



PHOTO: STAR

(Clockwise from top) Salauddin Quader Chowdhury being taken to CMM court in the city by Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday from DB police headquarters at Minto Road. Wife and daughter of SQ Chowdhury wait for his news outside the DB headquarters. People brandish their footwear at SQ Chowdhury while he was being taken to the CMM court from the DB office in a prison van. (Story on Page 1)



## 'POLITICALLY MOTIVATED FOR HARASSMENT' Court order on murder case Dec 22

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will give its decision on December 22 on withdrawal of a robbery and murder case against nine persons considering it "politically motivated" and meant for "harassment."

Meantime, lawyers of the victim's family on Wednesday submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing saying that they would file a writ petition with the High Court (HC) after its vacation challenging the legality of the case withdrawal decision.

After hearing both the sides, Judge (In-charge) of the Speedy Tribunal Tribunal-2 Kaniz Akhter Nasrina Khanam set the date for giving an order.

Abdul Hamid, an engineer and a resident of Dakkhinkhan in the city, was shot dead allegedly by the accused robbers on January 29, 2005.

They also shot his daughter Farah Hamid, 14, and looted about Tk 25,000, around 15 tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables from the house, according to the case filed with Uttara Police Station. Victim's wife Syeda Hamid filed the

case accusing five persons, including gang leader Joydul Abedin on the same day. Four others were included in the charge sheet by the investigation officer of the case. Of the nine accused, five are on bail and four are absconding.

On August 26 this year, the home ministry decided to withdraw the case and sent a letter to the district magistrate of Dhaka asking to take steps for withdrawal of the case. The letter said the government has decided to withdraw the case considering it "politically motivated" and meant for "harassment."

## Rein in multinationals to establish right on resources

Says Dr Kamal Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Multinational companies operating in the country have to be regulated effectively to ascertain the citizens' sovereign rights over the country's natural resources, said eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain.

Citizens of Bangladesh have ultimate and a sovereign right over natural resources and the government is responsible, on behalf of the state, to protect those rights, he said.

Dr Kamal was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural of a two-week training titled "Human Rights and Sovereignty over Natural Resources" starting on Wednesday.

Empowerment through Law of the Common People (ELCOP), an NGO, organised the 11th Human Rights Summer School (HRSS) at Proshika

Human Development Centre at Koitta, Manikganj, says a press release.

The training would educate law students on legal and human rights issues in a social context.

**Citizens of Bangladesh have ultimate and a sovereign right over natural resources and the government is responsible to protect those rights**

Dr Kamal, chairperson of South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies (SAILS), said natural resources of the country should be used

in a compatible way.

There might be a necessity of multinational companies for technical and other assistance in exploration and procurement of natural resources but they have to be regulated effectively, putting priority on national interests, he said.

Law Commission Chairman Prof M Shah Alam, International Organisation for Migration Regional Representative Rabab Fatima, Macquarie University, Australia Prof Dr M Rafiqul Islam and Kathmandu School of Law Executive Director Prof Yubaraj Sangroula and ELCOP Executive Director Dr Rahmat Ullah also spoke at the inaugural session.

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman presided over it.

This year, 48 law students from 13 law schools of Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Iran are attending the course.

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