

KIBRIA KILLING CASE

# CID fails again to submit probe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday fixed March 2 for submitting the report on further investigation in the case for killing former finance minister SAMS Kibria.

This is the sixth extension of time, as the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) could not submit its report on further investigation into the case on five previous dates.

Judge Md Mahub-Ul-Islam announced the fresh date as Special Public Prosecutor Kishore Kumar Kar prayed for time extension, court sources said.

Former finance minister SAMS Kibria, his nephew advocate Shah Manzurul Huda, Habiganj AL leaders Abdur Rahim, Abul Hossain and Siddique Ali were killed in a grenade attack on a public meeting at Baiddar bazaar under



SAMS Kibria

Habiganj Sadar upazila on the night of January 27, 2005.

The then senior ASP Munshi Atique of CID filed a charge sheet in the case to a Habiganj court on March 20 the same year against ten people including former Habiganj district BNP vice-president Abdul Quaiyum.

The other accused were Zainal Abedin, Jamir Ali, Momini Ali, Tajul Islam, Shahed Ali, Chhondul Miah, Selim Ahmed, Enayet Ali and

Muhibur Rahman

On the same day, the complainant of the case advocate Abdul Majid Khan (now AL lawmaker from Habiganj) filed a 'naraji petition' challenging the charge sheet. But the magistrate rejected the prayer and fixed May 10 the same year for hearing of the case.

Before hearing of the case at the Magistrate's court, the case was shifted to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet. In May 2006, the then tribunal judge Biplob Goswami also rejected the complainant's 'naraji petition' against the charge sheet.

On March, 7, 2007, Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal ordered further investigation into the case as Munshi Atiq, through a petition, informed the court about necessity of further investigation. As Atiq had gone into retirement after months, CID's ASP Md Rafiqul Islam was given the task.



Indigenous women planting boro at a field of Lakkhitala in Shashara union under Dinajpur Sadar upazila Saturday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## Execute verdict in Kazi Aref murder case

Leaders, people in Kushtia demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

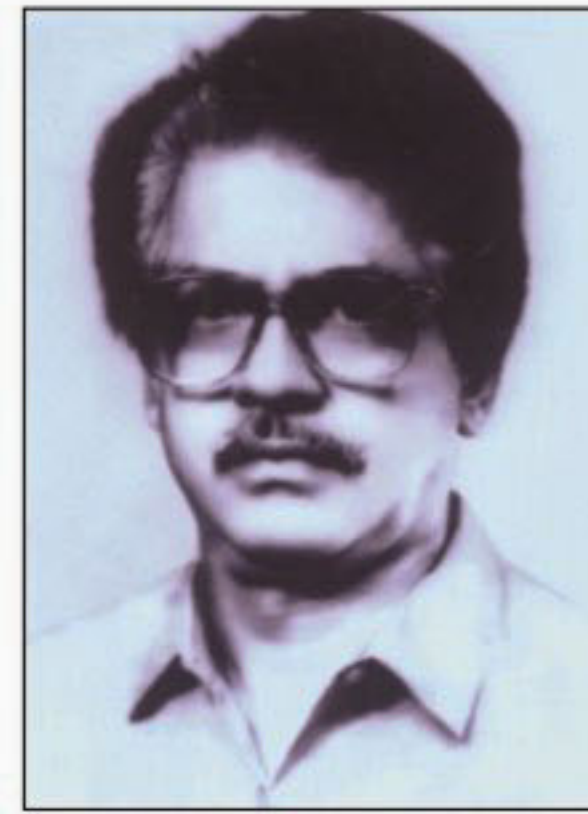
Political activists and local people yesterday demanded early execution of the verdict in the case for killing Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) president Kazi Aref Ahmed, also an organiser of the Liberation War, and four other leaders of the party.

They made the demand at meetings marking 11th death anniversary of the killings.

On the occasion, JSD and its front organisations wore black badges, brought out silent processions and arranged discussions at Kalidaspur in Daulatpur upazila and Kushtia town.

Kazi Aref Smriti Sangsad and Yakub Ali Smriti Parishad also arranged programmes at Kalidaspur in Daulatpur upazila and Kushtia town.

The killers must be punished for the sake of establishing rule of law, speakers said at a meeting held at the Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad office in Kushtia.



Kazi Aref Ahmed

They urged the government to take measures to execute the verdict in the case without further delay.

Sahab Ali, president of Kazi Aref Smriti Sangsad chaired the meeting.

Freedom fighter Abdul Jalil, JSD Kushtia unit president Golam Mohsin, general secretary Abdul Alim Sawpan, central committee member Md Abdullah, JSD leader ATM Abul Mansur Majnu, Awami

League (AL) Kushtia Sadar unit president Aktaruzzaman Masum, Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Kushtia unit secretary Asit Singha Roy and secretary of Kazi Aref Smriti Sangsad Karsed Alam spoke, among others.

An armed gang killed Kazi Aref, Kushtia district JSD general secretary Yakub Ali and Israil Hossain at a rally in Kalidaspur village of Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia on February 16, 1999.

On August 30, 2004, the then additional district and sessions judge Fazlur Rahman pronounced verdict sentencing 10 people to death and 12 others to life-term imprisonment for the killings.

On August 5 in 2008, a High Court bench acquitted one of the death sentence awardees and upheld punishment of others.

At present, an appeal hearing is pending with the Supreme Court.

### SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

#### 2 held while taking bribe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) team caught red-handed two officials of Palli Bidyut Samity (REB) at Darbasta Bazaar in Jaintapur on Monday afternoon while taking bribe from a businessman. Acting on a tip-off, the team along with Rab went to the PBS Sylhet 2 office at about 3:00pm and arrested its general manager Mofazzal Hossain and deputy general manager Dilip Chandra Chowdhury. The officials with bribe from businessman Afzal Hossain, owner of a stone crushing plant at Bholaganj in Companyganj upazila. Sources said, Afzal informed Rab that the two officials demanded Tk 1.50 lakh from him as he applied for new power connection to his mill in Companyganj upazila. The two were held while taking Tk 70,000 from Afzal.

#### Stray hanuman rescued

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The Sundarbans Wildlife Conservation Department in Khulna has rescued a stray hanuman (monkey) from Morelganj in Bagerhat on Monday evening. Sunderbans East Divisional forest official Mihir Kumar Dey said, the grown up hanuman was found in Sankinhanga area. The officials with the help of some local journalists brought the injured hanuman to Morelganj Veterinary Hospital for treatment. The hanuman will be released in Keshobpur natural habitat of monkeys, the officials said.



Corrugated iron sheets, used as shop roofs, lie twisted as a devastating fire gutted 13 shops at Senbagh Bazar in Noakhali district early yesterday. The fire, originated from an electric short circuit, damaged property worth Tk 40 lakh before firefighters and locals doused the blaze.

PHOTO: STAR

#### Muggers stab Sylhet BNP secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

General secretary of Sylhet city BNP Nasim Hossain was stabbed by muggers on Monday night. However, the muggers could not get away with the money snatched from Nasim. People chased and caught one of the muggers while the others managed to escape. A gang of 8-10 attacked Nasim while he was entering his house at the city's Tantipara at about 9:15 pm. The criminals stabbed on his hand and snatched away the bag containing Tk 6 lakh. Nasim said, he had just returned from his mobile phone shop. Arsteeze Kabir Hossain hails from Shibganj Mazumderpara in the city. A mobile phone and a sharp weapon were recovered from his possession.

#### Tiger kills bawali

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A Sundarbans tiger on Monday killed a bawali (reeds collector) in Chhoto Sheela area under Sharankhola range. Victim Jahangir Matubbar's colleagues later recovered the body with the help of forest staff. Sharankhola range assistant conservator of forest Bipul Chandra Das said, Jahangir along with others went inside the forest on February 4 with passes to collect reeds from Bogi station. A tiger attacked Jahangir on Monday afternoon and dragged him into deep forest.

#### 'Jatka' seized in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur

Police in a raid on Monday seized about 100 maunds of jatka (hilsa fry) from Pura Bazaar in the district town. Acting on secret information, jatka went to Harishava area and seized 22 drums containing jatka while being sent to different markets for sale. Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the jatka traders fled the scene leaving the fry behind. Later, the fishes were distributed among the orphanages in the town.

#### 4 get life in Natore

UNB, Natore

A court here on Monday sentenced four people to life term imprisonment in a murder case. The court also fined the convicts Tk 20,000 each, in default, to serve two years more in jail. The lifers are Abu Sayed, Farooque, Arif and Delwar Hossain alias Alfu of Pakagram in Bagatipara upazila. According to the prosecution, the convicts hacked their neighbour Rabiul Karim to death on October 2, 2001 as he barred them from cutting sugarcane on his uncle's land. The victim's mother later filed a murder case with Bagatipara police station. After examining the records and witnesses, District and Sessions Judge Abdul Majid handed down the verdict.



PHOTO: STAR

A man buying rice at cheaper rate at Muktamancha in Khagrachhari town as district rice traders association starts open market sale at Tk 25 a kg in Dighinala, Panchhari and Sadar upazilas in the district yesterday. The programme, aiming to mitigate sufferings of poor and lower middle class people, will continue till rice price comes to a 'tolerable' level, said association leaders. At least two tonnes of rice will be sold daily under the programme.

### AL activist murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An Awami League (AL) activist was murdered at Achargoan village in Nandail upazila here in the early hours of yesterday.

Victim Azizul Haque, 50, was son of Tayeb Ali of Achargoan and member of AL Nandail upazila unit.

Police said, a gang attacked Azizul, also an ex-commissioner of Nandail municipality with sharp weapons in Achargoan Bridge area when he was returning home from local bazaar at around 1:00 am leaving him critically injured. He succumbed to his injuries on way to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH).

Azizul had a long-standing land dispute with his neighbours- Bhutto, Rahim and Bachhu, said Khondaker Zahidul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Nandail police station.

Agitated villagers attacked the houses of Bachhu yesterday apprehending his involvement in the killing.

Al Amin, elder son of the victim filed a case yesterday afternoon.

### Thai princess to stay at Gaibandha hut

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Princess of Thailand Maha Chakri Sirindhorn along with a 34-member entourage arrived at Beler Char on the Jamuna Basin under Rasulpur union of Gaibandha district yesterday evening.

The princess and members of her entourage will stay in the specially built resort comprising 35 huts made of bamboo fences and straw roof on the sandy char (newly emerged landmass).

She is visiting Bangladesh as a member of the research team of Bloomberg School of Public Health of John Hopkins University, USA. The princess will visit Jivita Bangladesh projects in Rangpur today and see the life of rural women and work of Jivita Bangladesh on maternal and child health in remote areas.

After visiting Jivita

Bangladesh projects, the Thai princess and her team members will return to Beler Char to stay the night in the specially built resort.

The 35 huts, made for accommodation of the Thai princess and her entourage, are equipped with modern amenities amid natural surroundings.

A 25KV power generator and solar power panels will supply electricity to the resort.

The motorcade, carrying the Thai princess and members of her entourage from the capital, reached Balashi ghat on the western bank of the Jamuna at around 6:00pm.

Lawmaker advocate Fazle Rabbi, Gaibandha Deputy Commissioner Md Shahidul Islam and Police Superintendent Shahadat Hossain and officials of Jivita Bangladesh received the princess and her team members at the ghat.

### Sad tale of potato growers

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Potato growers in Bogra and Rajshahi are worried as the price of their product marks steady fall in the local market.

The growers in Kahalu upazila said they are compelled to sell potato in the markets at low price due to lack of storage facility.

"Although the upazila experienced a bumper production of potato this year, the growers are fearing a hard time ahead as the potato price continued to fall. Each maund of potato is being sold at only Tk 250-380 in the local markets," said a visibly upset Balu of Buril village.

Another potato grower Abdus Sattar of Paikor union parishad told UNB that grow-

ers could not preserve their production due to space crisis at cold storages.

Taking the advantage, a section of dishonest middlemen are buying their produce at a cheaper rate to make windfall profit, the growers alleged.

According to upazila agriculture office, 9,250 hectares have been brought under the potato cultivation this season than that of 10,675 hectares in previous season.

Farmers in Rajshahi are apprehending losses from potato cultivation as now potato is being sold between Tk 8 and 9 per kg in the local markets.

Raisuddin, a farmer of Kanaisahar village of Bagmara upazila, said "We shall not even get our production cost if

the potato doesn't rise."

Farmers cultivated potato on vast tracts of land in the district this season as they earned good profit from the item last year.

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) sources here said at least 37,340 hectares of land were brought under potato cultivation this year against 28,570 hectares in the previous year.

Farmers achieved bumper potato production this season due to favourable weather, DAE sources said.

Talked to Abdul Aziz, a farmer of Puthia upazila, he said he had cultivated potato on 10 ghas of land. Although he got bumper potato production he could not recoup the production cost by selling the item in the markets.

During a recent visit to the project area, this correspondent saw that the construction of bridges and culverts are already complete and the work of setting slippers and stones on the rail track and construction of other infrastructures including the rail stations at Bhuapur, Hemnagar and Baroipara is going on in full swing.

The construction of staff quarters, godowns and boundary walls has almost completed.

The work of setting slippers and stones on the rail tracks will be completed within this month and the new rail link will start operation within May, said Mamunul Islam, executive engineer of the project.

### A much awaited rail line nearing completion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The construction of 36-kilometre rail line on Bangabandhu Bridge-Tarakandi route through Kalihati, Bhuapur and Gopalpur upazilas in Tangail district is nearing completion, much to the happiness of people in the northern region and six districts of greater Mymensingh area.

Started in 2000, the rail link project aims mostly at ensuring smooth fertiliser transportation to the districts from the country's highest urea producing Jamuna Fertiliser Company Limited in Tarakandi upazila of Jamalpur. The new rail link will also help easy and cheap transpor-

tation of people and goods in the districts.

Cost for the rail link project, including construction of 52 bridges and culverts and other infrastructures like three rail stations, was initially estimated at Tk 112 crore. But the work was temporarily suspended in 2001.

After resumption of work in 2003, the project cost was re-estimated at Tk 167 crore.

Although the project was supposed to complete within the next two years, the work was suspended again for different reasons including lack of fund, sources said.

Finally, a meeting of the ECNEC in 2008 decided to extend the project time for the next two years and raise the allocation to Tk 216 crore.



Construction of Bhuapur Rail Station in Tangail heading towards completion as 36-kilometre rail track on Bangabandhu Bridge-Tarakandi route is scheduled to be open for train communication in May.

PHOTO: STAR