

## Bashundhara case

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The court dismissed the case after holding hearing on it.

The court said it dismissed the case on the ground that it was not specified which parts of the report published in the Daily Prothom Alo had defamed Bashundhara Group.

Latifur Rahman, in the case, was mentioned as the publisher of the Prothom Alo although he is not the publisher of the leading Bangla daily of the country.

Earlier on Tuesday night and Wednesday, Bashundhara Group tried to file a fabricated case against eight people including Matiur Rahman, Latifur Rahman and the Editor of the Samakal Golam Sarwar and its publisher AK Azad.

At the beginning, Bashundhara Group put pressure on police to file a case but police refused to record the complaint as a case because the allegations were not found authentic. Later they recorded it as a general diary.

Having been failed to record it as a case, they communicated with government high-ups to put pressure on the police.

Finally Bashundhara Group yesterday filed the case with the court of judicial magistrate Shariar Arafat in Dhaka.

The complainant of the defamation case in the case statement said the chairman of Bashundhara had been defamed socially, commercially and politically because of the report published on the daily Prothom Alo on May 8 and October 12 this year.

Through the untrue and derogatory remarks and cartoon the Bashundhara Group chairman has been defamed. Therefore, the businessmen involved in the Bashundhara Steel and Engineering Ltd had lost their interests in all kinds of commercial exchanges and investments and the institution incurred a financial loss of Tk 500 crore.

The victim went to the South Keraniganj police station to lodge a case in this regard but he was advised to file the case with the court.

Judicial magistrate Shariar Arafat in the order of dismissal said that there is no specific information of allegation of tarnishing the name and fame of anybody. Besides, it is not clear which parts of the reports carried by the daily Prothom Alo have defamed the complainant.

The order said it was not mentioned in the case statement which parts of the

reports are false. Many things have been overlooked and the matters of loss were not specifically mentioned in the case.

The case is dismissed, as there is no sufficient ground in this case, the order said.

Advocate Gazi Shah Alam, General Secretary of Dhaka Bar Association, advocate Forkan Mian, advocate M Abbas Uddin and advocate Enamul Haque Sardar, lawyers of advocate Sahara Khatun and associates appeared for the complainant.

The complainant filed the case in the morning but kept mum till noon yesterday.

Earlier an investigative report titled "Bashundhara Rakhay Rashtrajatra Moria (Government is desperate to protect Bashundhara)" was published on Monday and an analysis titled "Halud Sangbadikatar Oviog/ Montobya Nei Proddhan Bicharpatir (Allegation of yellow journalism/ No Comments of the Chief Justice)" was published on Tuesday in the daily Prothom Alo.

The report says Bashundhara Group chairman, his wife and two sons convicted and sentenced in the tax evasion cases are out on bail, which is against the verdict of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The Bashundhara authorities, however, did not protest the report.

### Explain legality

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The petitions stated that the petitioners were not involved in any corruption and the ACC filed the case against them without following due process of the law.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Harun-ur-Rashid filed the case against Khaleda, her son Tarique and five others on July 3 with Ramna Police Station in connection with embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming the "fake" organisation Jia Orphanage Trust.

Earlier on September 7, the trial court took into cognisance the charges against Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman and four others and fixed October 25 for its next hearing.

Both Khaleda and Tarique earlier got bail from the HC in this case.

Barrister Rafique-Ul-Huq argued for the petitioners, while Attorney General Mahbub Alam and ACC lawyer advocate Khurshid Alam Khan opposed the prayers.

## UN presses Israel and Palestinians on war crime probes

AFP, United Nations

Israel and the Palestinians came under renewed international pressure on Wednesday to produce "credible" domestic probes of war crimes allegedly committed during the recent Gaza conflict, as demanded by the UN.

A representative for UN chief Ban Ki-moon called for the probes during a Security Council debate on the Middle East, in which Palestinians and their supporters turned the spotlight on harsh criticism of Israel's conduct during the three-week war that began in late 2008.

Some 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis were killed in the fighting that erupted when Israel launched a massive military offensive on Gaza on December 27, in response to rocket firing by Palestinian militants.

A recent 575-page report by a UN team led by South African judge Richard Goldstone accused both Israel and Palestinian armed groups of committing war crimes and possible crimes against humanity during the conflict.

Ban "calls upon all of the parties to carry out credible domestic investigations into the conduct of the conflict without delay," UN Under Secretary General Lynn Pascoe told the Security Council.

Britain, France and the United States backed the appeal.

"We urge the Israeli government to carry out full, credible and impartial investigations into the allegations reported in the Goldstone Report," Britain's outgoing UN Ambassador John Sawers told the council.

"We believe that the parties must now launch independent inquiries in line with international standards on the alleged violations of international humanitarian law and human rights during the Gaza crisis," his French counterpart Gerard Araud said.

US deputy ambassador Alejandro Wolff, whose country is Israel's staunchest ally, reiterated Washington's "serious concerns about the report, its unbalanced focus on Israel, the overly broad scope of its recommendations, and its sweeping conclusions of law."

But Wolff also made clear that Washington took "the allegations in the report seriously."

"Israel has the institutions and the ability to carry out serious investigations of these allegations and we encourage it to do so," he noted.

The remarks came as the Security Council discussed the Goldstone report at its regular monthly meeting on the Middle East, a day before the UN Human Rights Council reopens its own debate on the issue in Geneva.

No resolution was expected to result from the Security Council debate.

Representatives of more than 40 countries took the floor, including several from Arab, nonaligned and Islamic nations who denounced Israel's alleged war crimes in Gaza, its "collective punishment" of the civilian population there and its recent "provocations in occupied East Jerusalem."

But Israel's UN Ambassador Gabriela Shalev renewed her country's total rejection of the report, after the Jewish state again warned that the report's endorsement would sink any chance of restarting Middle East peace talks.

"I regret to say that the Goldstone report is one-sided, biased and therefore wrong -- just as the forum and mandate that established its mission," she said.

### Petrobangla

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geology, prospecting of mineral deposits, petroleum geology, mineralogy and quaternary environment.

His research works involve sea-level changes with special reference to the Holocene, sea level changes in the Bay of Bengal, shoreline geology, geomorphology, estuaries and quaternary environment.

Monsur had served as the chairman of Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) in 2001.

Born in 1953 at Kushabari in Sirajganj, Monsur completed his MSc from Moscow and obtained a postdoctoral degree from London.

## Order to arrest Jalil

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tax return, alleged the complainant.

The AL leader came up against the lawsuit nine days after he was stripped of the post of chairman, parliamentary standing committee on commerce ministry on October 6.

The filing of the case and issuance of the arrest warrant against Jalil was nothing but an outcome of his recent derogatory statements about the party and ninth parliamentary elections, observed AL leaders.

In an interview with London-based Bangla TV, former AL general secretary said the party's landslide victory in the ninth parliamentary elections came through an "understanding".

Later in London, Jalil said he suffered from a trauma due to torture by the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) personnel while he was in detention during the caretaker government's tenure. He blamed his state of mind for the remarks he made in the TV interview.

On October 3, Awami League Central Working Committee blasted Jalil for his statements but did not take any organisational actions except terming him "mentally imbalanced". At the meeting Prime Minister and AL president Sheikh Hasina said actions

against Jalil would be taken at an appropriate time.

"All these actions against Jalil have been taken for his statements and non-compromising attitude to the party chief," said an AL senior leader.

OC of Motijheel Police Station and also Investigation Officer of the case Nasirul Alam in the forwarding report mentioned that Jalil accumulated a huge amount of wealth and money through corruption as the AL general secretary. He had also been delivering provocative statements against the caretaker government to destabilise the country's political situation. That is why, he needed to be placed in remand, included the report.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), later, filed a graft case against him for acquiring wealth illegally and concealing wealth statements to the ACC.

During the last caretaker government tenure, a large number of cases were filed for dodging income tax. The special court delivered verdict on the cases but the trials become uncertain as the convicts appealed to the high court.

Sources said after Awami League government assumed office in January, the high court quashed some cases while some have been stayed and rest remained pending.

## Assassination part

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incident in 1975.

Mohitul Islam, informant and prosecution witness no-1 in the case, has stated that the accused had put on Khaki dress during the killings on August 15, 1975.

But the then deputy superintendent of police Nurul Islam, prosecution witness no-50, stated that the accused covered their faces with black clothes, he said.

He argued that the trial court did not consider this matter while delivering judgement. Even the two High Court judges in their verdicts also overlooked it, he said.

"This is a miscarriage of justice," the lawyer said.

"If the courts had considered this contradiction between the statements of Mohitul and Nurul Islam, the outcome of the case would be different, he said.

Mamun said his client Bazlul was tried in absentia and the lawyers, appointed by the state on behalf of him, were changed three times during the trial. So the argu-

ments were not properly placed in his favour before the trial court, the counsel claimed.

At the beginning of yesterday's hearing, the court again directed Mamun to comment cautiously before the media about this case.

The lawyer on Wednesday told journalists that the court did not allow him to read out the full verdict delivered by the then HC judge Mohammad Fazlul Karim in this case.

The five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Tafazzul Islam made clear yesterday that it did not prevent Mamun from reading the full judgement.

The court adjourned the hearing till 9:30am Sunday.

Five convicts -- dismissed army personnel Syed Faruque Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Mohiuddin Ahmed, AKM Mohiuddin, and Bazlul Huda -- who are in prison now, filed the appeals with the SC in October 2007.

## JS body tires

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Both sides, however, agreed on further talks on the issue.

Briefing reporters at the Jatiya Sangsad media centre, Shahidullah observed the parliamentary committee members do not know much about the model PSC and are guided by corrupt officials of Petrobangla and Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Limited (Bapex).

He said the lawmakers have agreed there are some anomalies and contradiction in the PSC.

Speaking to reporters later, standing committee members however claimed they never said the model PSC has anything anomalous.

Only Mahbub Uddin Khokon, the lone opposition member in the parliamentary committee, said that some parts of the model contract need to be made clear to people.

### India opposes

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report to ascertain whether there are recent developments that suggest any change in the position conveyed to us by the government of China," he said while referring to the news item published yesterday that China has begun constructing a dam on the river as part of the Nagmu 540MW hydro-electric project which was inaugurated on March 16.

Reports about China's plans to build the 116-metre tall and 389.5-metre long dam had emerged three years ago after which the two countries set up the Expert-Level Mechanism that held three meetings over the last three years.

### Pinak talks

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river dredging for maintaining navigability of the routes.

The minister assured the envoy of extending cooperation in dealing with the subjects.

He said scope of cooperation between two countries would further be increased in the future.

Replying to a query, he said it was wrong for some BNP ministers to be in favour of gas export.

Shahidullah said most of the Petrobangla officials are out to serve the interests of foreign oil and gas exploration companies. So guidelines prepared by them will never do the country any good.

"We have handed the lawmakers a draft law and requested them to raise the issue in parliament," he added.

He said the discussions were of some benefit to people but did not explain how.

Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, chairman of the standing committee, said there is no room for gas export though the preliminary treaty with the two foreign companies has a provision to that end.

He alleged the national committee has been confusing people by giving wrong information.

### Rental power

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power generation experience. Captive power developers are businessmen who generate their own power for their industries.

"This would open the flood gates and now all kinds of people will bid for the rental power projects. It will be a mess," said a source.

The PDB has already sold nearly 40 tender documents against the eight rental power projects as of now. The time extension and relaxation of bid criterion would mean dozens more documents will be sold in the next few days.

The diesel-based rental projects will have three-year contracts while the furnace-oil based ones five years. The diesel projects are: Bheramara 100MW, Katakhal 50MW, Thakurgaon 50MW and Syedpur 50MW. The furnace oil projects are: Noapara 100MW, Madanganj 100MW, Jamalpur 30MW and Barisal 50MW.

The diesel plants will be given 120 days for implementation and the furnace-oil plants 270 days.

### Border sees

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instead of filing cases against them to avoid the problems in jails created by their continued infiltration into Bangladesh.

A source in Bandarban district police said 550 accused and convicts, most of them Rohingyas, are staying in the Bandarban jail with a capacity of 114.

The source said the pushing back policy has been taken following directives from the high-ups in the government.

Wishing anonymity a BDR official told The Daily Star that they cannot stop Rohingyas infiltration due to lack of surveillance on 288 km long border as the geographical location is unfavourable and the number of border out post (BOP) insufficient.

Police and BDR in separate drives held 44 Rohingyas from the district this week. Of them, 12 Rohingyas were held from Ali Kadam upazila on Sunday night, 21 from Sadar upazila on Tuesday while 11 from Lama upazila on Wednesday.

**MORE TROOPS MOBILISED ON BORDER**  
Bangladesh has sent in more reinforcements on the Myanmar border to strengthen its strategic position in the face of massive build-up and repeated provocative actions by the military junta on the other side, border sources said.

They said three more battalions were mobilised yesterday. A convoy carrying cannons, artillery guns and other armaments from Comilla and Chittagong were moved to the border. They were stationed in Barabail of Ramu and Fashikhali in Bandarban.

Tension arose on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border as Myanmar augmented its forces in the border area with tanks, artillery guns and warships in the adjacent waters.

People in the bordering villages said Myanmar constructed bunkers to fortify the border area and its forces were patrolling with heavy weapons.

Earlier Bangladesh sent a brigade to Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar. It was moved in to the bordering area yesterday.

Sources in Bangladesh army said Myanmar would not be able to intrude into our territory, as the soldiers of BDR remain on high alert.

### US may send

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An announcement next week could coincide with a meeting of Nato defence ministers in Bratislava, Slovakia, due next Thursday and Friday.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs, however, dismissed the claims, after President Obama met with his war council for the fifth time to map out a new strategy in Afghanistan.

### New timing

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Government primary schools will now start at 9:00am and end at 4:15pm while the high schools, colleges, English medium schools and madrasas start between 7:30am and 8:30am and end between 1:30pm and 2:30pm.

"With the implementation of new timings, I hope the existing traffic congestion will reduce," Establishment Secretary Iqbal Mahmud said at a press briefing at his ministry office.

He said the new timings would continue until further notice.

### BSF kills 2

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around 3:00am yesterday, Major Nazrul Islam, operation officer of 39 Rifles Battalion, told our Chapinawabganj correspondent.

BDR troops recovered Rahim's body from the spot and informed local police.

Shibganj police sent the body to Chapinawabganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In the case of Meherpur, BSF troops from Natna camp under Tehatta thana in Nadia, West Bengal, opened fire on two Bangladeshi siblings--Ananda Kumar Biswas and Manik Kumar Biswas--when they were crossing Buripota border Tuesday night, a member of BDR-35 Rifles Battalion in Chuadanga said.

Ananda died on the spot while Manik was arrested by the BSF.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) however came to know about the incident yesterday.

The BSF handed over the body and Manik to Tehatta Police Station.

BDR sent a letter to the BSF protesting the incident and asked to hold a flag meeting.

In response, BSF agreed to sit with BDR today.

## Militant attacks

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March 30 in a militant raid that killed eight police recruits. And the FIA building in Lahore was bombed in March 2008, killing 16 people.

Pakistan's weak civilian government said the country was facing a new war after a slew of militant attacks in the country's political heartland of Punjab, away from the hotbed of insurgency in the northwest tribal region.

"They are involved in guerrilla war. First they were active in NWFP (North West Frontier Province), now they are engaged in Punjab. They are terrorists paid to destabilise Pakistan," Interior Minister Rehman Malik told reporters.

Even after the gunmen were overpowered, police warned of threats of more attacks in Lahore, the country's cultural capital where a string of high-profile militant attacks have taken place since March.

"A total of 14 people were killed in Manawan, including four terrorists. Nine were police officials and one was unidentified," Lahore city police chief Perviz Rathor told AFP.

"Search operations are going on in different parts of the city. There are threats of more attacks, he said.

Security officials said 16 police and a civilian were killed and 10 attackers were shot dead or blew themselves up around Lahore.

Five attackers, including at least one teenager, scaled the back wall of the commando academy at Bedian, sparking a siege that dragged on nearly four hours before the army announced it was in full control, officials said.

"The situation inside Bedian centre is completely under control," said Major General Shafiqat Ahmad, the top military commander in the eastern city.

Officials said families who lived on the academy grounds locked themselves in to escape the crossfire.

Police officer Mohammad Azfar said one young gunman was shot in the head, and eight grenades were found on his body.

"He was 15-16 years old. He could not detonate his (suicide) jacket. He also had a packet of dates," Azfar said.

Ahmad insisted that Pakistani forces had "averted major catastrophe", despite criticism that the militants have now bounced back after the killing of Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud in a US drone attack in August.

In Peshawar, a bomb on Thursday ripped through a residential building used by government employees in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar, killing one child, officials said.

"It was a bomb blast in a residential building for government officials," Liaquat Ali, Peshawar city police chief, told AFP.

One child was killed and six people wounded said Doctor Mehbub Ali at the main government-run hospital in the city.

Meanwhile, the military has stepped up bombing raids in the region, where tens of thousands of civilians have fled a feared ground offensive that has been hotly anticipated for months but has so far failed to materialise.

"There was heavy bombing

today. Twenty-seven people were killed, it was not clear how many were militants," one security official told AFP on condition of anonymity. The dead were killed in three separatelocations, he added.

Other security official quoted the same death toll, although independent confirmation and the identities of the dead were not immediately clear.

"We are targeting militant hideouts with jet fighters and helicopter gunships in the first phase of an operation in South Waziristan," said Tariq Hayat, a top government official responsible for Pakistan's tribal belt.

"There are some 1,500 foreign militants including Uzbeks, Chechens, Arabs and Sudanese in South Waziristan," he added.

US President Barack Obama is poised to sign a bill giving 7.5 billion dollars to build schools, roads and democratic institutions in Pakistan as part of a strategy to discredit extremists in the nation and in Afghanistan.

In the northwest town of Kohat near Peshawar, police spokesman Fazal Naem said 11 people were killed, including three policemen, Thursday.

"It was a van suicide attack," senior police official Abdullah Khan told AFP. Police said the bomber rammed his vehicle into the outer wall of the police station in Kohat and that the building was badly damaged.

Last Friday, at least 52 civilians were killed when a suicide bomber blew up his car in a packed market in Peshawar.

The following day, Taliban-linked gunmen staged an audacious raid on army headquarters near Islamabad with 23 people killed in a day-long siege that also saw 39 hostages freed by commando troops.

Speculation has intensified that the military is about to launch a ground offensive into the militant stronghold of South Waziristan.

Tens of thousands of people have fled and warplanes pounded suspected Taliban targets in the region Thursday, security officials and witnesses said.

Before dawn, a US drone missile attack on a suspected militant hideout in remote North Waziristan killed at least four people, officials said.

### Extortionist

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Police lay in wait early yesterday as Astar went there to give the money as per their instructions.

Sub-Inspector Marma Shingha of the police filed a case in this connection.

In another incident, a gang of three extortionists sprayed bullets in the drug shop "Medicine Corner" on RK Mission road at Sutrapur around 12:30pm, leaving its employee Mohammad Wahid, 20, wounded.

Wahid at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) said the extortionists demanded toll from shop owner Zakir four days ago but he (Zakir) refused to pay it.

As Zakir was not available in the drug shop, the extortionists launched the gun attack, he said.

Jalil was undergoing treatment at Pangu Hospital while Wahid at DMCH.

## Argentina in WC

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Maradona repeatedly used profane language to lash out at his critics at the post-match news conference and said Argentina media had treated him "like garbage." He credited the win to support he received from fans.

"Thanks to my players, today I was consecrated as a coach," he said defiantly. "We are in the World Cup with full honors."

Brazil (9-2-7) finished first in South America with 34 points, one ahead of Chile and Paraguay (10-5-3), which had earlier clinched the first three berths from South America.

Argentina (8-6-4), which would have missed its first World Cup since 1970 if it had lost, wound up fourth with 28 points and will go to the tournament for the 10th straight time.

"There's nothing to celebrate. From Grondona on down, it's all bad," forward Juan Sebastian Veron said, a reference to Argentina Football Association president Julio Grondona. "There's no reason to sweep things under the carpet. We've got to huddle and do a lot of talking."

Uruguay (6-6-6) finished fifth with 24 points and will meet Costa Rica, the No. 4 team from North and Central America and the Caribbean, in a