

Update Children Act '74 in light of UN Convention

High Court asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) in a verdict yesterday directed the government to update the Children Act 1974 or enact a fresh law in the light of the United Nations Child Rights Convention (UNCRC) for ensuring the best protection, welfare and interest of the children as soon as possible.

The court also directed that the offences committed by the children will be tried under provisions of Section 58 of the Children Act 1974 and Children Rules 1976 until the Children Act 1974 is updated or a fresh law is enacted.

The court also directed the

authorities concerned of the government to make the child development institutions, including the National Task Force for the Children and National Commission for Children, active in developing and protecting the children.

A vacation bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Md Fazlur Rahman came up with the directives and observations following a suo moto rule earlier issued by this court.

The court issued a suo moto rule upon two judges -- TM Musa and MA Hamid and the secretary to the law ministry -- to explain under what provision of the law a seven-year-old rape victim was sent to the safe custody.

The victim was raped by her neighbour named Gedaullah in Sylhet in March this year.

A case was filed with the

Osmani Nagar Police Station on March 27 in this connection.

After taking the charges into cognizance, the Chief Judicial Magistrate in Sylhet TM Musa sent the victim to in the safe custody.

The child's mother filed an application with a court in Sylhet to live with her daughter in the custody.

MA Hamid, Second Judicial Magistrate in Sylhet, rejected the application on April 7 this year and sent the case to Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal of the district.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the authorities concerned to send the child to her mother after a private television channel telecast a report on the incident on April 10 this year. Later, the child was sent back to her mother following the PM's directive.

Tk 68 lakh gold ornaments found at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials found 283 tolas of gold ornaments worth around Tk 68 lakh beneath a seat of an Oman flight at Shah Amanat International Airport in the port city of Chittagong yesterday.

Sources said cleaners found four packets wrapped with polythene and black tapes beneath a seat No. 28 of an Oman air flight (No. WY895) that landed at the airport from Muscat around 9:00am.

Suspecting explosives in the packets, the cleaners informed the customs and immigration police, who later called explosive experts of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

The Rab explosive experts rushed to the airport and found the packets containing gold ornaments, including 375 pairs of earrings, 678 pieces of rings and 77 pieces of lockets around 12:00pm.

The ornaments weighed 3.3 kgor 283 tolas with an estimated price of around Tk 68 lakh, said Assistant Commissioner (Immigration) of Police Nesar Ahmed.

He said someone might have brought the ornaments targeting the upcoming Eid and left those behind sensing difficulties in carrying them through the security net of the airport.

VoIP instruments worth Tk 62 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police busted a VoIP operation and arrested a man at a house in the city's Uttara yesterday.

During the raid, they seized Voice over Internet Protocol instruments worth around Tk 62 lakh.

The arrestee is Mohammad Haidar Ali.

A team of Dhaka Metropolitan Police led by Assistant Commissioner Sana Shamunur Rahman began swooping Ali's house at around 5:50am.

Two laptops, six CPUs, two monitors, two channel banks, 45 telulars are among the equipment seized.



PHOTO: STAR

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia places wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday marking the first anniversary of release of Tarique Rahman.

TRIPLE MURDER 4 BNP leaders on 4-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed four BNP leaders on a four-day remand for interrogation in the Karwan Bazar triple murder case.

The accused are Nabi Solaiman, former religious affairs secretary of Jubo Dal central committee, Sayeed, Nurul Islam and Lutfor Rahman.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mominul Hassan passed the order after the Detective Branch of police produced them before the court and sought a 10-day remand for each.

In the remand prayer, investigation officer Ziaur Rahman said the statements made by seven other arrestees earlier connect the four accused to the killings. So they should be quizzed further.

The defence lawyers submitted petitions seeking their bail.

After hearing, the magistrate rejected the bail petitions.

The BNP leaders surrendered before Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka on August 30.

Earlier on June 26, Faruque Mollah, Ashraf Miah and Nuruddin Sarkar Jewel were shot dead at Karwan Bazar.

Mobarak Hossain Mollah, Faruque Mollah's brother, filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station against the accused and seven other unknown persons.

TORTURE OF TARIQUE Perpetrators must face trial: Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said those who tortured the party's senior joint secretary general Tarique Rahman in custody after his arrest must be brought to justice.

"Those who are responsible for torture and repression will not be forgiven. They must be brought to justice," he said while inaugurating a procession organised by Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) in front of BNP central office at Naya Paltan in the city.

He also said that if the present government believes itself to be democratic, it should take initiatives to put on trial those who seized power illegally and also those who backed them.

JCD organised the procession to mark the first anniversary of release of Tarique Rahman, son of party chairperson Khaleda Zia. Tarique was arrested on March 7, 2007 in an anti-corruption drive during the immediate past caretaker government.

The procession, led by JCD leaders, ended at Mohanagar Natya Mancha at Gulistan in the city.

Earlier in the morning, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia placed wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman, founder of BNP, at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Senior leaders, including the secretary general, were also present.

Hundreds of party leaders, workers and supporters gathered at the Zia's grave and placed wreaths to mark the day.

Asking the government to withdraw all cases filed against BNP leaders, including the members of Zia's family, Delwar also said the government has adopted double standard policy as it has only withdrawing the cases filed against the ruling party leaders.

After his release, Tarique left for London on September 11 last year and issued a statement saying that he had quit active politics as well as the post of senior joint secretary general of the party.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Mir Nazmul Hassan, an employee of Save the Children UK, passed away due to a cardiac

arrest on Wednesday at the age of 35, says a press release.

Nazmul had also worked with SAP-Bangladesh and CUP.

In a condolence message, his colleagues at Save the Children UK prayed for salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to his family members.

Abubakar Siddique

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Maulana Abubakar Siddique, son of late Hasan Ali of village Khilgati at Muktagachha, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital yesterday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Maulana Abubakar, an assistant superintendent of Khilgati Dhakhil Madrasa, was the brother-in-law of Imam Uddin Mukta, Mymensingh Correspondent of BSS.

He was also the leader of local association of marriage registrars.

Qulkhwani

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Akilur Rahman, son of Dhaka Stock Exchange President Rakibur Rahman, will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away on August 28 at his own residence at the age of 23. He was buried at Banani Graveyard in the city on August 30.

Akil was an undergraduate student of UMBC at Baltimore, Maryland in the USA.

WEATHER TODAY
Light rain likely
UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



The 40th death anniversary of Abdul Hamid Chowdhury, former speaker of erstwhile Provincial Assembly, will be observed today, says a press release.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Nagbari in Tangail. A memorial meeting has also been arranged at Nagbari Hasina Chowdhury High School.

A close associate of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq and Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy, Abdul Hamid Chowdhury was also deputy president of Bengal Legislative Council from 1939 to 47.

Former president late Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury was his only son.

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