

Bilkis sent to prison

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent to jail Bilkis Khatun Nadia, a diploma nurse who stabbed the three-year-old daughter of her supposed boyfriend at Kalabagan in the city Monday.

Bilkis was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court yesterday.

Enamul Haque Enam, officer-in-charge Kalabagan Police Station, said they interrogated Abdul Matin, father of the victim girl Labonya Akhter and supposed boyfriend of Bilkis.

Matin denied any relationship with Bilkis, said the OC. Police, however, assume that he might have jilted the nurse, added OC Enam.

Bilkis said on Monday that she wanted to kill Matin's wife and two children to avenge the ditching. She knifed Labonya in the neck and throat around 10:00am Monday.

Labonya's mother Rita Shabnam filed a case with Kalabagan Police Station that night against Bilkis.

Labonya is now under treatment at a private clinic in the city.

Two women winnowing the recently harvested Boro paddy. The photo was taken from Baher Char village in Keraniganj yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

TIGER SUMMIT IN DHAKA IN JAN
Tk 254cr WB loan for wildlife conservation

UNB, Dhaka

World Bank will provide 36 million US dollar (approximately Tk 254 crore) loan to Bangladesh for conservation of the wildlife, including tiger.

Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said this while he was talking to newsmen after a meeting with World Bank Country Director Ellen Goldstein at his Secretariat office yesterday.

He said the meeting has decided that Bangladesh will host a ministerial level Tiger Summit in Dhaka next year seeking ways to protect the tiger population from extinction.

Dr Hasan said: "We've taken the decision in principle to host a ministerial level Tiger Summit in Dhaka in the second half of January next. Representatives from 12 tiger range countries across the world will join the summit."

In fact, the World Bank will be providing the loan support under its regional cooperation strengthening project to conserve wildlife, he said.

The state minister said: "The World Bank is our development partner and it has been providing financial and technical support to us for the development of environment and protecting the Sundarbans."

He said some 38 water vessels and 65 road vehicles will be procured under the World Bank loan with a view to strengthening drives in deep forests to curb poaching of wildlife.

Dr Hasan said the government is considering rewards for wildlife conservation. "It's a new idea. We are thinking how to involve the financial institutions in this process."

He said of the 12 tiger range countries, Bangladesh is one of the most densely tiger populated countries. "On an average, one tiger lives in every 20 square kilometers in Bangladesh, whereas it is 200-400 square kilometers in Russia."

BNP budget proposal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With key focus on "the government's failure in economic sector", the main opposition BNP is to place a budget proposal today offering a number of specific suggestions to boost up the country's economy and to ensure welfare of the people.

"Besides the government's failure to implement budget pledges, the current economic scenario and suggestions for future will be focused in BNP's proposal," said Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, former commerce minister and an adviser to the party chairperson.

Chairperson Khaleda Zia will disclose the proposal for the second consecutive year at a programme at a city hotel today, a day before tabling of the national budget at the parliament by the finance minister.

A group of BNP leaders and the chairperson's advisers including Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Osman Farruk, Dr Mahbubullah, Sabihuddin Ahmed, Abdul Awal Mintoo, among others, were working to prepare the proposal.

The opposition's budget proposal will also feature the government's failure in implementing last year's budget, especially annual development programme (ADP), the party sources said, adding that the finance ministry could not advance a single step

regarding Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Recent collapses and "irresponsible remarks of the government high-ups including the finance minister" will be highly criticised in Khaleda Zia's speech while revealing the budget proposals, said a BNP leader asking not to be named.

He also said they will ask the government to massively expand the social safety net programmes as the livelihood costs increased for several times in last couple of months.

Decrease in foreign direct investment and export, trade deficit with India, slow implementation of ADP and failure to contain inflation, among others, will be figured prominently in her speech, he added while talking to The Daily Star.

She will also ask the government to allocate highest amount to the power, education, and defense sector but will criticise the failure to improve electricity generation capability despite giving huge allocation in last three years.

Replying a query, Amir Khasru said the government can accept the opposition's proposals if they believe in democratic gesture.

Khaleda last year placed a set of proposals at a pre-budget meet-the-press, first of its kind by any opposition party in the country's history.

Budgetary funds for indigenous people demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for allocation of budget for grass-root people, including indigenous people and other ethnic minorities, to ensure equal opportunities.

They also suggested the grass-root people to utilise the right to information act to check proper implementation of the budget and help ensure accountability of the authorities concerned.

Kapaeeng Foundation, a human rights organisation of ethnic people, held a seminar on "National Budget and Indigenous People" at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Noted economist and Professor of Economics Department of Dhaka University MM Akash said, "Though there is two percent indigenous people of the total population in the country, only 0.5 percent of total budget is allocated for indigenous people. The per capita expenditure for an indigenous person is one-third in comparison to Bengali."

MM Akash said if there is a provision of monitoring system by grass-root people twice a year, the budget allocation will be utilised properly.

There is no positive reflection of budget allocation seen. Indigenous people have become destitute more over the last forty years, said Sanjib Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

Researcher Kirti Nishan Chakma in his keynote paper urged the government to make a separate census on indigenous people.

Lawmakers Jatindra Lal Tripura and Fazle Hossain Badsha, Information Commissioner Sadeka Halim also spoke with Kapaeeng Foundation Chairperson Rabindranath Saren in the chair.

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Salam, Pintu get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted ad-interim bail for six months to former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu and former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in two separate criminal cases.

Abdus Salam Pintu got bail in the case filed in connection with the bomb blast at Narayanganj Awami League (AL) office in 2001, and Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu obtained bail in the Pilkhana carnage case.

An HC bench of Justice Sheikh Rezwan Ali and Justice Muhammad Abdul Hafiz granted them bail after hearing two separate bail petitions filed by the detained BNP leaders.

The bench also issued separate rules upon the government to explain within two weeks why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail in the cases against them.

Advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain, counsel for the petitioners, told The Daily Star that Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu will get released from the jail following the HC order, if the Supreme Court does not stay the HC order of bail.

But, Abdus Salam Pintu will not get released from jail following the HC order, since he is arrested in August 21 grenade attack case, he said.

Assistant Attorney General Bashirullah said that the government will move separate appeals before the Supreme Court against the HC orders granting bail to Abdus Salam Pintu and Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu.

The bomb blast at the AL office at Chashara on June 16, 2001 left 22 party leaders and workers killed. Police filed a case in this connection the same day. Abdus Salam Pintu was shown arrested on November 26, 2009, in this case.

Police filed the case against Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu with Lalbagh Police Station on February 28, 2009, in connection with the February 25-26 BDR carnage in Pilkhana headquarters.

Pintu was arrested in this case on June 1 the same year.



The outgoing US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of our Maa, Rezia Begum. She was a freedom fighter, a writer & above all a loving mother.

The family members of late Rezia Begum have requested all her relatives, friends & well wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Rumee, Jamee, Sadee

Tortured domestic help rescued in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help was tortured allegedly by her employer at Uttar Kafrul in the city yesterday afternoon.

Human rights workers and local people rescued Taslima Akther, 14, daughter of Hashem Ali of Durgapur in Netrokona and admitted her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for treatment.

For the last three months, she has been working in the house of an export-import businessman Mozaaffar Hossain who lives on the first floor of a four-story building.

Taslima told reporters at DMCH that mistress of the house Sultana Razia used to inflict burn injury on her and beat at different times over trifling excuses.

DMCH sources said Taslima's both eyes and different parts of the body bore marks of injury from beating.

A local youth who preferred anonymity told this correspondent that Taslima used to cry often. Local security guards had been discussing the matter for a few days. They contacted a human rights organisation when the girl was beaten yesterday noon.

OC of Kafrul police Abdul Latif said if anybody lodges a complaint, police will take action in this regard.

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