

CHARGES OF ABETTING AND FUNDING JMB

# Verdict of case against Aminul, Shish, 26 others Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Verdict in the case against BNP leader and former minister Barrister Aminul Haque, Rajshahi district BNP secretary Shish Muhammad and 25 others for allegedly financing and abetting JMB militants will be delivered on July 26.

The second court of Additional Sessions Judge Rezaul Islam fixed the date yesterday after argument by the state and defense lawyers.

"JMB militants came into being, flourished and continued criminal activities unabated with finance and assistance from Barrister Aminul, Shish Muhammad and other ruling party men", said public prosecutor Ekramul Haque during argument.

He told the court argued that at least three eye witnesses

among a total of 15 prosecution witnesses (PWs) and many other evidences proved the allegations beyond doubt.

"Aminul was a minister and he was responsible for the district and its law and order. He had learnt about the rise and criminal activities of JMB through various newspapers and media reports. Despite that, he did not take any action to control the criminals", Ekramul pleaded.

"Aminul's silence (about militants' activities) corroborated the depositions of witnesses and it is proved that he (Aminul) was one of the abettors and conspirators", he said.

"Aminul and some other politicians directly and indirectly financed and patronised JMB and they instigated the militants to collect toll for their smooth operation", said the PP.

Additional PP Nurul Islam pleaded that four PWs testified that they saw militants talking with Barrister Aminul over mobile phone and the militants boasted of having link with the minister and his men.

Lawyers Hamidul Haque, Mansur Rahman, Ankur Sen, Abul Kalam moved in defense.

They said, the case was false and filed with an ulterior motive to harass personal and political rivals, taking advantage of a changed political situation.

They said, the prosecution side did not come up with many essential witnesses and evidences. Moreover, they could not show any material evidences against the accused.

The judge said, "The witnesses and evidences and argument will be thoroughly examined to uphold law".

JMB torture victim Fazlur

Rahman lodged the case on March 30 with Bagmara police station. Rahman, a farmer of Hasanpur village in Bagmara, was abducted, tortured and forced to pay ransom for release by militants in April 2004.

Sub-inspector Mukhtar Hossain submitted charge sheet of the case on April 23.

Ten of the accused were at the court dock during argument. Aminul, Shish are among 17 absconding accused.

Other accused include Union Parishad chairmen Besaratullah and Rafikul Islam, JMB leaders Mostafizur Rahman Mostak, Prof Lutfar Rahman, Abdus Sattar BSc, Siddik, Korban Ali, Akram, Amjad, Monayem, Abul Member and Montu.

BCL enforces partial strike at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday enforced a day-long strike on the Rajshahi University (RU) campus and other educational institutions in Rajshahi city.

BCL, student wing of Bangladesh Awami League (AL) called the strike protesting arrest of party chief Sheikh Hasina.

Classes and examinations were held on schedule although presence of students was comparatively thin. University buses ran as usual.

Additional forces were deployed on the campus to avert any untoward incident.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members patrolled the campus round the clock.

Earlier, BCL staged a demonstration in front of the Fourth Arts Building on the campus Saturday night.

During the demonstration, BCL activists chanting slogans against the government and demanded resignation of Adviser Mainul Hosein.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members chased the demonstrators and dispersed them.

However, none was arrested during the strike period.

# Father cradles boy in court for facing extortion case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Panicked primary school student Nazmul Hoq, cradled in arms of his father, appeared before a court in Kishoreganj yesterday in an extortion case.

Nine year-old Nazmul, a student of class V at Hoglakandi Government Primary School, is son of Shohrab Uddin of Hoglakandi village in Hossainpur upazila.

The case was filed with Hossainpur police station on July 9 by Muslem Uddin of the same village.

Nazmul could not attend classes as police harassed him, his father alleged while talking to this correspondent on the court compound.

According to the FIR of the case, Nazmul, his elder brother Akram and his father Shohrab along with five others attacked and damaged a shop at Hoglakandi bazaar during day time and demanded Tk 50,000 from the shopkeeper.

The attackers also looted one tonne rod, two truckloads of sand and 1,000 bricks stored in the shop



for construction work, it said. Sources said that in the FIR Nazmul was shown 20 year-old while his elder brother Akram's age was also 20.

Nazmul's father Shohrab said, complainant of the case Muslem Uddin of the same village had a bitter land dispute with him for long.

Contacted, investigation officer (IO) of the case SI Shahjahan

said, they had nothing to do as the complainant put the aforesaid information in the FIR.

But attorney Maruf Ahmed said it is the duty of an IO of a case to investigate and verify the information provided in the FIR.

The court of Magistrate Abu Sayeed granted bail to all the accused.

## FLOOD GRIPS SEVERAL DISTRICTS IN GRIM RAINY SEASON



(Clockwise) Flood water flowing over a road and displaced people sheltered in a school in Fulgazi in Feni, an inundated area in Munshiganj town, flood water being used for household work in Chandpur town and submerged houses near the bank of Gumti river in Comilla.

## Trial of SCC kitchen market case shifted to Aug 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Trial in the much talked about kitchen market corruption case of Sylhet City corporation (SCC) has been deferred.

Sylhet Divisional Special Judge Iftekhar Rasul yesterday re-fixed the date on August 26 as one of the accused--SCC Ward Commissioner Azadur Rahman Azad could not be brought from Moulvibazar district jail and produced before the court.

However, the prime accused in the case--SCC Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran was brought from Comilla Central jail and produced before the court.

The High Court had stayed trial of 16 of the 18 accused in the case for six months.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice SK Sinha and Justice Mamun Rahman on June 7 stayed trial of 16 of the 18 accused. The 16 are SCC ward commissioners Syed Ahmed Hossain, Prodip Bhattacharya, Abdul Quaiyum Jalali Ponki, Santanu Dutta Santu, Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury, Sazzadur Rahman, Syed Misbahuddin, Haji Faruque Ahmed and Md. Shahjahan; former ward commissioners Azhar Uddin Jahangir, Oliur Rahman, Humayun Kabir Shahin, Maksud Bakht and Bidhan Kapali; former executive engineer Padmasen Sinha and the then Sylhet Pourashava storekeeper Saiful Alam.

Earlier, on May 21, charges were framed against the SCC mayor and 17 others in case at the Divisional Special Judge's Court, Sylhet.

The Judge framed the charges on hearing.

Meanwhile, one of the accused--ward commissioner Abdul Wadud Khaled died of heart attack on April 30 at his relative's house in Moulvibazar.

Anti Corruption Commission on February 7 filed charge sheet against 19 accused including the mayor and 16 incumbent and former ward commissioners of SCC.

The then Bureau of Anti Corruption (now Anti Corruption Commission) filed the case in April 2003.

Investigation officer of the then BAU in the charge sheet alleged that the accused persons in connivance with each other on May 11, 2000 leased the kitchen market of the then Sylhet Pourashava at Shibganj to ward commissioner Sazzadur Rahman's (now dead) younger brother Azadur Rahman Azad (now a ward commissioner) without any tender or approval from the ministry.

They had misappropriated Tk 23 lakh through corrupt practice, the charge sheet said. However, after arrest of Azad, the amount was deposited with the SCC account by his men in February this year.

## 300 trees felled at CMCH as 'illegal' nursery removed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Authorities of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) felled around 300 flower trees of a nursery on the hospital compound in last two days in the name of cleansing the environment.

They said the trees had to be axed to evict the nursery located behind the main hospital building. It was as part of a move to remove all the structures built on the hospital compound either illegally or under lease agreement with the authorities, they added.

Abul Mansur, owner of the nursery, said that he received a notice issued by CMCH on July 12, cancelling the lease agreement.

In the notice the authorities also ordered the nursery owner to remove all the trees planted on the compound and help cleansing the area.

All the felled 300 trees of 'star flower', composed of small white petals, were 5 to 15 feet high and around 15 to 20 years old, Mansur claimed.

"We leased the site from CMCH authorities in early eight-

ies and the agreement was renewed every year", Mansur said.

The lease amount was Tk 5000 to Tk 6000 a year at the initial stage. The amount stood at Tk 24000 last year and Tk 40,000 this year, he said.

When Contacted, CMCH Director Brigadier General Abedur Rahman said the plants in the nursery were turning the area into a jungle making it a breeding ground for mosquitoes which would pose a threat to patients.

Trees felled on Chittagong Medical College Hospital compound.

## 10 'gunrunners' arrested in Bandarban

A CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Ten indigenous people were arrested and a foreign made revolver including 10 rounds of bullets recovered from their possession at Bakti Tripura Para in Ruma upazila.

Security forces arrested Hasi Ram Tripura, Nabajan Tripura, Ana Bahadur Tripura, Bishwas Chandra Tripura, Avi Ram Tripura, Jan Bahadur Tripura, Joy Chandra Tripura, Ajoy Tripura, Prijush Tripura and Penas Tripura on Saturday for their involvement in arms smuggling and extortion for a long time, police said. Later, the arrested were handed over to police.

A case was filed against them under Arms Act. Police placed them before a court in the evening from where they were sent to jail.

## Acid, formalin seized in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive on Saturday seized huge quantities of acid, formalin and government medicines from some medicine stores in Pabna town and arrested three persons.

The recovered item include 300 kg of acid, 25 kg of formalin.

Five cases were filed against them with Pabna police station.

6x4