

Swindling

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Assistant Commissioner (AC) of police Md Golam Azad Khan said Monir has already been arrested from his Merul Badda residence in the city.

The AC also said that Salma had not been arrested as she was now in the ninth month of her pregnancy. Since Shilon left the country over a year ago, it was not clear who the father of the child is.

Monir is the son of Taher Ali Sikder of Palong upazila in Shariatpur and is an Applied Chemistry graduate from Dhaka University. At present he runs a travel related business. While in university he was vice president Bangladesh Chhatra League's Fazlul Haque Hall unit.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shilon, who has been living in Athens, Greece since 1999, said that he was introduced to Monir at DU by a friend in October 2006 while on a visit to Bangladesh. Subsequently Monir agreed to help him find a bride.

Shilon said, "Monir introduced me to Salma at Hotel Sheraton, saying Salma was a friend of Monir's girlfriend and like a sister to them. Monir said Salma's father was dead, and she studied at Dhaka university, supporting herself by tuitions. I grew close to her and eventually we decided to get married the next year."

He then left for Greece in December 2006.

Shilon then kept in touch with Salma over phone calls and sent Salma Tk 20,000 per month for her study and living expenses.

"During the wedding, I gave her a diamond ring worth Tk 85,000, three necklaces of 25 tolas of gold worth Tk 6,30,000 and a gold ring worth Tk 12,000," Shilon said.

"As my would-be wife demanded, I sent her Tk 7 lakh more for other purposes and just before we got married she proposed that I send her money to buy a flat in the city as neither of us have a place to live in Dhaka," said Shilon who hails from Gopalganj.

"I then sent her Tk 22 lakh to buy a flat at Banglamotor."

Service age

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service age of the freedom fighters by at least one year," State Minister for Liberation War Affairs ABM Tajul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

He also hinted that the service age limit could be increased by even two to three years, which was under consideration.

The next cabinet meeting on August 17 may take the decision.

Across the country, there are around 4,500 government officials and staffs who are freedom fighters. They have long been demanding increase in their service tenure.

Besides, the government would go for increasing service age of all its officials and employees in December.

Talking about the trial of war criminals, the state minister said the government is determined to bring them to book immediately after appointing investigation agency, which would require some more time.

"We want to try the war criminals in a fair way so that it is acceptable to international quarters," he said adding that only the war criminals with substantive proofs would be brought to justice regardless of their party affiliation.

Road blocked

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The UNO was there to oversee the process of dismantling the camp as a part of the government decision to pull out an army brigade and 35 make-shift camps from the three districts in line with CHT Peace Accord.

Contacted, Tarikul Alam said he suggested that the locals submit an application to the deputy commissioner seeking security arrangement in the area. He, however, said he did not feel any security crisis due to the withdrawal of the camp.

Meanwhile, army officials handed the campsite over to the UNO in absence of the landowner Suva Lal Chakma.

After dismantling the Dighalchhari camp, which was set up in April 1981 and approximately 40 kilometres from Rangamati district headquarters, a total of 100 troops along with their belongings left for Chittagong Cantonment.

Until yesterday, a total of five military camps in Rangamati -- three under Kaptai brigade and two under Rangamati brigade, were withdrawn.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reports: Troops from Pomangpara camp in the district were withdrawn yesterday while moving troops from Chhantilla under Panchhari has also started and is expected to be completed by today.

ORPHANAGE CASE SC upholds Tarique's bail order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court upheld a High Court order granting bail to Tarique Rahman in the Zia Orphanage Trust embezzlement case yesterday.

The Appellate Division also upheld another HC order that stayed proceedings against Tarique in an extortion case filed by Amin Ahmed Bhuiyan, a real estate businessman.

In another case, the apex court upheld an HC order that stayed proceedings against Arafat Rahman Koko for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information about it.

Two Appellate Division benches separately passed the orders dismissing three leave-to-appeal petitions against the HC orders.

The government filed a leave-to-appeal petition against the HC order that stayed the proceedings of the extortion case against Tarique.

Amin Ahmed filed the case with Gulshan Police Station in 2007.

The HC stayed the case proceedings last year and issued a rule to explain why the case should not be quashed.

The Anti-corruption Commission recently filed leave-to-appeal petitions with the SC against HC orders that granted bail to Tarique in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case and stayed the proceedings against Koko in the corruption case.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam appeared for the government and advocate Khurshid Alam Khan stood for ACC, while barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon stood for Tarique and Koko.

2nd ODI

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On the other hand, Zimbabweans will be looking to get Sunday's crushing defeat out of their heads and strive for a better show to restore parity in the series. The game starts at 2:30 pm Bangladesh time. State-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) and satellite channel TEN Sports will beam live telecast from Queen's Sports Club in Bulawayo.

Bangladesh will field the same eleven that played in the opening match. Most of the Bangladesh batsmen have got runs in recent games, and their only worry till now seems to have eased off with both the seamers bagging wickets in the first game. Zimbabwe, on the other hand, are expected to make changes, particularly in the way they counter spin, if they are to put on a more credible show today. They will also be looking to find ways to have cracks at the Bangladesh batting line-up that looks more resolute than ever before.

TCB active

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Dhaka city with its imported goods, Sher Mohammad said. He said the TCB should have imported essentials at least a month earlier.

The TCB is importing 25,000 tonnes of edible oil from Malaysia and 12,000 tonnes of sugar from Thailand to meet the demand of consumers during Ramadan, a senior TCB official said.

Of the edible oil, 12,500 tonnes are Soya bean oil and 12,500 tonnes palm oil, the TCB official said requesting anonymity.

"We still hope to start sale of essentials on the first day of Ramadan as the process of importing edible oil and sugar is going on rapidly," the TCB official said.

The TCB awarded the bid winners tenders yesterday for import of 200 tonnes of onions and 100 tonnes of chickpea for sale on domestic market during Ramadan. TCB also has a plan to import lentil in near future, the official added.

The TCB sources said they have only 222 dealers across the country. It now plans to assign two more dealers at each upazila before Ramadan. The process of assigning more dealers will be completed soon, said the TCB official.

He said the prices of edible oil and sugar would be fixed after the goods are transported to the warehouses.

"We shall sell the goods through our dealers across the country this year. Previously, the TCB men sold the goods using trucks and vans in cities and towns," he said.

City Group of Industries Chairman Fazlur Rahman said the prices of edible oil should be fixed after the ministries concerned and other stakeholders review the total import cost.

If the prices are fixed this way, they would not fluctuate frequently, he added.

No room

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Atfal Hossain was made information and research affairs secretary to the committee.

The Awami League Central Working Committee has 26 executive members and 47 officer bearer posts, including the party president, general secretary, 13 presidium members, three joint general secretaries and seven organising secretaries.

The Awami League on July 30 announced the names for 43 posts in the committee, excluding veterans Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzaq, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta who were presidium members.

On July 24 the Awami League national council re-elected Hasina as president and Syed Ashrafur Islam as general secretary.

"Awami League President Sheikh Hasina appointed the executive members in consultation with the presidium members as per the party constitution," said General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam in a press release yesterday.

The 26 executive members are: Mohammad Nasim, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Altaf Hossain of Magura, Matur Rahman of Mymensingh, Eng Mosharruf Hossain of Chittagong, Sheikh Harun-ur-Rashid of Khulna, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, AKM Rahmatullah, Syeda Zebunnisa of Sylhet, Monnujan Sufian, Khairuzzaman Liton, Fazle Rabbi, Bipul Ghosh, Abdur Rahman, Akhtaruzzaman, Bir Bahadur, Tipu Munshi of

Politicians

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any foreign militant organisation like LeT.

The law enforcers hope they will be able to make headway towards unearthing the LeT's political patrons once they capture some other Lashkarmen in the country.

Mufti Obaidullah and Moulana Mansur meantime disclosed that their organisation has been active in Bangladesh for the last 14 years.

They also said local LeT operatives have links to the network of absconding Indian underworld don Daud Ibrahim and Huji Bangladesh leaders.

Both the detainees had been teaching at local madrasas since their illegal entrance to Bangladesh in 1995.

"Obaidullah had been organising Bangladeshi youths for jihad on instructions from Ameer Reza, an Indian holed up in Pakistan," DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque told newsmen after Obaidullah's arrest.

Talking to reporters while being paraded before the media, Obaidullah said four other most wanted Indians are also hiding in Bangladesh.

Following up information obtained from him, DB police arrested LeT leader Mansur Ali from Dakkhin Khan area in the capital on July 22.

Mansur told reporters at the DMP headquarters that he had close relations with local Huji top brass including Mufti Hannan, Abdur Rouf, Abu Taher and Sheikh Abdus Salam.

BNP starts

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form even their upazila convening committees on time.

The centre had asked all district committees to form 31-member upazila convening committees by July 15, but only a few district committees submitted new upazila committees for approval, out of over 450 upazila units.

Rizvi Ahmed, office secretary of BNP, however denied the allegations saying all committees will be formed on time. "Formation of district level committees is almost complete, and most of them also submitted upazila committees. Union and ward level committees will also be formed before the recruitment drive kicks off," he claimed.

When his attention was drawn to the allegation that some district committees have yet to even start working as they have yet to get central approval, he said all committees started working, but in some cases some 'routine changes' were brought.

He hoped that the recruitment and membership renewal drive will be a 'new milestone' for the party, and it will start forming full-fledged committees through local councils after the drive ends on September 15.

Party insiders however said there is widespread confusion regarding whether the drive

Rangpur, Mostafa Faruk of Jessore, MA Mannan of Sunamganj, Mujibur Rahman Maznu of Bogra, Mirza Azam, Momtaz Uddin Mehedi, Akhtar Zahan of Rajshahi, Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Sujit Roy Nandi and Aminul Islam Amin.

Among them Abdur Rahman, Akhtaruzzaman and Bir Bahadur were demoted to member status. They were organising secretaries in the previous committee.

Since the Awami League is yet to announce the name of one remaining joint general secretary, the central working committee now has 72 members.

Once high-profile Awami League leaders Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Abdul Mannan, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Mukul Bose, Abu Sayeed and KM Jahangir, among other mid-ranking party leaders, are no longer part of the central working committee.

Sources in the party said these leaders' inclusion in the committee was rejected as they, like Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzaq, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta, had spoken about reforms when the party chief was detained during the last caretaker government's rule.

Mobile courts

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strengthening the BSTI, we have recruited 113 new staff and purchased new machinery for chemical testing."

Dewan Zakir Hussain, secretary to the industries ministry, was also present at the briefing.

Koko

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Attorney General Mahbub Alam told journalists that Khokon, also a BNP lawmaker and Tawhid should have assisted the court with genuine documents in the interest of justice. But they misled the court by submitting forged documents.

"I would have not brought the forged allegation against them, if they had admitted it to the court earlier," he said.

The attorney general said the case was filed against Koko in March this year but Khokon had collected Koko's signature in January this year for filing the writ petition. Khokon told The Daily Star that he did not commit any forgery as he submitted a genuine letter of authority to the HC on Koko's behalf.

"I met Koko in Bangkok on January 27 this year. He put signatures on the letter of authority and other documents before me the same day," he said.

The government on August 5 this year filed an application with the HC, alleging that Koko tendered "forged and manufactured" documents with his writ petition to the HC.

Koko, now staying in Thailand for treatment on parole, authorised advocate Taherul Islam Tawhid to file the writ petition. But the authorisation letter was authenticated by an unauthorised person in Dhaka, not by any official at the Bangladesh embassy in Thailand, it said.

Detainee questions hinder plan to shut Guantanamo

AFP, Washington

Less than six months before his self-imposed deadline to shut down Guantanamo, US President Barack Obama faces key fights over where to move detainees and how to prosecute them.

His administration has only had limited success in emptying the detention centre of those considered its most low-risk inmates, sending them home or to third countries willing to provide them with asylum.

Portugal this week joined Bermuda, France, Ireland, and even the Pacific archipelago of Palau in agreeing to accept detainees from the prison, located on a US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Obama is still wrestling with what to do with some 229 detainees who remain, among them the highest-profile arrests in his predecessor George W. Bush's "war on terror" including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-described mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Obama made shutting the camp -- a symbol for many of all that was wrong with Bush's "war on terror" -- by the end of his first year in office on January 2010 a major campaign pledge.

But his decision earlier this year to prosecute some detainees in reformed versions of the Bush-era military commissions and try others in federal courts has met with growing opposition.

Uttara hospital

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added departmental action would be taken against Dr Sabrina, the medical officer concerned.

Without a confirmed diagnosis, this officer reported "pneumonia due to swine flu" in the death certificate though she misspelled writing "sowan flu".

"He was admitted to the hospital on Saturday at 4:00pm with a severe breathing problem and we were busy trying to relieve his condition," said Hyder Ali.

The blood sample of the patient has been preserved and it would be sent to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) for further testing, said Shahjahan Biswas, director of the hospital.

IEDCR Director Prof Mahmudur Rahman, however, said the institute has already collected medical history of the patient and talked to their relatives.

Sanwar, hailed from Shingra upazila of Natore, was a migrant worker in to the Maldives. As he had been suffering from fever for more than two weeks and could not work, he came back to Bangladesh recently.

He was taken to his village on the night of his death and buried.

Locals said, a very few people came to see the corpse and attend the Namaj-e-Janaza as the rumour of his suffering from "swine flu" spread.

Muggers

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Sohel at Matuail at about 7:00am and shot him when he was trying to resist them. Later, they took Tk 6,000 from him and fled the scene.

She alleged that the CNG driver might have been involved in the incident as he fled the scene soon after the attack.

Yet in another incident, criminals shot and wounded a construction worker in an under-construction building on Jamal Khan road in the city's Kafur area yesterday.

OC Delwar Ahmed of Kafur Police Station suspected that extortionists might have launched the attack for realising money from the owner of the building.

Quddus Ali, 38, a resident of Diabari in Mirpur-1, was admitted to DMCH with bullet wounds in his left leg and hand.

Quddus said a group of 15 to 20 criminals stormed into the building of Mahbuba Khandakar at about 3:30 pm and stabbed Quddus and later shot at him while he along with six other workers were working there.

Later, the criminals shouted at them to stop work and escaped the scene leaving a hit, inscribed with one Sheikh Aslam's name and two cellphone numbers, the victim said.

The thugs also asked the workers to say Mahbuba to make a phone call to the cellphone numbers.

JS bodies require

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The parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry would pursue for a draft law to strengthen the parliamentary bodies, said committee chairman Suranjit Sengupta.

The committee at its next meeting will propose to form of a sub-committee for a draft law, as it is enshrined in the article 76/3 of the Constitution, he said. As per the article 76/1 (A), all the draft laws should be sent to the standing committee.

"We will make use of the experience of Capitol Hill, Westminster parliament and the European Parliament on how the committee system functions effectively."

"The proposed law will have provisions to summon and compel anybody to enforce the attendance of witness and production of documents," said Suranjit.

The Constitution is the highest fundamental law of the republic and its violation is tantamount to sedition, he added.

He went on to say the committee would propose for provisions to treat violation of the constitution as treason and bring the violators to book.

BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury at the workshop said they have had a consensus among them on the matter.

"Punishment for violation

of the Constitution has to be mentioned specifically so that it does not occur in future," he said, adding the violation has taken place at will again and again.

Replying to a question, Chowdhury said BNP would back any initiative to make the immediate past caretaker government answerable.

Eight of the 10-member parliamentary body including BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Quader and Jatiya Party lawmaker Ziaul Haque Mridha took part in the workshop.

Michael Meadowcroft, a former British lawmaker and internationally reputed expert on the multi-party parliamentary democracy, facilitated the workshop.

Niall Johnson, another internationally renowned parliament expert, also took part, while Jacqueline Corcoran, NDI senior resident director, was present.

3 outlaws

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outfits and the contractors of RHD.

Superintendent of Police of Kushtia Shahabuddin Khan said it is a popular way to show their power to realise extortion from the contractors.

The same Gono Bahini chopped off a contractor's head in June 7, 1997 and killed two members of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz on June 16.

Indians flock

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ayurvedic or traditional medicine practitioner in Pune, 120 kilometres (75 miles) from India's financial hub Mumbai, and a four-year-old boy in the southern city of Chennai.

Both patients had been unwell for some time, Indian media reported, quoting state health officials.

A man who arrived in western Gujarat state from the United States at the end of July and a woman from Mumbai both died on Saturday, while a school teacher died in Pune on Sunday.

India's first swine flu death was that of a 14-year-old girl last Monday, also in Pune, which has seen the country's biggest cluster of cases.

The Indian government is screening travellers arriving at airports and asking people with flu-like symptoms not to go to public places and to seek medical attention.

Some schools shut amid concern about the virus, as newspapers and television news channels showed queues of people, many in surgical masks, waiting for tests outside health centres.

The state government of Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital, ordered the closure of all schools and colleges in Pune for one week, local minister Ajit Pawar told a news conference.

Theatres and multiplex cinemas in the city were to remain shut for three days, he added.

Schools in New Delhi are to be given advice to prevent the

spread of the virus, but chief minister Sheila Dikshit said there was no cause for alarm.

"The people of Delhi should not panic that there is a big outbreak of swine flu. But they should take precautions," she told reporters.

Public health officials in densely-populated Mumbai, home to 18 million people, told AFP in May that although there would be swine flu cases, the spread of the disease may be curtailed by high temperatures and humidity.

As of Sunday, there were 82 newly confirmed swine flu cases in India, taking the total number of people with the virus to 864, the ministry of health said.

Most had either returned to India from abroad or had contact with people who had been overseas.

The government is sending 100,000 doses of the anti-viral drug Tamiflu to affected cities, health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad told the Hindustan Times newspaper.

A spokesman for India's top generic drug firm Ranbaxy, which makes a copy of Tamiflu, told AFP they were ready to supply one million tablets of the medication.

"We have indicated this to the government," the spokesman said.

The World Health Organization said this week that more than 1,150 people have died from swine flu and the virus was now in 168 countries and territories. Nearly 90 percent of deaths have been in the Americas.

Waves of bombing

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stones," he said.

Another local resident, Asaad Salem, said: "I had just finished my prayers and was trying to sleep when the first bomb went off and destroyed everything in my house, it was like a dust storm."

"Then the other bomb went off and I thought this is doomsday, this is the end of all life."

Mosul has been the frequent target of attacks despite a marked decline in violence elsewhere in the country, and US commanders describe it as the last urban bastion of al-Qaeda loyalists in Iraq.

The country's second city with a population of about 1.6 million, Mosul is mainly Sunni -- both Arab and Kurdish -- but it also has significant Christian and Shia Turkmen minorities.

In Baghdad, two bombs went off as day labourers were gathering in the early morning looking for jobs, police and the interior ministry said.

The first bomb, hidden inside a bag of cement, exploded at Hay al-Amel in the west of the capital, killing seven people and injuring 46.

The second attack, a car bomb in Shurta Arbaa in the north of the city, killed nine people and wounded 36 others.

A third bombing at a market in the southern suburb of

Saidiyah killed three people and wounded 14.

On Friday, a powerful car bomb blast killed at least 37 Shia Muslims near a mosque in Mosul in a wave of attacks that also killed 10 people in Baghdad, threatening to plunge the country into a new round of sectarian conflict.

Despite the reduction in violence in recent months, attacks against security forces and civilians remain common in Baghdad, Mosul and in the ethnically divided northern oil-rich city of Kirkuk.

The number of violent deaths fell by a third last month to 275 from 437 in June, following the pullout of US forces from urban areas.

The figure in May was 155, the lowest of any month since the invasion.

The Shabak community numbers about 30,000 people living in 35 villages in the province of Nineveh, and many want to become part of the autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq.

They speak a distinct language and largely follow a faith that is a blend of Shia Islam and local beliefs.

The Shabak community was persecuted under ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and after the US-led invasion of 2003 they were targeted on a number of occasions by al-Qaeda.