



Pedestrians cross road defying the cord put up by police to prevent them from traffic rule violation. The photo was taken from Sonargaon hotel intersection in the city yesterday.
PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Huji chief Sabbir on 5-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Acting chief of banned Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) Abdul Hannan Sabbir was remanded yesterday to gather information from him to find out whereabouts of others who were involved with bomb blasts on a rally of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at Paltan in 2001.

Metropolitan Magistrate Keshab Roy Chowdhury placed Sabbir on a five-day remand after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Mrinal Kanti Saha, also the investigation officer of the case, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer.

Sabbir was shown arrested in the case on April 28 for his alleged involvement with the bomb blasts on the rally on January 20, 2001 that killed five people and injured around 50 others.

In the yesterday's prayer, the IO mentioned that another Huji leader Abu Zandal in a statement given on October 10, 2010 said Sabbir was involved with the bomb attacks that took place on January 20, 2001.

Zandal also disclosed names of six others including Huji chief Mufti Hannan, who were directly involved with the grisly bomb blasts on the rally.

So, he needs to be remanded to know whereabouts of other attackers, he added.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two Huji members, including Sabbir, from a hideout at Keraniganj on April 25.

Earlier, 18 people including Hannan, were shown arrested for their alleged involvement with the incidents.

CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan filed a bomb blast case with Motijheel Police Station following the attack on their rally saying a group of anti-state conspirators made the attack.

Police arrested 12 people at that time but CID submitted the final report on December 17, 2003 as correct, impartial and reliable pieces of evidence were not found to prove the charges against the arrestees.

Withdraw charge against Limon

Demands Odhikar saying 5 extra-judicial killings occurred in Apr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five people were victims of extra-judicial killing in the country in April this year, said a report of a human rights organisation.

Odhikar prepared the report after monitoring twelve national daily newspapers during the month.

The NGO in its report said the government should arrange better treatment and compensation for Limon Hossain, 16, who lost his leg in Rab firing.

It urged the government to immediate withdrawal of the charge sheet framed secretly against the boy.

It demanded of the government to take legal action against the responsible members of the law enforcement agencies, including Rab for the act.

The report said among the victims of extra-judiciary killing, two people were killed by Rab and three by police. Three of them were killed in gunfights.

During the time, seven persons reportedly died in jail and police custody and 18 people were lynched, it added.

Quoting statistics, Odhikar said Rab was the main perpetrator of extra-judicial killings last year, while police were of torture.

The report also said eight people were killed and 1,229 people injured in political violence during the period.

It said incidents of harassment and physical abuse against young women and girls have decreased a little.

Fight against graft to continue: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government's fight against corruption will continue as it believes in transparency and accountability.

The PM made the remark when Speaker of Bhutan National Assembly Tshogpen Jigme Tshultim called on her at her office.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abdul Kalam Azad briefed the reporters after the meeting.

Hasina said Bangladesh is working to increase connectivity with the neighbouring countries including Bhutan and Nepal.

She also put emphasis on sharing hydro-

power with Bhutan.

Hasina recalled that Bhutan was the first country which recognised Bangladesh as an independent country.

Jigme Tshultim said he has come with a team to see the parliamentary democracy practised in Bangladesh as Bhutan is new in parliamentary democracy.

He also sought cooperation from Bangladesh in this regard.

Ambassador at-Large M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary MA Karim, secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Ashfaq Hamid and PMO Secretary Molla Waheeduzzaman were present.



Speaker of Bhutan National Assembly Tshogpen Jigme Tshultim calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.
PHOTO: PID

Contest to design HR logo begins

UNB, Dhaka

A worldwide contest to design a logo for human rights began online yesterday.

Everyone is asked to participate in designing a logo and take part in the competition on the website of "humanrightslogo.net".

Germany together with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Mauritius, Indonesia, Senegal, Singapore, and Uruguay launched the competition.

The finally selected logo will be the first globally recognised logo for human rights. Design submission started yesterday and will be allowed till the end of this July.

A final set of 100 logos will be singled out and presented to the eminent jury who will select 10 best designs.

An open online vote will determine the final winner in September this year. He or she will introduce the new globally legitimised symbol for human rights to the world.

Nobel laureate and Grameen Bank founder Prof Muhammad Yunus has joined the jury board, said a press release of the Embassy of Germany in Dhaka yesterday.

Steps to be taken to implement RTI Act

Says chief info commissioner

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Information Commissioner Mohammad Jamir yesterday said the government would take all necessary steps to implement Right to Information (RTI) Act.

"We are witnessing some changes in the mentality of hiding information after enactment of RTI Act," he said while addressing a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) organised the discussion marking the World Press Freedom Day, observed across the globe yesterday.

With BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury in the chair, the discussion was addressed by Vice Chancellor of International University of Bangladesh Prof Dr Nurul Momen, Editor of the daily News Today Reazuddin Ahmed, former president of Jatiya Press Club Hassan Shahriar and Editor of the daily Amader Shomoy Nayeemul Islam Khan.

BFUJ Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan moderated the discussion while its Vice President Dr Utpal Kumer Sarker and Treasurer Ataur Rahman presented two keynote papers.

The theme of the day this year is "21st Century Media: New Frontiers, New Barriers."

Mohammad Jamir, at the discussion, gave a detail on the works done and initiatives taken so far by his organisation to ensure free flow of information and urged all concerned to be more active for establishing the people's right to information.

BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said the democracy cannot flourish without freedom of press, and journalism without interference cannot be practiced in the society where democracy is absent.

The other speakers urged all concerned to remain active in giving democracy an institutional shape, ensuring free flow of information, and building a corruption-free society.

Tax evasion Trial of Partex Group chair begins

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Trial of a tax evasion case filed against former BNP lawmaker and Partex Group Chairman MA Hashem began with deposition of complainant at a Dhaka court yesterday.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Senior Special Judge's Court recorded statement of complainant Kabir Uddin Mollah, deputy tax commissioner of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), and Hashem's lawyer cross-examined the complainant.

The court fixed for the next hearing May 18 and summoned the rest of the witnesses to appear before it on the scheduled date.

Kabir filed the case against Hashem on August 23 last year on charge of dodging tax of Tk 4,76,09,845 from 1977-1978 to 2005-2006 fiscal years.

Hashem, during submitting his tax returns, said he did not conceal any information about his income and expenditure. But NBR rejected his claim.

Tremor shakes Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 4.6 magnitude earthquake jolted Dhaka and some other parts of the country last night.

The epicenter was 80 kilometres away from Agargaon Seismic Centre in Dhaka and Comilla region, said officials at the Meteorological Office in Dhaka.

The tremor struck at 8:38pm and lasted for a couple of seconds.

There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

Dr Anisuzzaman honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University, Dr Anisuzzaman, has been awarded Pandit Iswarchandra Vidyasagar Gold Plaque by the Asiatic Society of Kolkata for his contribution to social activities.

The governor of West Bengal, MK Narayanan, handed over the plaque to him at the 227th annual general meeting of the society held in Kolkata on Monday, said a press release.

Eighteen Indian scholars and cultural personalities including Prof Ramkrishna Mukharjee, Prof KG Subramanyam, Prof Ujjwal Kumar Mazumder, and Soumitra Chattopadhyaya were awarded different other medals and plaques.

POST POLL VIOLENCE 2001

'Make probe report public'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Minority community leaders yesterday demanded of the government publishing the full report of the judicial probe committee on the post poll violence of 2001.

Terming the report "an objective and neutral one" they demanded punishment to the culprits who had committed those crimes.

Leaders of Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad, a platform of religious minority people, made the demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

The High Court on May 6, 2009 directed the government to form a probe commis-

sion within two months to investigate the poll violence.

In a written statement, Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of the organisation, said the government should take steps as per the recommendations of the probe committee and to publish it without any delay to establish good governance, democracy and human rights.

Sector commander Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta, Bir Uttam, was also present at the press conference.

They also demanded forming a separate cell in the home ministry to take quick steps against any kind of repression on the religious and indigenous minority people.

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