

Seven get life for killing two freedom fighters

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced seven people to life term imprisonment for murdering two freedom fighters on February 25, 2004 in the city's Mirpur area.

Freedom fighters Abdur Rashid and Amir Hossain, residents of Paikpara in Mirpur, were shot dead by miscreants over land dispute.

The convicts are Rahmat Ullah, Robi Ullah, Khokon, Abdul Haque, Jasim, Baten and Mintu. Of them, Haque, Jasim, Baten and Mintu are fugitive.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 announced the verdict acquitting Shafi Ullah, Alauddin, Ali Imam and Nurul Islam.



Twenty class V students of Seabreeze International School harvest potatoes at a remote village of Bageshwar in Munshiganj yesterday. Under the new initiative "Firey Chol Matir Taney" (returning to roots) of Hridoye Mati O Manush, a television programme, conducted by agriculture development activist Shykh Seraj, the children experienced how potato farmers fare.

PHOTO: COURTESY

TWO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS Construction work starts by 2012

UNB, Dhaka

The construction work on the two nuclear power plants at Rooppur in Ishwardi, Pabna will begin by 2012.

State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman told the Parliament yesterday.

Replying to ABM Abul Kashem (Awami League-Chittagong), he said about 2000 MW of power will be added to the national grid from the proposed nuclear power plants.

Yeafesh said the government has already initiated steps to sign bilateral agreement with Russia concerning the construction of the nuclear power plants.

On December 9 last year, Parliament adopted a resolution regarding the establishment of nuclear power plant.

In August last year, a high-powered Bangladesh delegation visited Russia and discussed draft of the Action Plan to implement the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plants, held technical meetings with the Russian experts and visited an under-construction nuclear power plant there.

In June-July last year, an expert team from the Russian Federation visited the Rooppur nuclear power plant site.

Earlier, Bangladesh and the Russian Federation signed a Framework Agreement in Moscow, making way for establishment of nuclear power plants in cooperation with Russia.

Notice served for appointing two ACC commissioners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a legal notice to the cabinet secretary, Shushashoner Janno Nagorik (Shujan) President Prof Mozaffer Ahmad has demanded appointment of two commissioners to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The cabinet secretary has been requested to reply by March 15. He demanded formation of a five-member selection committee to pick the two commissioners, and publish vacancy advertisements in at least two daily newspapers, said a press release. The officials should be picked from eligible applicants to be applied for the posts through the vacancy announcements to ensure transparency and accountability, the notice said.

Religion not hurt by women dev policy

Says Shafique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said there is nothing in the women development policy, which can hurt the religious sentiment of people.

A vested quarter is opposing the women policy without any reason in order to create a political issue, he said.

The minister was addressing as the chief guest a discussion on the occasion of International Women Day organised by Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation (JGSF) at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

JGSF President Aminul Huq chaired the meeting addressed, among others, by Rashed Khan Menon MP, Jatiya Sramik League general secretary Roy Ramesh Chandra, and garments-worker leaders Brother Patrick, Safia Parvin, Arifa Aktar, and Sweetly Aktar.

Shafique said garment workers are being deprived of facilities of provident fund, as the rules of provident fund are not followed properly.

The government will enact an updated law if necessary to create congenial workplace environment for women, he added.

Five fake cops held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested five men who were in disguise of law enforcers near Kamalapur Railway Station in the city on Wednesday night.

Swapon, 32, Sarwar, 36, Bachchu Sikder, 45, Mohammad Arifuzzaman Khan, 34, and Nasir, 48, used to introduce themselves as DB men and mug people on the street.

The recovered wireless set had frequency attachment with DMP control room, said DB sources.

DB officials said the arrested five robbed people coming to rail and bus stations from other districts by setting up fake check posts in the name of frisking.

Protect Supreme Court's land: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

High Court (HC) yesterday directed authorities concerned to protect and maintain lands of Supreme Court (SC) amounting 55.5 acres, in accordance with law.

It also declared that the lands, recorded in the name of Bharat Samrat in 1910 under Central Survey (CS) Khatian No 16855 and CS Dag No 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 16/162, are now SC property.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain came up with the verdict after holding hearing of a writ petition filed by two SC lawyers and examining relevant documents.

Asaduzzaman Siddiqui and Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan jointly filed the petition as public interest litigation on January 31 stating that different organisations are grabbing SC land.

Petitioners' Counsel Advocate Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that concerned authorities of government and SC is to restore and record the lands in the name of SC, as per the verdict. He said Roads and Highways Department (RHD) illegally occupies around 7 acres and Shishu Academy around 2.5 acres of SC land.

Earlier on January 31, the bench, following the petition, issued a rule upon the authorities to explain why it should not be directed to maintain and protect the SC land.

Man beaten by son dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The man, who was beaten up by his son Wednesday at Madhya Badda, succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Alauddin Miah, 55, was hit with a stone (used for crushing spices) on the chest by his son Robiul Islam Titu following an altercation on Wednesday morning.

Alauddin was beaten up as he refused to give the money that Titu demanded.

Aman Ullah, a brother of Alauddin, rushed the victim to a private hospital and later to DMCH.

Alauddin's father Suruz Miah filed a murder case with Badda Police Station accusing Titu, his mother, and sister. The three fled home following filing of the case.

GRAFT CASE Saeed Eskander gets bail on surrender

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Major (ret'd) Saeed Eskander, younger brother of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in connection with a corruption case on his surrender to the court.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order upon a bond of Tk 50,000 with two guarantors after Saeed along with his lawyer Mahabub Uddin Khokhon appeared before the court and sought bail. During the hearing, Khokhon told the court that his client got a six-month anticipatory bail from the High Court on January 31 this year.

He prayed for Eskander's bail as the investigation officer of the case submitted charge sheet against him on February 6.

The court also fixed April 3 for hearing on charge framing against the accused.

On February 6, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Benazir Ahmed, investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, naming 12 witnesses.

The ACC on April 28 last year filed the case with Ramna Police Station after finding dissimilarities between what Eskander owned and what his wealth statement showed.

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