

BANGABANDHU MURDER
Trial of self-confessed killers won't ensure justice
Says Nizami

DU CORRESPONDENT

Trial of the self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would not ensure justice, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Matur Rahman Nizami said yesterday.

He said a faction of Awami League leaders led by Khondaker Mushtaq Ahmed were involved in the killing of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975.

"It is true that some young army officers were also involved in the killing," Nizami said at a programme at the Engineers' Institute auditorium in the city. Dhaka city Jamaat organised the event.

He also said the AL leaders will receive the benefit of AL politics while some army officers will face trial - this cannot be a fair justice.

About the fifth amendment to the constitution, Nizami said the amendment was made following the soldier-people upsurge on November 7 in 1975.

"So, the government has to think hundred times before changing it," he added.

He feared that the relationship with the Muslim world can be affected if the fifth amendment is changed.

Nizami also criticised the draft national education policy, and called on his party men to protect the institutions related to Islam at any cost.

Support to One-China policy reiterated

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh feels happy upholding the One-China policy and is determined to continue the time-tested friendship between the two countries in future, the top brass of the government said yesterday.

"We are happy to maintain one-China policy in the country," said Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House, while addressing a reception marking the 60th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China at the Sheraton Hotel in the evening.

Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal (ML) organised the reception attended by Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Industries Minister Dilip Barua, State Minister for Law Adv Qamrul

Islam, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon MP and Charge de Affaires of Chinese Embassy Wang Yu.

Describing China as the most trusted friend of Bangladesh, Dilip Barua said the government is keen to increase the Chinese role in the country with a view to achieving gradual economic development and building a happy, prosperous and digital Bangladesh by 2021.

Dilip Barua urged the Chinese government to further extend their economic cooperation with huge investment in the country, particularly in the industries sector, to help development of Bangladesh.

"China can explore investment prospects in the industries sector with its highly qualified technical expertise," he said.

Tribute paid to Noor Hossain

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political and student organisations observed Shaheed Noor Hossain Day yesterday commemorating the supreme sacrifice of Noor Hossain, an activist of the pro-democracy movement.

Noor Hossain, a young pro-democracy activist, was killed in police firing near Zero Point in the city while participating in a procession against the autocratic regime of HM Ershad, on November 10, 1987.

Different socio-political organisations and student organisations placed wreaths at the Noor Hossain Square, formed human chains and held discussions to mark the day.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra League, JSD-Chhatra League, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Jubo Moitree, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Awami Swachhasebak League, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan and other student bodies also placed wreaths at Noor Hossain Square.

Citizens' Rights Movement and Green Voice formed a human chain in the city paying tribute to Noor Hossain and demanding establishment of democracy at all levels of the state.

Enhance economic relations

Zillur urges Ahmadinejad

BSS, Istanbul

President Zillur Rahman and his Iranian counterpart Dr Mahmoud Ahmadinejad emphasised the importance of enhancing trade and commerce relations between the two countries.

"Though the bilateral relations between Dhaka and Tehran are excellent since long, the economic cooperation is not that much significant between the two countries," Zillur said while holding a bilateral meeting with the Iranian president on Monday on the sidelines of the COMCEC economic summit here.

Zillur said Bangladesh is keen to identify more areas of cooperation to add substance to the existing bilateral relations particularly in the fields of trade, investment, energy, tourism, agriculture and transport.

The Iranian businessmen can import world standard Bangladeshi garment products, ceramics, pharmaceutical products, frozen fish, leather and leather goods, he said.

"Iranian entrepreneurs can also invest in different thrust sectors in Bangladesh by taking the advantage of the government's liberal policy for increasing foreign direct investment (FDI)," he said.

Zillur also urged the Iranian president to recruit more skilled manpower including physicians and engineers from Bangladesh, those can contribute to the economy of both the countries.

The two presidents gave their opinions in favour of exchanging visits of business delegations and holding single country trade fair to explore new avenues of the trade relations.

Mentioning Bangladesh as

a peace loving country, Zillur said Bangladesh always against any form of terrorism.

Appreciating Iran's principled position on the issue of Palestine, he said Bangladesh is totally committed to the Palestinian brethren and solidarity with their just struggle for self-determination and sovereign statehood.

Zillur invited Ahmadinejad to visit Bangladesh at his convenience. In reply, the Iranian president said the people of Bangladesh are friend of Iran "I love Bangladeshi people deep from my heart and would like to convey my compliment and felicitation to them."

Terming Bangladesh is a great nation with huge human resources, he hoped that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the country would be able to reach its desired goal soon.



President Zillur Rahman and his Iranian counterpart Dr Mahmoud Ahmadinejad hold talks on the sidelines of the COMCEC economic summit in Istanbul on Monday. (Related Story on B-3)



US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verwee calls on Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

Plot handover from Dec

Major Dalim's Rajuk plot: Body to identify persons responsible for fake file

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) Chairman Nurul Huda yesterday said they will start distribution of plots at Purbachal New Town Project and Uttara Model Town 3rd phase from December.

Addressing an informal press conference at his office, he said they will start handing over the plots partially which were allotted earlier as some plots will be ready for handover within this time and they will hand over the remaining plots gradually.

The announcement of the rest categories of plots at Uttara and Purbachal projects will be made within this month, the Rajuk boss said, adding that they also have a plan to construct flats at Uttara, Purbachal and Jhilmil projects.

"We have a plan of constructing 22,000 flats at Uttara initially and we will construct flats at Purbachal and Jhilmil projects afterwards," he noted.

About illegal housing projects in the city, he said they will not give approval to illegal housing projects but will bring the plots of the people who have purchased those innocently under legal framework like the projects of Bashundhara and Eastern Housing.

There is a committee in the ministry which will give the

approval of the housing projects following the rules concerned, he mentioned.

About presenting a fake file in the board meeting, the Rajuk chairman said they have identified 35 fake files and taken action against them.

He said the fake file of Major Dalim, one of the on-the-run convicted killers of Bangabandhu, was also submitted at the 7th board meeting for which mutation of the plot was done. However, the mutation was cancelled in the next meeting.

A committee has been formed to identify the persons responsible for presenting the file and the committee will submit its report by seven days.

"A section of people, including Rajuk employees and officials, are involved in this kind of wrongdoing. To check this kind of work, we have decided to bring all zones of Rajuk under computerised system so that no file goes missing or is made distorted," he said.

Huda said as he is taking various steps to bring a change in Rajuk, he is under pressure from both inside and outside of the organisation.

During the meeting, some employees of Rajuk shouted just outside the gate against his informal press conference.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mir Jahir Hossain, father of Mir Nasir Hossain, former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce Industries (FBCCI), passed away at Pittsburgh in the USA on November 7, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Dhanmondi Baitul Jame Mosque on Road No 7 tomorrow.

His Kulkhwani will be held at the same mosque after Asr prayers on November 13.

The Board of Directors of the FBCCI condoled the death.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 52nd death anniversary of Major A Ghani, founder of the East Bengal Regiment and its sister units of the Bangladesh Infantry Regiment, says a press release.

On this day in 1957, Major Ghani, popularly known as Tiger Ghani, breathed his last.

In 1981, the government honoured him posthumously with the Independence Award as the founder of the East Bengal Regiment.

On the occasion, different organisations, Bangladesh Army and Major Ghani's family will hold milad mahfil and Qurankhwani.

Dr Shahabuddin

METRO DESK

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Dr Shahabuddin Musharrif Hossain.

Munir, a former senior economist of IMF, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and special prayers will be held at the mosques in Dhaka, Chittagong and Washington while foods will also be distributed among the destitute.

Inamul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 32nd death anniversary of ARM Inamul Haque, the first Bangladeshi to donate his eyes posthumously.

A philanthropist, teacher and gifted engineer, Inamul Haque was born on October 1, 1921 in Howra, West Bengal, says a press release.

Hasina Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 8th death anniversary of Hasina Begum, mother of Jagan Bangladesh Group Chairman Selim Pradhan, says a press release.

On the occasion, his family will hold a milad mahfil at her residence at Ruppangji of Bhulta in Narayanjan district and offer Fateha at her grave at Ruppangji graveyard.

Her family has requested friends and relatives to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Stronger border control can help tackle terrorism

Says UNCTED executive director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Executive Director of United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UNCTED) Mike Smith thinks strengthening the government's capacity, having stronger border control and aviation security as well as stronger financial intelligence can help Bangladesh tackle terrorism.

"Stronger border control means better trained border force, improved aviation security, more secure travel documents, machine readable data having biometric data, and strengthened capacity to see what money is coming to the country are necessary to combat terrorism," he told reporters at a press conference at a city hotel.

There should be a system for all the banks to check the suspicious transactions, he added.

The press conference was followed by the concluding session of a three-day regional workshop titled 'Regional workshop for senior police officers and

prosecutors in South Asia for effectively countering terrorism'.

The government and UNCTED jointly hosted the workshop while Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organised it with the support of the governments of Australia and Denmark.

A total of 18 participants from eight member countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) took part in the workshop.

Smith, however, said addressing terrorism is a complicated thing, as it requires huge resources and time.

"It's not an easy thing to do as it demands a lot of resources, time and change in thinking when there are a lot of priorities and development challenges in the country like Bangladesh," he added.

Smith said even his country Australia - had to invest billions of dollars, change legislation and create a new mechanism to counterterrorism.

South Asia probably suffered more than any other regions in the world from the dreadful

scourge of terrorism, he said, adding that there have been lots of terror events in Bangladesh.

Asked about Bangladesh's legal side, he said there are challenges in legislation and in criminal justice system in every country and the government of Bangladesh is doing its best in this regard.

Smith stressed the need for regional collaboration, saying that Saarc as a regional bloc has one of the most advanced regional collaboration to combat terrorism.

Earlier, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku said terrorism is a menace that threatened peaceful co-existence of Saarc countries as well as the democracy of Bangladesh.

"Terrorism knows no bounds, no borders. We must fight it together," he added.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad, Additional Secretary to Home Ministry Ghulam Hussain and BEI President Farooq Sobhan also spoke at the closing session.

BDR mutiny trial likely to begin this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) members involved in the mutiny on February 25 and 26 in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country is likely to begin this month.

The trial of the mutiny would be held under the BDR Act and the trial of killing and loot inside the BDR headquarters at Pilkhana would be held under criminal law, according to a

report of BBC Bangla service.

"We hope that the trial process will start this month. The process of setting up courts to try the mutineers under the BDR Act is almost complete," Director General of BDR Maj Gen Mainul Islam told BBC yesterday.

Representatives from the Attorney General's office and ten lawyers were appointed on Monday for the trial.

The BDR DG said, "We have

already got the names of the lawyers who would assist us and the representatives of the Attorney General's office. The selection process of BDR officers as court members is almost done. So, we hope that the process of forming courts would be complete in this week or next week. And that means the start of the trial."

Two courts will be formed in Dhaka and four others in other places of the country.

Abbas refutes allegation of land grabbing

UNB, Dhaka

Former minister and BNP joint secretary general Mirza Abbas yesterday refuted the allegations made by a parliamentary standing committee that he had grabbed railway lands in the capital by abusing power.

He claimed that his family has long been living on their homestead land measuring three bighas as legal heirs.

Mirza Abbas, flanked by his family members, made the remarks at a press conference at his Shahjahanpur residence.

His 90-year-old mother Kamla Khatun, his uncle Abdul Mannan and aunt Mukterunnisa were present at the press conference.

Abbas also alleged that at the instigation of a certain individual, a newcomer in his constituency, the parliamentary standing committee on communications ministry accused him and his family members of grabbing five acres of land, which was acquired earlier by the Bangladesh Railway.

He also demanded return of some 7.5 acres of his ancestral land in the area, particularly at Shahjahanpur, which was acquired by the railway authority and being used illegally for commercial use through setting up market and shops.

On Sunday, the parliamentary standing committee at a press briefing at Jatiya Sangsad Media centre alleged that Mirza Abbas grabbed four to five acres of land acquired earlier by the Railway authority.

Bus catches fire inside police station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bus, which was seized last year, caught fire inside Mohammadpur Police Station compound in the city yesterday noon, reducing the bus to ashes.

Police said the bus of Raja City Paribahan caught fire at about 12:30pm and fire fighters doused the blaze with the help of police after half an hour.

Witness said they did not see anyone near the bus at that moment.

Bhuiyan Mahabubur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station, said Bangladesh Finance Investment Corporation (BFIC) sold three buses to different companies.

But on September 4, 2008, BFIC with the help of police seized two, out of the three buses, as the buyers failed to pay the amount of the installments.

The OC said on November 8, BFIC authorities sent a letter to the police station stating that they would take the buses to their custody.

Scouter Rafiq honoured

METRO DESK

Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Khan, national commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts, has got the Asia Pacific Regional (APR) Scouts Chairman's Award, says a press release.

He received the award at the 23rd APR conference held at Kuala Lumpur from October 27 to November 1.

Rafiq was also selected as the APR adult resource subcommittee member.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain may occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, and Rajshahi divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may rise slightly in Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at 7:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 17.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.9	21.2	51	57
Chittagong	31.5	20.9	65	63
Rajshahi	28.8	21.0	79	80
Khulna	31.2	21.0	66	82
Barisal	30.2	20.0	81	91
Sylhet	28.6	20.0	79	81
Cox's Bazar	34.0	23.0	50	46

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop

Directorate General of Health Services organises a workshop on revitalisation of community clinics. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 9:00am.

Exhibition

A photography exhibition of the Film and Photography Club of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will be held. Venue: 90 Park Road, Baridhara. Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Major Gani Parishad will hold a discussion to mark the 53rd death anniversary of Maj Gani. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

UODA ICT Fair

The Faculty of Engineering, University of Development Alternative (UODA) organises two-day UODA ICT Fair. Venue: 11:00am.

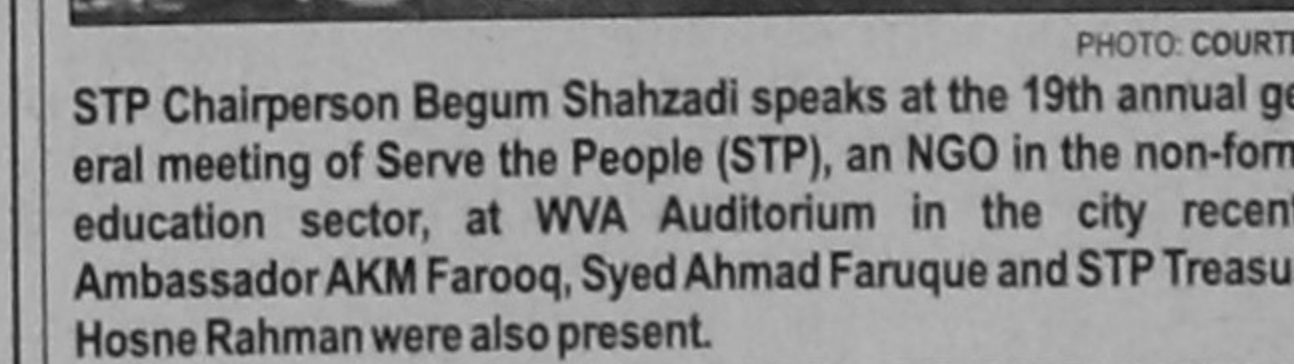
View exchange meet

National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) organises a view exchange meeting on the draft of the new human rights law for the persons with disabilities. Venue: Swid Bangladesh auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Workshop

Hortex Foundation organises a workshop on 'Supply chain development of high value agricultural commodities'. Venue: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

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SERVE THE PEOPLE
19th Annual General Meeting 2009
Venue: WVA Auditorium, Dhaka. Date: 06 November, 2009



STP Chairperson Begum Shahzadi speaks at the 19th annual general meeting of Serve the People (STP), an NGO in the non-formal education sector, at WVA Auditorium in the city recently. Ambassador AKM Farooq, Syed Ahmad Faruque and STP Treasurer Hosne Rahman were also present.

Call to implement CHT accord

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council Jyotirindra Bhandipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma yesterday said the government has repeatedly pledged to implement the CHT peace accord, but the reality is different.

Speaking as the chief guest at a discussion marking the 26th death anniversary of legendary indigenous leader Manabendra Narayan Larma, he said MN Larma has sacrificed his life for the welfare of the repressed and deprived people, but the situation remains the same till today.

He said, "We should learn lessons from his revolutionary life and eliminate all kinds of repression."

Gono Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya said the people should put pressure on the government to implement the CHT peace accord.

Associate Professor Robaet Ferdous of Mass Communication and Journalism Department, Dhaka University, and Mangol Kumar Chakma presented a memorial lecture.

Jatindra Lal Tripura MP, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and Prof Sadeka Halim also spoke at the discussion presided over by Justice Ghulam Rabbani.