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Other Aug 15 killings pushed into oblivion

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Criminal Investigation Department in 2002 gave final report in Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni murder case and had it dismissed in secrecy, ignoring the legal bindings.

Two more cases that were filed aside from Bangabandhu murder case for the August 15 killings in 1975 were treated no better either during the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance rule in 2001-2006.

Of them, proceedings in Abdur Rab Serniabat murder case have been stayed by the High Court since 2002. The first additional metropolitan sessions judge's court framed charges against 18 persons in the case towards the end of the previous AL rule in 2001.

The other one, filed for death of 14 people in Mohammadpur, is pending with the fourth additional metropolitan sessions judge's court in Dhaka.

In Sheikh Moni murder case, neither the investigation officer nor the court concerned informed the complainant of the probe's fate.

The law says the IO in a case must notify the complainant before submitting the final report or charge sheet. On

OTHER AUG 15 CASES

Sheikh Moni murder case:
Final report in 2002

Serniabat murder case:
Stayed since 2002

Case for Mohammadpur killing of 14 civilians:
on trial



receipt of the report, the court shall ask the complainant to appear before it and say if he has any objections to the findings.

Moni, nephew of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and founding chairman of Awami Jubo League, was killed with his wife Arzu Moni in their Dhanmondi residence on August 15, 1975, the day a band of army men murdered Bangabandhu and most of his family.

His two sons--Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, now a ruling Awami League lawmaker, and Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash--survived the attack by hiding under bed.

Taposh was three years and eight months old and Parash around seven years.

The same day, Abdur Rab Serniabat, a cabinet member and Bangabandhu's relative, was killed in his Minto Road residence. Besides, 14 people died in mortar fire in Mohammadpur.

Four separate cases were filed for the August 15 bloodbath as the places of occurrence were different.

When AL left office in 2001, Bangabandhu murder case was awaiting the Supreme Court's judgment and Moni murder case under investigation.

The BNP-led four-party alliance, which came to power in October 2001,

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BNP seeks talks on nat'l issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday asked the Awami League-led government to take decisions on national issues in consultation with the leader of the opposition in parliament.

The main opposition party also demanded removal of the ruling party 'agent's' from the administration, saying that image of the government is being tarnished due to these officials.

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BANGABANDHU CASE Death warrants not issued over who should sign debate

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday did not issue death warrants against the five detained convicted killers of Bangabandhu for legal complexities due to a month-long

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Cabinet purchase body okays 5 rental power bids

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved bids of five rental power projects with a capacity of generating a total of 330 megawatt (MW) electricity.

Barisal 50 MW heavy fuel oil (HFO)-fired plant was awarded to Coastal Saba, Noapara 100 MW HFO-fired plant and Bheramara 100 MW diesel-fired plant to Otobi, and Jamalpur 30 MW HFO-fired plant and Thakurgaon 50 MW diesel-fired plant to Rahimafrooz.

All of these bidders are local companies having no track record in installing and operating rental power projects before. The HFO plants will enjoy a rental contract for five years and the diesel plants for three years.

The diesel-fired plants will have to be installed within 120 days of signing the contract with Power Development Board (PDB) and the HFO-fired plants within 270 days.

With the purchase committee's approval, PDB would initiate the process of signing contracts. PDB is shelving three other rental power deals, as it was unhappy with the bids.

PDB floated the tender for eight rental plants with a capacity of generating a total of 530 MW power in late October. It wanted to complete the process of signing contracts by the end of November so that it could launch the diesel-fired plants before the next irrigation period in March.

But the initiative was delayed due to confusion over the selection of the best bidders, which will now affect the deadline.

The purchase committee meeting chaired by Finance Minister AMM Abdul Muhith also approved procurement of 3.5 lakh single phase power meters for the Rural Electrification Board (REB). REB will use these meters to expand its base of subscribers by 10 lakh more. It now serves around 70 lakh subscribers.

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Money taken from graft suspects won't be returned

Says Muhith
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday ruled out the possibility of returning the money collected from corruption suspects during the caretaker government's rule.

Newspapers yesterday reported that the government is considering refund of Tk 1,232 crore to the firms and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Clarification

Zainul Haque Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital (Pvt) Ltd in a clarification yesterday said Parveen Haque Sikder deposited Tk 42 crore to Bangladesh Bank during the anti-corruption drive of the last caretaker government.

The Daily Star on Wednesday in its story headlined "Graft suspects may get back Tk 1,232 cr" mentioned that Mrs Sikder deposited Tk 3 crore and the National Bank deposited Tk 39 crore.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Justice for poor Pledges new chief justice after taking oath

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The newly appointed Chief Justice, Md Tafazzul Islam, yesterday said he would try the best in his brief stint to ensure justice for all especially the poor.

"Our goal is to make the poor happy by ensuring justice. Establishment of justice and the rule of law is necessary to uphold democracy in the country," he said.

He made the remarks while talking to The Daily Star after swearing in as the chief justice.

Justice Tafazzul will go into retirement on February 7 next year.

The chief justice said a significant number of poor people have been waiting to get justice for a long time but a vested quarter is creating obstacles to establishing justice using the loopholes in the laws.



Justice Tafazzul Islam

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Hasina vows to fight corruption

Says war crime trial starts soon

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would continue the drive against corruption.

"Nearly one year of the term of our government has passed off but none could bring any corruption allegation against any of our cabinet members," she said addressing the graduation ceremony of the National Defence Course-2009 at the National Defence College (NDC) at Mirpur Cantonment.

The prime minister said trial of the 1971 war criminals will begin soon. The government is strongly committed to holding trial of all other killings as it has already started the trial of the BDR mutiny, she added.

Hasina, who took part in the just-concluded Copenhagen climate summit, also informed the function about the outcome of the meet.

The commitment made at the Copenhagen conference by the developed and poorer countries to save the planet from the threats of global warming is "the biggest success" of the summit, she said.

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