat's brother Ismail Hossain filed a case with Cantonment Police Station. The charge sheet of the case was submitted against the eight accused on January 7, 1998 and charges were framed against them on May 7, 2000.

Prayer Timing		
June 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-57
Esha	8-17	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		