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TRAFFIC CHAOS PM suggests zone system for schools

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the education ministry to seriously consider introducing zone system for schools in the capital to ease students' hassle as well as traffic congestion.

Sources say that by "zone system" she meant students of a particular area would go to a school in their area; one they could walk to.

KHALEDA'S OFFICE Confusion over cops presence

Several hundred leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations demonstrated in front of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office in wee hours today following a rumour about the arrest of party lawmaker Salaududdin.

Get anti-stalking policy HC issues directives on govt

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Expressing grave concern over repeated instances of men stalking women and girls with tragic consequences, the High Court yesterday directed the government to formulate a policy and guidelines to arrest the prevalence of the crime.

The court asked the law secretary to work on it in consultation with secretaries to the home, education, labour, local government, women and children affairs ministries, and the cabinet division; and with the inspector general of police (IGP).

An HC bench ordered all deputy commissioners (DCs) of the country, and some other government agencies to remain on high alert regarding such stalking, and to take effective steps.

The law ministry will be responsible to turn in a report within a month about the steps to be taken.

The bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Obaidul Hasan came up with the directives following a public interest writ petition filed on Monday by Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), seeking the directives for protection of women and girls against stalking.

The petition was sparked by over two dozens of deaths in the last nine months resulting from such stalking.

The court yesterday also directed the



- ### DIRECTIVES
- DCs asked to remain on high alert to check stalking incidents
 - Police ordered to apprehend all stalkers and take appropriate actions
 - Home secretary, IGP have to ensure protection and security of victims
 - Law secretary has to report progress to HC within a month

hoodlums; four women attempted suicide; around 131 women were assaulted by male stalkers; and 54 males came under attack for protesting against such stalking.

The HC bench ordered local administrations to take effective actions against the stalkers as soon as they get information of such incidents at any place of the country.

It directed the home secretary, and the

Karate kids to resist stalkers

RAKIB AHAMMED

In the first such government move, the Tangail district administration has planned to provide martial art training to girl students so that they can deal with stalkers.

Officials of the district administration have already pitched the idea to female students at two educational institutions and their teachers and guardians. And they received spontaneous feedback from them.

TRANSIT FACILITY Govt to take fee, not duty

Muhith tells of new rules for fixing fees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the government is going to formulate new rules to fix fees for giving transit facility to India for transporting goods through Bangladesh.

"They will use our facilities to transport their goods. Our infrastructure will be used and that involves some costs for the government. So we'll have to take something; it may be called fee or anything," he told journalists after a meeting with the visiting mission chief of IMF at his ministry.

Muhith said the existing transit rules of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) will be amended and the amount of fees will be refixed.

The minister added a transit facility already exists through waterways and the country receives fees of around Tk 5 crore annually. But there has been no such facility for road and rail transport. So new set of rules will be formulated for all the transit routes.

In June the NBR issued a set of rules on transit and transshipment fees during the announcement of the national budget. However, the Indian government has demanded waiver after Bangladesh applied it to the existing waterway transit.

The minister said the transit fees imposed by the NBR have been kept in abeyance. Duty couldn't be charged on India for transportation of its goods through Bangladesh as we have given them transit facility, he added.



Kalim Sharafi passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural revolutionary and prominent singer Kalim Sharafi passed away at early hours yesterday at his Baridhara residence in the capital. He was 86.

Renowned for Rabintra Sangeet and Gono Sangeet, he took to cultural front to fight communalism, imperialism and crimes against humanity.

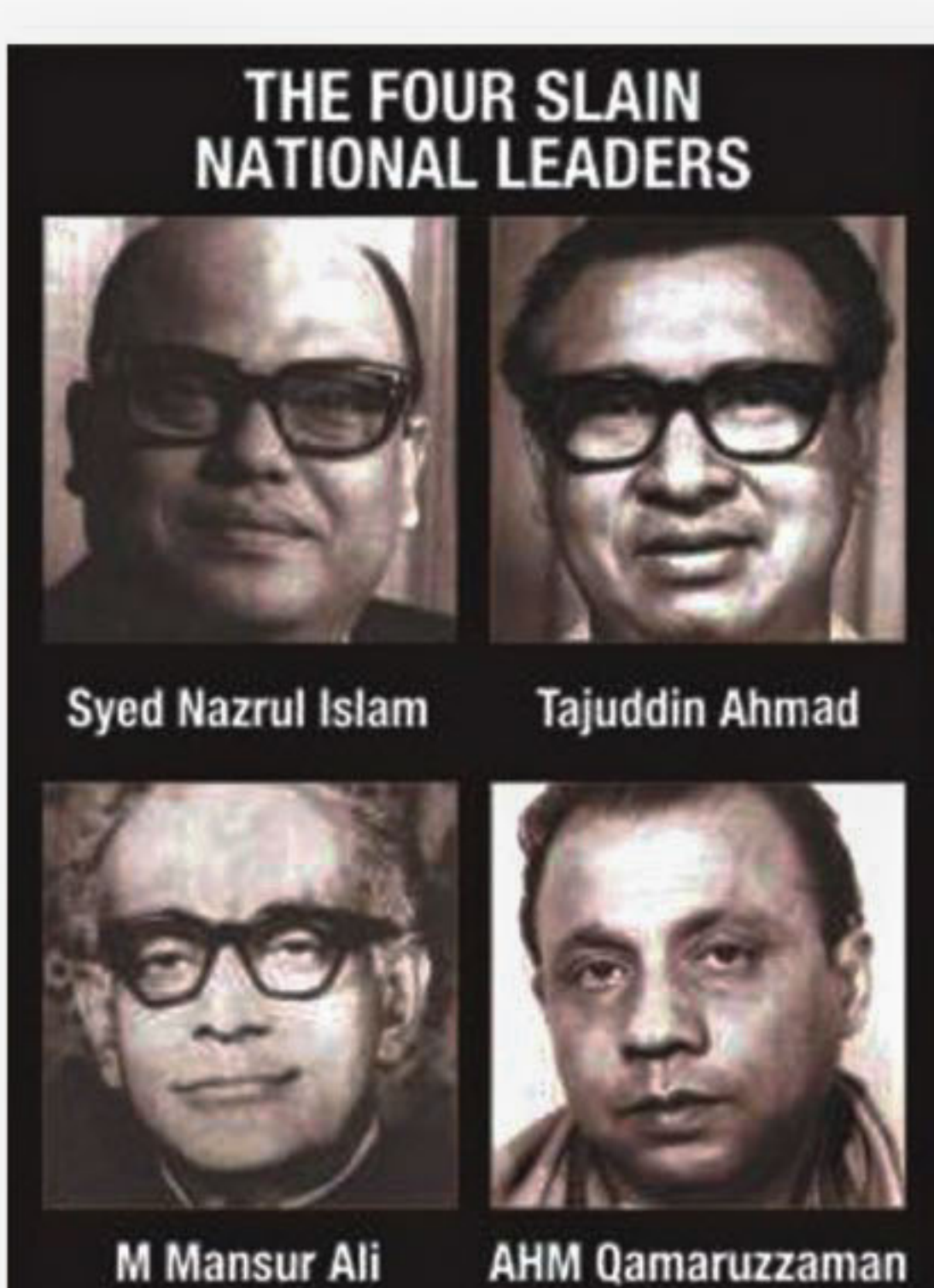
Jail killing day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jail Killing Day commemorating the assassinations of four national leaders will be observed across the country today.

The day is considered as a black spot of the nation's history, as four Liberation War heroes -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, prime minister of the same government, M Mansur Ali, finance minister, and AHM Qamaruzzaman, minister for home affairs, relief and rehabilitation -- were killed in captivity by some Army officers.

They were assassinated inside the Dhaka Central Jail



Garlands are placed around the photographs of the four slain national leaders kept inside the prison cell they were confined to at Dhaka Central Jail. The place of their murder has recently been turned into a museum. The photo in focus is of Syed Nazrul Islam. The nation observes jail killing day today. On this day in 1975, national leaders Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, AHM Qamaruzzaman and Capt Mansur Ali were killed.

Justice kept in wait

Govt takes no step yet for retrial

SHAKHAWAT LITON and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

repeated bayonet charges in Dhaka Central Jail on this day in 1975.

They were sent to jail soon after the August 15, 1975 bloodbath that claimed the lives of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members.

The four led the country's independence war while Sheikh Mujib was detained by the Pakistan army.

An assistant attorney general told The Daily Star yesterday on condition of anonymity, they didn't get any instruction from the government to proceed with the jail killing case.

"Therefore, we have been busy with some other cases in over last one and half years," he said.

A legal expert said the attorney general, the highest law officer of the republic, is a link between the executive and the judiciary. But he has no role in forming government policies.

The government's indifference to move for

Domestic help beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help died on Monday night after being severely beaten allegedly by her employer in city's Old DOHS, Banani.

Police and morgue sources said her death was caused by head injury.

The victim Solema Begum, 35, was brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Monday night by her employer Habibur Rahman who claimed she had ingested poison to 'commit suicide'. The doctors at DMCH declared the woman dead.

Noticing several marks of injury on her body police held Habibur Rahman, an engineer of a cement factory and took him for questioning.

A full meal she gets at hospital

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Shohagi Akhter had a square meal yesterday after a long time. The domestic help was never given a full meal by her employers in the last 17 months she worked at their house, while they physically tortured the 10-year-old girl almost regularly.

She also could not have a sound sleep due to the severe pain resulted from the physical torture, said Dr Bilkis Begum of One-stop Crisis Centre (OCC) at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where Shohagi had her meal yesterday, and is now undergoing treatment.

Rab members on Sunday rescued the minor girl from the house where she used to work at Dilu Road in the capital. They also arrested her



Shohagi Akhter

employers Moshir Rahman Titu and his wife Lima Begum on charge of abusing her.

A Dhaka court sent the couple to jail on Monday.

"Last week while drying some cloths on burners in the kitchen, a piece of cloth accidentally caught fire. At this, Lima poured hot water on me," Dr Bilkis, coordinator of the OCC, quoted Shohagi as saying.

She is now being treated at the DMCH Burn Unit. Apart from the recent burn injuries, Shohagi's little body bears enormous number of burn and other injury marks, especially on her neck and back, Bilkis said.

Shohagi cannot recall the face of her parents. Her father died when she was "very

Truck crash kills 8 in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

At least eight traders were killed and another was injured critically when a vegetable-laden truck plunged into a roadside ditch near Bangabandhu Bridge Extension Road in Tangail Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdus Sobhan, 32, Noor Mohammad, 35, and Dhiren, 40, of Noyonpur village; Mohammad Shahanur, 45, Hurmud, 42, Azizar Fakir, 50, and Mahin, 23, of Ganganarayanpur village; and Farhad Miah, 25, of Bolidah village in Sadullahpur upazila of Gaibandha.

Critically injured Tara Miah, 16, was admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

Witnesses said the Dhaka-bound truck, which was carrying 14 vegetable traders from Gaibandha, fell into the ditch at Kandila at about 12:30am.

Eight of them died on the spot as sacks of vegetables fell on

Keep Sayedee in jail till Dec 29

War crimes tribunal asks for probe report by Dec 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday directed the prisons authorities to keep Nayeb-e-Ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Delwar Hossain Sayedee detained in prison till December 29.

It gave the directive in response to prosecution prayers for extending his detention in jail in the interest of proper investigation into war crime charges against him.

The tribunal also directed the investigation agency to submit the probe report to it through the prosecutor by December 23.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Md Nizamul Huq fixed December 29 for passing order on whether Sayedee's

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