



A mother hugs her child as she meets him a year later after returning from Libya yesterday. The photo was taken from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city. (Story on Page 20) PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# BANGABANDHU MURDER Counsels appointed in Canada, US to bring back six killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed counsels in the USA and Canada for bringing six convicted fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman back to the country, said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed.

The condemned convicts are Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim, SHMB Nur Chowdhury, AM Rashed Chowdhury, Abdul Mazed and Moslehuddin Khan.

The law minister, however, refused to disclose how many convicts are hiding in the USA and Canada, and why it has appointed counsels only in these two countries.

He was speaking at a press briefing

after a meeting with the taskforce constituted for bringing back the convicted killers of Bangabandhu at his secretariat office on Sunday.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam and officials concerned were present at the meeting.

The law minister told reporters that the government has come to know the killers' whereabouts and is sincerely trying to bring them back to the country through diplomatic channels to execute their sentences.

He, however, hoped that the government can bring the convicted killers of Bangabandhu to the country after

completing legal procedures, saying a significant progress has been made in this regard.

The Supreme Court on November 19, 2009 upheld a High Court verdict that confirmed the death sentence of 12 killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members on August 15, 1975.

On January 31, last year, five convicts Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahrir Rashid Khan, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Bazul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed--were executed following the Supreme Court verdict.

One of the convicted killers, Aziz Pasha, has already died while the remaining six are hiding in different countries to avoid the sentence.

## GD filed over Khaleda's remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Column writer Syed Murad Haider on Sunday filed a General Diary (GD) with Shahbagh Police Station, fearing possible chaos due to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's recent statement on the constitution.

He filed the GD after reading a newspaper article that quoted Khaleda as saying, "The constitution would be thrown away if BNP comes to power".

"With this kind of statement, she has looked down on the country's democracy and shown disrespect to existing laws", he wrote in the GD. "I fear that this kind of taunting comment may create a political turmoil in the country, which may threaten safety and security of 16 crore people", he said.

## Writ to stop price hike of essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rights organisation has filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directives on the government to stop increase of price of essential commodities during upcoming Ramadan.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) filed the petition as public interest litigation on Sunday also seeking HC directives on the authorities to set up mobile courts in Dhaka and Chittagong to control the price of essentials and punish the dishonest businessmen.

Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that petition was filed following the reports recently published on different newspapers stating that some corrupt and dishonest businessmen have already fixed the high prices of essential commodities ahead of Ramadan.

He said some of those businessmen also created crisis of foods and other commodities through syndicate and earn much money by increasing price without following any legal procedure.

Manzill also said the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore will hear the petition today.

Secretaries to the ministries of commerce and food and deputy commissioners of Dhaka and Chittagong have been made respondents in the petition.

## UK support to fight climate assured

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephen Evans on Sunday said the UK will support for the climate change adaptation programme in Bangladesh.

Stephen Evans made the assurance when he paid a farewell call on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at the foreign ministry on Sunday.

During the meeting with the foreign minister, the British envoy said the climate change issues are very important for Bangladesh.

Dipu Moni mentioned that the relations between the two countries widened during his tenure. She said the UK has become a development and strategic partner of Bangladesh.

Foreign minister congratulated him for his next work place. Stephen Evans would join NATO as assistant secretary.

## Army replaces 4 contingents in UN mission

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army is going to replace four contingents namely Multi National Sector Headquarters (West), BAN headquarter Support Company / 8, BANENGINEER / 8 and BANSIG/8 under the United Nations operations in Cote-d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

In this rotation schedule, a team of 143 members from Bangladesh Army, including officers, led by Lieutenant Col Muhammad Afzal Hossain left Dhaka for Ivory Coast yesterday, said an ISPR press release.

A total of 424 peacekeepers of four contingents will be replaced in Ivory Coast by three flights starting from July 18 to July 25.

Seven Bangladesh Army Contingents are operating in Ivory-Coast since April 2004.



Vice-chancellor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique plants a sapling on Dhaka University campus yesterday as he inaugurates a tree plantation campaign spearheaded by Musa Ibrahim.

## Plan to plant 16 crore trees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the aim to raise forestland to 25 percent in the country, Everest hero Musa Ibrahim and friends launched a countrywide tree plantation campaign yesterday.

About 16 crore of local species of trees will be planted across the country within next four years under this programme organised by the Everest Foundation. From the fifth year 16 crore trees will be planted annually.

"We will give priority to educational institutions across the country for planting the trees," said Musa, addressing the launching ceremony on Dhaka University campus.

Another major aim is to discourage people from planting foreign species like Acacia, Eucalyptus, and Mangium as these trees are

harmful for the environment, he said.

Speaking as the chief guest, Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said this programme will create awareness among the youths about the environment. Under this programme, 1,000 trees will be planted on DU campus, he said. He said initiatives will be taken for removal of the environmentally harmful trees from the DU campus.

Noted botanist Diyen Sharma demanded ban on cultivation of harmful foreign species of trees in the country. Novelist Anisul Haque said such kind of tree plantation campaign will significantly contribute to the conservation of forestland and bio-diversity.

Bird specialist Sharif Khan and former captain of Bangladesh Cricket Team Habibul Bashar were present.

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