

PILKHANA MUTINY CASE

Court asks CID to submit probe report June 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the 1,382 arrestees accused in the Pilkhana mutiny case were not produced before the CMM Court, Dhaka yesterday due to accommodation crisis and security reason, though the court had earlier ordered to produce them before it, prosecution sources said.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Enamul Huq fixed June 29 as the next date for submitting the CID investigation report on the carnage as it failed to submit its probe report of the case yesterday as per the court order. He also asked the CID to place the accused BDR jawans before the court on that day.

Meanwhile, six more people -- five BDR jawans and a civilian -- yesterday confessed to their involvement in the February 25-26 carnage at the headquarters of the border force, while 30 others were sent to jail.

The trial proceedings of most of the

courts were disrupted throughout the day on April 2 when the CID produced around 800 BDR mutineers and outsiders before the CMM Court in Dhaka in connection with the mutiny case.

The presence of such a huge number of accused on a single day caused sufferings to the lawyers, litigants and others who appeared before the courts for different purposes.

Seeking anonymity, an assistant commissioner (prosecution) said the court hajat could accommodate only 300 people. So, when such a large number of people would be produced before the court, most of them have to be kept on its premises and even on a nearby road which is risky on security grounds.

Those who made the confessional statements under section 164 of the criminal procedure code (CrPC) yesterday include Nayek Moktar Hossain, sepoy Aatur Hossain, Moktar Hossain, Shimul

Kanti, Abdur Rahman and a civilian named Ibrahim.

The same day, a Dhaka court ordered to send 30 alleged BDR mutineers to jail after they were produced before it on completion of their five-day remand.

Our Khagrachhari Correspondent adds: At least two cases were filed against 101 BDR members from two rifles battalions with Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in the hill district yesterday.

Police sources said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Matiranga Police Station Md Abdul Quaim filed the case with the court, accusing 44 BDR members from Khedachhara 29 Rifles Battalion, while OC of Ramghor Police Station Khandaker Golam Shahnewaz filed another case with the same court, accusing 57 BDR members from Ramghor 11 Rifles Battalion.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Abul Bashar Munshi accepted the cases and issued warrants against the BDR members.

One drowns in Buriganga boat capsizes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person drowned in a boat capsized in the river Buriganga at Sadarghat launch terminal in the city last night.

He was identified as Shariful Islam, 32, a civil staff of Rajendrapur Cantonment.

Police said at around 6:45pm Shariful along with his six family members in a boat was trying to get into a Madaripur-bound launch while the launch started moving from the terminal. As the launch was moving, their small boat capsized being hit by the launch.

Other family members in the boat swam ashore but Shariful remained missing as of filing the report at 9:00pm.

Fire brigade men started rescue operation last night.

Incidents of mugging on rise

Says DMP commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mugging has increased in April compared to the previous month, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) AKM Shahidul Huq said yesterday. Expressing concern over the deterioration of law and order situation, he said it would be unfortunate if anybody does not get security even after filing a general diary (GD).

The DMP commissioner was speaking at the monthly crime conference at Rajarbagh Police Lines Telecom Auditorium in the city.

Asked about the alarming rise in the use of mobile phone by extortionists demanding money, he said it is difficult to detect the callers as the SIM cards of cellphones 'the extortionists

use are registered with fake address.

"If the mobile phone operators give registration for SIM cards after proper verification, it would help law enforcers detect the callers who demand money or give threats," he said.

"We have already approached the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to discuss the issue with the mobile phone operators," he added.

The commissioner also said the police have recovered 14 firearms last month and most of them are foreign-made.

Deputy commissioners, assistant commissioners, officers-in-charge of all police stations under DMP attended the conference.

6 bomb-like objects seized in city hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police seized six bomb-like objects and several bottles of kerosene and arrested a youth in this connection last night from LabAid Hospital in the city.

The arrestee was identified as Imam Hossain, 34.

Police said around 7:30pm Hossain appeared at the chamber of Dr AK Miah at the hospital and brought out bomb-like objects wrapped in red tape and several bottles of Kerosene from his bag.

Then the doctor jumped out from his room and started screaming in fear. Hearing the screaming security guards rushed to the spot and detained the youth and later handed over to police.

Police said they would investigate the motive behind the incident.



President Zillur Rahman meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna yesterday to console her on the death of her husband Dr Wazed Miah.

DEATH OF DR WAZED President consoles PM

UNB, Dhaka

An emotion-charged atmosphere was created at 'Jamuna' as President Zillur Rahman met with the grief-stricken Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, at her government residence yesterday evening and sympathised with her on the death of her husband.

The president stayed at Jamuna for about 45 minutes and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul of Dr Wazed Miah, who died at Square Hospital in the city on Saturday.

"With the death of the eminent nuclear scientist, the prime minister has lost his dearest one as well as the nation lost an extraordinarily meritorious personality," he said.

Recalling his close relations with Dr Wazed, the president termed his death as an "irreparable loss".

He also advised the prime minister to hold patience at this hour of shock.

On his arrival, the prime minister received the president.

PM expresses gratitude

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her gratitude to those who have consoled the death of her husband Dr MA Wazed Miah.

In a message Hasina said she and members of her family were grateful to the people at home and abroad for condoling the death of Dr Wazed and conveying sympathy to his bereaved family.

She has requested all to pray for eternal peace of the soul of her husband.

Int'l Nurses Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Nurses Day was observed in the country yesterday remembering contributions of nurses to the society.

Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association organised a discussion marking the day, the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

Tapashi Bhattacharjee, president of Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association, presided over the discussion while general secretary of the association Sabina Yeasmin, Hamida Khatun, and Shahida Khatun, among others, spoke.

They also condoled the death of nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sheikh Abdur Motaleb, former journalist of Weekly Janata, Dainik Purbadesh and Dainik Barta, passed away at his village home at Srinagar Harpara village in Bikrampur on Monday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He was suffering from mental and physical illness due to death of his elder son in an accident.

He left behind his wife and one son to mourn his death. Motaleb, former general secretary of Students' Union of Bikrampur, was laid to rest at Deulbhag graveyard after Esha prayers on Monday.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Harpara residence after Juma prayers on Friday for salvation of his departed soul.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Prof Muhammad Ansar Ali, says a press release.

He was the professor of history department at Govt PC College Bagerhat, Govt Devendra College, Tangail Sadar College and Govt Jagannath College.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Baraika in Gazipur Sadar after Juma prayers on May 15.

Friends, students and well-wishers are requested to attend the programmes.

2001 POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE IN BARISAL Govt orders reinvestigation

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

The Hindu community in the Barisal region have not forgotten the horrible night before the eighth parliamentary election in 2001.

The cadres of former BNP lawmakers swooped on them with lethal weapons, assaulted women and forced them to stay inside their residences because the Hindu community are considered the vote bank of Awami League.

Home Ministry has recently ordered police to reinvestigate the allegations about the violence on that night and post-election violence in October 2001.

Police has also started investigating into the incidents accordingly, sources said.

The home ministry has also sought information about the role of police officials of concerned police stations, DIG and district police office, sources said.

The letters would be sent to other police stations gradually after scrutinising the allegations and information about leaving the area or country by the affected minority people would also be checked, they said.

The people of minority community in Barisal are usually not allowed to cast their votes for long as they are considered the vote bank of Awami League.

There is no official estimate how many Hindu voters are in the district.

But related sources say 45 percent of the voters in Barisal-1, 30 percent in Barisal-2, and about 5 percent each in Barisal 3, 4, and 6 constituencies are Hindus.

Another source says there are around 30,000 Hindu voters in Barisal-5.

The Hindus said those who dared to start for the polling centres were blocked on the way and beaten up irrespective of gender.

Anil Chandra Dey, a voter of Suktagar, who made it to the polling centre, was stripped off his clothes in a public gathering during a victory meeting of BNP the next day, they added.

One of the BNP cadres - Shahjahan Omar - was so cruel that even the poorest of the Hindus had to pay his cadres tolls before the wedding ceremony of their daughters to save them from being dragged away from the bridal stage.

Many of the Hindus at

Agoiljhara, where the post election violence against minority people happened mostly, fled to other places and some even left the country.

Suktagar and Agoiljhara are not the only places where the Hindus were suppressed before or after the elections.

Sources said Galachipa Police Station in Patuakhali and Nalchhiti Police Station in Jhalakati have already

received orders for reinvestigation of three cases of alleged post-election violence.

But Zakir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Agoiljhara Police Station, has not received any letter of reinvestigation.

GM Azizur Rahman, police super of Bhola district where many post-election violence took place, also said he had not received any letter of reinvestigation yet.

One shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bullet-hit body of an unidentified youth at Farmgate in the city yesterday.

Police said they found the body of the youth aged around 30, lying in front of a house on Indira Road in the area and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Police suspected that he might have been killed somewhere else and was dumped there.

Attendant stabbed

Meanwhile, an attendant of a patient was stabbed at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early yesterday by his rivals over a land dispute.

The victim was identified as Rukonuzzaman, brother-in-law of the patient admitted and a resident of Gabindaganj upazila in Gaibandha.

Police said around 4:00am a gang of 6-7 youths swooped

on Rukonuzzaman with knives at the restroom on the third floor of a building in DMCH, leaving him injured.

Police said on-duty police and other attendants of patients rushed to the spot as he raised a hue and cry for help and caught one of the attackers -- Masud Rana of New Elephant Road while the others managed to escape.

Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) of Shahbag police station told The Daily Star that the criminals attacked Rukonuzzaman as a sequel to previous enmity over cutting paddy at a disputed land at Gabindaganj upazila.

Rukonuzzaman's relative Rafiqul Islam, who is now under treatment at DMCH, was injured seriously in a clash over the issue in Gabindaganj upazila on April 6.

Police said a case was filed with Shahbag police station yesterday accusing seven people in this regard.

JUDICIAL SERVICE PAY COMMISSION Court asks govt to implement recommendations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday directed the government to implement within two months the judicial service pay commission's recommendations to enhance salaries and other facilities of the judicial officials.

The seven-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, passed the order during the hearing on the Masdar Hossain Case, popularly known as judiciary separation case.

The apex court also fixed

July 22 for further hearing of the case.

The Appellate Division was scheduled to hold the hearing on the progress in executing the separation of judiciary from the executive yesterday.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam informed the court that the government has taken steps to allocate vehicles for the chief judicial magistrates in 19 greater districts.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) has allocated Tk 731.69 crore for building offices and providing other logistical supports for the judiciary, he said.

WEATHER TODAY Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Chittagong division in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:16am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 19.0 degree at Faridpur.

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

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)

Health, Nutrition & Population Sector Programme (HNPS), Annual Programme Review (APR) 2009 Policy Dialogue

Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque speaks at the inaugural session of 'The Policy Dialogue on Annual Programme Review (APR-2009) of Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPS)' at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

5th Asian Universities Debate begins in city tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 5th Asian Universities Debating Championship (AUDS) 2009 will be held in Bangladesh this year.

East West University (EWU) in partnership with Oxford International School will host the inter-university debating competition of Asian countries.

The event will begin tomorrow and run till May 19. Around 276 participants forming 69 teams from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Philippines will compete.

These were disclosed at a press conference at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. East West University (EWU) organised the event.

Participants form seven public and private universities of Bangladesh will represent the country in the event.

"It is indeed an honour for our country to have earned the privilege to host such a quality and prestigious event and show off the debating and intellectual skills of our young generation," said Prof Mohammad Sharif, vice chancellor of East West University, at the press conference.

Jalaluddin Ahmed, president of Board of Directors of East West University, also spoke at the press conference.

MYANMAR ENVOY MEETS BDRCS CHAIR Aspects of cyclone preparedness programme discussed

Aspects of cyclone preparedness programme discussed

METRO DESK

Ambassador of Myanmar to Bangladesh Thae Thann Oo called on Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Prof MS Akbar in the city yesterday.

During his visit, the envoy discussed different aspects of cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) run by BDRCS, which is established as model programme in the field of disaster management, says a press release.

The ambassador was told that due to better preparedness and management promoted by CPP, devastation of Sidr was tremendously reduced.

On the other hand, huge damage and devastation of lives, livelihoods, environment and infrastructures occurred in the coastal areas of Myanmar, caused by cyclone 'Nargis' on May 8, 2008.

It was discussed in the meeting that there is a great opportunity to share the ideas and experience of BDRCS with Myanmar in this area of disaster management.

Thae Thann Oo expressed his keen interest on CPP programme and requested the BDRCS chairman to take necessary steps to replicate the same programme in the vulnerable areas of Myanmar.

The BDRCS chairman said as a voluntary and humanitarian organisation, BDRCS will extend its allout support and cooperation through organising meeting, discussion and training with the participation of skilled volunteers and officers of the countries.

BAF Air Defence Exercise begins

UNB, Dhaka

A two-day Air Defence Exercise titled 'ADEX 2009-1' of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) began at all the bases yesterday.

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahamn participated in the exercise by flying a fighter aircraft, FT-7B, and witnessed activities of the exercise, said an ISPR release.

All types of BAF aircraft, helicopters and Radar Squadrons of different bases are participating in the exercise aimed at assessing and evaluating efficiency and capability of BAF Air defence and identify the weakness and draw lessons for further improvement.

Besides, Army, Navy and Civil Defence are taking part in the exercise, which will conclude today.



Dr Muniruddin pro-VC of East West University

METRO DESK

Dr Muniruddin Ahmed, professor of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology of Dhaka University, has been appointed pro-vice chancellor of East West University for four years, says a press release.

Prior to his appointment, he served as the chairperson of the department of pharmacy of this university. Dr Muniruddin was born in Feni in 1952.

He stood first class first in B Pharm (Hons) (1972) and M Pharm (1973) examinations from the Department of Pharmacy, University of Dhaka. He did his PhD from Berlin Free University, Germany in 1982.

He was general secretary and president of Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society and Pharmacy Graduates' Association. He is also vice-president of Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh.