

## JOURNOS MANIK SAHA, HUMAYUN KABIR MURDER CASES

# Frequent change of IO, lack of monitoring delay trial

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna



MANIK SAHA



HUMAYUN KABIR BALU

Frequent change of investigating officer (IO) and alleged lack of proper monitoring are delaying trial of journalists Manik Saha and Humayun Kabir Balu murder cases.

As a result, 'extended' investigation ordered by courts could not be completed even after 26 months of murder of Manik Saha and 17 months of murder of Humayun Kabir Balu.

According to a high officials of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), a separate monitoring cell has been created to expedite investigation of the two sensitive murder cases and press charge sheets against the accused within the shortest possible time. But there has not been any progress in the investigation.

Manik Saha, Khulna correspondent of The New Age, was killed in a bomb attack on January 15, 2004 in front of Khulna Press Club.

Sub Inspector Ranjit Kumar Das of Khulna Sadar police station as complainant lodged an FIR on January 17 without naming any

permission, he said.

Editor of Dainik Janmabhumi Humayun Kabir Balu was killed in a bomb attack allegedly by extremists on June 27, 2004 in front of his residence-cum-office at Haji Ismail Road in Khulna city.

SI Maruf as complainant lodged an FIR on the same night naming 10 extremists as accused.

The case was investigated by four Inspectors of KMP. Inspector Chittya Ranjan Pal is the fifth IO, who took up the case on last April 5 for 'extended investigation'.

The tribunal ordered further investigation of this case following an allegation made by Special PP Abu Zafar that the charge sheet pressed by IO Inspector Abdul Hamid of DB on April 25, 2005 naming eight extremists as accused was 'weak' to put the case on trial.

The tribunal issued an order on January 22 last year for further investigation of Balu murder case.

IO Chittya Ranjan Pal told this correspondent that he had applied to CMM court on June 17 to allow him to further interrogate three chargesheeted accused in Khulna Jail. The court is yet to give him

## JMB 'trainer' held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a close associate of executed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) second-in-command Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai at Tangail bus stand, police said.

Arrested JMB leader Md Garibullah Akanda alias Munshi, 53, was a regional commander and trainer of JMB, police said.

Hailing from Binnakuri village under Dullah union in Muktagacha upazila, Garibullah was assistant superintendent of Bandha Chitalia Dakkhil Madrasah in Jamalpur district.

He absconded immediately after arrest of Bangla Bhai at Rampur village in Muktagacha, police said.

Garibullah was also a financier of JMB, police said.

## BSF abducts 3 in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) abducted three Bangladeshi cattle traders from Zero Point at Laxmidari, a border village in Sadar upazila on Sunday night, police and BDR said.

BSF men abducted them at about 10:30 pm while they were returning to Bangladesh with cows. One of the cattle traders was identified as Amirul Islam, 35 son of Zamayet Ali of Laxmidari village while others are yet to be identified, police and BDR said.

BDR protested the incident and asked BSF to return the Bangladeshis, according to Maj. Kamrul Hasan of 41, Rifles Battalion.

## Tk 1cr Viagra seized at Benapole

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Customs officials yesterday seized 1,600 packets of Viagra worth about Tk 1 crore at Benapole port, customs sources said.

A Customs team led by Assistant Commissioner Shawkat Ali Shadi seized the packets concealed in a consignment of silver thread during inspection, they said.

Rajib Enterprise, a Dhaka based import agency, ordered the consignment containing 280 packets of thread from a Calcutta based exporter named Govind Export on June 7.

Export value of the consignment was shown at US 18,578 dollar, they said.

Raiyv Trade International, a clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent submitted necessary documents at Customs House to clear the consignment on behalf of Rajib Enterprise, they said.

It has been alleged that Raiyv Trade International cleared several consignments of similar products for Rajib Enterprise earlier. Detective agents will investigate the matter, Customs sources said.

A divisional case was filed in this connection.

# Banglabandha land port dead for nine days

Bridge collapse cuts links but no move to restore them

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Export and import through Banglabandha land port in Tetulia upazila of Panchagarh district remained suspended for the last nine days following collapse of two bridges on the Banglabandha Panchagarh Highway after heavy rain, port sources said.

Port activities have come to a halt as the Roads and Highway Department (RHD) is yet to restore the road communications, port sources said.

Locals said RHD took an initiative to build two diversion roads beside the bridges for resumption of road communication. But traders alleged that RHD failed to take prompt action to restore the road link between Panchagarh and Banglabandha even after nine days of bridge collapse.

On contact, two residents of Tetulia, Md Idris Ali and Md Abdur Rahman said the 20 kilometre long road links Tetulia with Panchagarh. Sufferings of local

people multiplied due to collapse of the bridges, they said.

Importers and exporters also alleged that at least 60 to 70 goods laden trucks have been stranded on the highway since collapse of the bridges.

Md Shafiqur Rahman, a clearing and forwarding agent, alleged that at least six trucks of his agency remained stranded for nine days.

When contacted, executive engineer of Panchagarh RHD Sabuj Baran Dutta said efforts are underway to restore road communication through diversion roads within next 48 hours.

## Tk 38.88 cr Tongi Pourashava budget

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Tongi Pourashava Chairman Ajmat Ullah yesterday announced a Tk 38.88 crore budget for the 2007-08 fiscal.

The chairman placed the budget at the poura auditorium in presence of commissioners.

In the proposed budget, Tk 6.85 crore has been earmarked as revenue income (general fund), Tk 3.95 crore as development grant and Tk 12.5 crore has been shown as the highest expenditure in the UGIP project. No new taxes have been imposed in the budget.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA  
Police yesterday recovered three mortar shells from near Malnichhara tea garden on the outskirts of Sylhet city. The shells, dug out from under soil, are believed to have been abandoned by Pakistan army during Liberation War.



The queue in front of Comilla regional passport office stretched about two kilometers yesterday as brokers disappeared shutting businesses (right) following a raid by joint forces.

## Former Shibir leader, BNP man held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Joint forces yesterday arrested a BNP leader and Union Parishad (UP) chairman and a former central leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student front of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The arrestees are BNP leader Md. Sadek Ali, who is chairman of Iwaripur Union Parishad and former Shibir leader Shafiqul Islam Milon of Parmesan village in Shyamnagar upazila.

Police said Sadek Ali was picked up from the UP office at Iwaripur and Shafiqul Islam Milon from Satkhira Zila Parishad premises. They were handed over to police.

Shyamnagar police station Officer-in-Charge Kazi Mizanur Rahman said, Sadek Ali was picked up for alleged involvement in criminal activities while Milon was wanted in several cases including some for extortion and land grabbing.

## CASE AGAINST TALUKDER ABDUL KHALEQUE

# Deposition by prosecution witnesses begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Recording of statements of prosecution witnesses in the corruption case against Khulna city Awami League president Talukder Abdul Khaleque was state minister for relief and rehabilitation and disaster management.

It was stated in the FIR that Talukder Khaleque as the then state minister influenced the authorities to issue work order in favour of his own construction firm Messers Nahar Trading by violating terms and conditions of

tender documents.

After 17 months' investigation, Khulna district anti corruption officer Md Abdul Karim submitted charge sheet to court.

There are five prosecution witnesses in the case. Three out of six FIR-named accused have been left out of the charge sheet, sources said.

A divisional case was filed in this connection.

5x2

7x3

12x3