

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

Hearing begins today, finally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The final hearing of long pending Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case will start today at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, as a bench was constituted yesterday for hearing the appeals filed by five convicts against their death sentences.

Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin constituted the five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Tafazzal Islam for hearing the appeals. Other members of the bench are Justice Md Abdul Aziz, Justice BK Das, Justice Muzammel Hossain and Justice SK Sinha.

Five convicts—dismissed army personnel Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Mohiuddin Ahmed, AKM

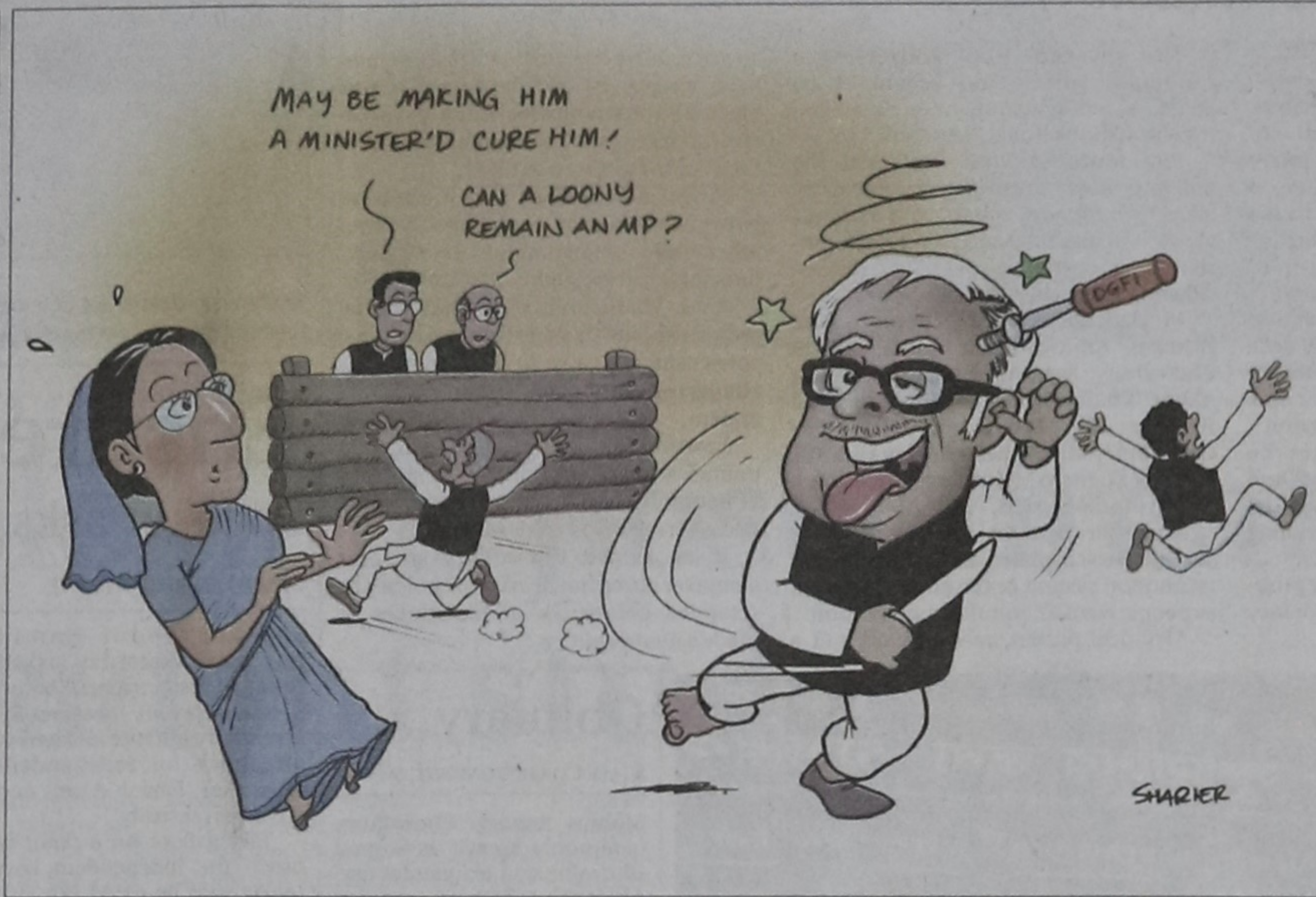
Mohiuddin Ahmed, and Bazul Huda who are now behind bars—filed the appeals with the SC in October, 2007 against their death sentences pronounced by the High Court (HC).

The counsels for both the state and the convicts expressed satisfaction with the constitution of the bench for hearing the appeals.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star that his office is fully prepared for hearing the appeals in Bangabandhu murder case.

Chief state counsel for this case Anisul Huq hoped that hearing of the appeals will be completed in 30 to 35 working days, as the hearing of the leave-to-appeal petitions filed by the five convicts had been completed in 26 working days at the Appellate Division.

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Poor countries hit hardest WB tells of climate change

AFP, Istanbul

The developing world will suffer about 80 percent of the damage from climate change despite accounting for only around a third of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the World Bank said yesterday.

"The damage of climate change, about 75 to 80 percent, will be suffered by developing countries although they only contribute about one third of greenhouse gases," World Bank chief economist Justin Lin told reporters.

Lin spoke in Istanbul, host city of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings this year, at the presentation of the World Bank's new development report for 2010 entitled

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HASINA, REHANA, CHILDREN SSF protection for life sought

Bill to be placed at JS today

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Children of Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana will be given lifelong special security along with their mothers, says a new government bill.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun may place the bill titled 'Father of the Nation's Family Members Security Act 2009' in parliament today.

Officials at the Parliament Secretariat said the home ministry has sent them copies of the proposed law and requested necessary measures for it to be tabled.

According to the bill, the government will arrange for secure houses for Hasina, Rehana and their children. It may give them other privileges as well if necessary for their safety.

The previous AL government enacted a similar law in June 2001, requiring Special Security Force (SSF) to provide Hasina

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No move to change political culture

AL's poll pledge to formulate code of conduct for political parties stays elusive

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Ruling Awami League is yet to make a move to formulate a code of conduct for political parties in line with its electoral pledge to bring changes in the country's political culture and establish good governance.

During Awami League's nine months in office, the country's politics seems to have regained its old look in intolerance, unlawful activities by ruling party men, lax observance of democratic practices within major political parties and parliament

ment boycott by opposition parties.

"Tolerance and decency will be developed in the political culture and criminal activities and extortions will be banned. Efforts will be taken to formulate a code of conduct acceptable to all," reads the AL electoral manifesto that contributed to party's overwhelming victory in the last parliamentary polls.

It also pledged reforms for ensuring democratic practices within parties and promised to take all measures necessary to make the House more effective.

But in the view of the prevailing political

situation, political analysts predict that the current parliament may face the same fate of previous parliaments that could not be effective due to frequent boycotts of main opposition parties since 1991.

The then opposition AL had stayed away from the House for 135 out of a total of 400 sittings of the fifth parliament between 1991 and 1996 and it boycotted 223 out of 373 sittings of the House in the last parliament.

Being in the opposition bench in the

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Mazhar, Kohinoor suspended

Charged with 'professional misconduct'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday suspended police officers Mazharul Haq and Kohinoor Miah on charge of "professional misconduct".

A circular issued by home ministry said that a departmental case would also be filed against them.

Meanwhile, Kohinoor Miah, who was an influential officer during the tenure of BNP-Jamaat-led government, filed a petition with the High Court yesterday, seeking anticipatory bail in a criminal case.

Shahin Sultana Shanta, wife of Supreme Court lawyer Atiur Rahman, filed the case with a Dhaka magistrate court on March 24, 2006.

In the complaint, Shanta said police assaulted and dragged her out of a clinic where she took shelter during a pitched battle between the police and the then opposition party activists in

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PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM
This busy road near Postagola Buriganga Bridge has long been in a dilapidated condition due to negligence of the authorities, causing untold sufferings to people.

KALAPARA GANG RAPE No step yet to nab culprits

STAR REPORT

With a section of ruling party still forcing local newsmen to stop further digging into the incident of September 25 gang rape of a teenage girl, district and police administration of Patuakhali district have not yet taken any steps to nab the kidnappers and rapists.

Meanwhile, leading human rights watchdog Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday dispatched a four-member investigation team to Kalapara upazila to probe the incident.

ASK officials in Dhaka said the team, including a lawyer, would prepare a report soon.

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Dhaka wants Nepal, Bhutan in transit talk

Says PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh wants to include Nepal and Bhutan in establishing the transit with India.

Bangladesh raised the issue for inclusion of Nepal and Bhutan in the transit during the talks with India on different occasions in the past.

The PM said this when

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Medicare goes pricey

Public hospitals start to realise increased service charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government hospitals have started realising increased service charges, fixed by the health and family welfare ministry last month, putting an additional burden on poor patients.

Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhul Haque told The Daily Star yesterday, "It is true that some service charges have been increased but the crucial ones remain unchanged."

The government raised charges for most medical services including admission fees, bed charges, and pathological and imaging test fees, according to a notification issued by the health ministry on September 10.

Charts with the names of services and their new rates were served to all medical college hospitals and also specialised hospitals in districts and upazilas across the country.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) authorities began charging patients as per the new charts yesterday.

Anupama Debi, mother of a patient at paediatric department of the DMCH, told The Daily Star yesterday, "I've come here to take my daughter home. I have been informed that the service charges have been increased and now I have to pay extra money for a few tests including a chest X-ray done on my daughter."

"I've asked my family members at village to

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Draft health policy draws criticism

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The draft National Health Policy-2009 suggests 'user fee' to be given by the patients for getting health services from public hospitals, which the health experts describe as a blatant attempt to commercialise the health sector.

The health experts strongly criticised the draft health policy saying that imposing the 'user fee' would deprive poor people of their health rights at public hospitals and ultimately force them to seek health services from the private sector.

Public hospitals provide health services without making any profit. So, why does the policy suggest realising user fee, they ask. Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque, however, said the main purpose of health policy is to increase access to health services for people and shape up a sustainable quality service system to meet their demand.

The 9th strategy of the health policy says after ensuring poor people's social safety net the government would collect the 'user

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আশিয়ান সিটি
পরিবেশিত আবাসন থেকে অব্যাহত.....

আশিয়ান সিটি
আপনার অভিজাত ঠিকানা

আশিয়ান ল্যান্ডস ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিঃ

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