

Ex-cop Rafiq

FROM PAGE 1
Akhter, Shahana Akhter and Shuhana Akhter-- at the court expressed their satisfaction over the judgement.
Rafiqul was sent to jail on October 16, 2005 after he surrendered to a court seeking ad interim bail in the case.

According to the prosecution, Rafiqul and Momin's families have two adjacent pieces of land. Momin's family erected a boundary wall around their land, which angered the OC.

Rafiqul had an intention to encroach on the neighbour's land, says the case statement. He hired a group of miscreants to break down the boundary wall.

Momin took a snap of Rafiqul and his accomplices breaking the boundary wall. Enraged, Rafique threatened Momin and his family members.

Later, a group led by Jewel and Tareq, on instructions of Rafiqul, killed Momin, the prosecution added.

Following the incident, Momin's father Abdur Razzak filed a case against the OC and 25 others with the Kafur Police Station.

But CID and Detective Branch of police after their enquiry into the matter submitted a charge sheet, dropping the name of Rafiqul. They said the charge brought against him was not proved.

Then a metropolitan magistrate conducted a judicial inquiry and included the OC's name in the charge sheet.

The court framed charges against the nine accused on October 5, 2009.

Special Public Prosecutor SM Rafiqul Islam and advocates Syed Mizanur Rahman and Habibur Rahman Shawkat appeared for the state while Mahboob Ahmed and Saidur Rahman Manik defended the accused.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court on January 30 cancelled division facilities for Rafiqul in jail when it was proved that he had obtained the facility by forging a court order with the help of an administrative officer of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court. He was enjoying the facility since July 2009.

The administrative officer had sent a forged copy of the court judgment to the jail authorities. The court had not ordered any division facility for Rafiqul and there is no such privilege for a former OC.
The court earlier also requested the metropolitan sessions judge to take necessary action against the then administrative officer Abu Al Hossain who allegedly supplied the forged court order.

Uttara, Savar

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nearly 40 million people from 30 districts will be able to travel to and from Dhaka at lower costs and in less time.

However, Buet said a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be conducted as the project could result in a loss of lands and dislocation of industrial, commercial and residential structures.

The Bridge Division told the meeting that the prime minister has already given directives to implement the project.

It said a notice has been issued inviting tenders from investors by July 31.

SECOND PADMA BRIDGE

The Bridge Division told the committee that Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has already conducted a study on the bridge, and said the construction of the 6.10-kilometre bridge with a rail link would cost more than Tk 13,121 crore.

The Division requested the development partners including the World Bank and China to finance the project. Since it did not get any positive response from them, the project would be implemented in PPP.

The Bridge Division said the prime minister has consented to floating tender for prospective investors for the project.

Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) placed a draft of Power Purchase Agreement for buying electricity from India.

However, the committee sent the proposal back to the BPDB for further review.

The proposal would be approved by September, said the finance minister.

AL too looks

FROM PAGE 1
Sramik Janata League, Bangladesh Kalyan Party, Liberal Democratic Party, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, and Gono Forum seeking to form a greater unity to work on some common matters.

"If everything goes fine, our leader Sheikh Hasina will sit and talk to them finally," said Quader.

The ruling party simultaneously took an initiative to reduce the existing gap between AL and its allies in the grand alliance and 14-party coalition. It also made a move to involve its "out of favour" leaders like Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, and Suranjit Sengupta in gearing up the party's activities.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam will sit with the components of 14-party coalition within a couple of days. Obaidul Quader already visited on Tuesday night the offices of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), two components of the 14-party combine.

After Ashraf's talks with AL's 14-party allies, chief of the grand alliance Sheikh Hasina will also talk to the leaders of each ally personally.

Asked about the necessity of expanding the alliance, Obaidul Quader said, "We are not thinking about the next election. Rather we are thinking about the next generation and the future of Bangladesh. Our common glory is the country's war of liberation and parliamentary democracy, our common enemy is poverty, and our common dangers are militancy and religious extremism."

"To combat the enemy and the dangers we need common friends to work together, and for this reason we want a greater unity. Even we want to reach a consensus with the main opposition BNP, as we want to protect and uphold our glory anyhow."

He said BNP wants unity with smaller parties only to go to power, which will not be successful.

AL ORGANISATIONAL TOUR
Eighteen central teams of AL will tour 21 districts of the country this month to drum up public support for the 15th amendment to the constitution, against which BNP is seeking a greater anti-government unity.

The tours will take place between July 26 and 29, and AL stalwarts including Amu, Razzak, Tofail, and Suranjit,

who were dropped from the helm of the party, will lead some of the touring teams.

"The objectives of our organisational tour programmes are to focus on the constitutional amendment, explaining under which circumstances the government had to bring the amendments, and on strengthening coordination among the government, the party, and the grand alliance components," said Obaidul Quader who will lead a team to Feni and Noakhali.

ALCWC MEETING
At a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) chaired by party President Sheikh Hasina yesterday, most of the party leaders emphasised on strengthening the organisation through holding councils of all grassroots units.

The five-hour meeting starting at 5:00pm was held in prime minister's official residence Gono Bhaban.

At the meeting the AL leaders recommended bringing coordination among ministers and party leaders, and reducing the gap between the party lawmakers and grassroots leaders and workers, and also with the allies in the grand alliance, according to sources present at the meeting.

Some leaders suggested highlighting the government's development activities among the people to weaken the opposition's anti-government propaganda.

They also urged the premier to anyhow keep the prices of essentials stable during the Ramadan. One leader criticised the police assault on the opposition chief whip during the last hartal.

Hasina told the meeting that she is closely monitoring the activities of the party lawmakers. If the lawmakers do not work for the people's welfare, and maintain distance from party leaders and the common people, they will not be given party tickets in the next election, she cautioned.

PM defends

FROM PAGE 1
meeting at PM's official residence Gano Bhaban yesterday.

Nasim told the meeting that people did not like clemency to Abu Taher's son.

AL president Sheikh Hasina, who chaired the meeting, said the case against Biplob was false and politically motivated.

Govt asked

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Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif came up with the rule following a writ filed by Advocate Tajul Islam, secretary general of National Forum for Protection of Human Rights.

Tajul filed the petition yesterday following reports published and broadcast in different media stating that the six were brutally killed in Aminbazar by mass beating on mere suspicion that they were robbers.

The petitioner prayed to the court to issue the rule and order the respondents to form a judicial enquiry commission to probe the incident.

The home secretary, inspector general of police, Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner, deputy commissioner, superintendent of police, Dhaka, and officers-in-charge of Savar and Ashulia police stations have been made respondents to the rule.

During the hearing, petitioner's counsel Bodruddoza Badal told the court that all citizens of Bangladesh have the right to move freely through the country except some restricted areas as per provisions of the constitution.

In exercise of this right the young boys visited Aminbazar, and for this reason they cannot be killed by mass beating on mere suspicion, he said.

The counsel also said the "inaction" of the respondents to protect the lives of six students and their [re-

spondents] subsequent "mysterious" actions are highly illegal, malafide and not sustainable in law.

Deputy Attorney General Motahar Hossain Sajju opposed the writ petition saying the government will probe the incident, as two separate cases have been filed in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association at an urgent general meeting at its south hall yesterday strongly condemned the brutal killing and demanded the government hold a judicial enquiry into the incident.

Rafique-ul Huq, Shahdean Malik and Bodruddoza Badal, among others, addressed the meeting with SCBA President Khandker Mahub Hossain in the chair.

Students and teachers of Government Bangla College and Bangladesh University of Business and Technology yesterday staged separate demonstrations protesting the killings of their students and demanding punishment to the killers.

Towhidur Rahman Palash, Kamruzzaman Kanto and Ibrahim Khalil of Bangla College, Shams Rahim Shamam of Maple Leaf International School, Tipu Sultan of Tejgaon College and Sitaf Jabi Munif of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology were beaten to death and another youth Al Amin was injured in the incident.

Clemency

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abducted and then hacked dead.

His body was sliced into pieces and dumped in the river Meghna.

The tribunal in its verdict acquitted 15 of the 31 accused. Abu Taher, the then general secretary of Awami League's Laxmipur district unit, and his wife Nazma Taher were among the acquitted.

However, Biplob surrendered before the tribunal on April 6 this year after absconding for over 10 years.

Abu Taher then appealed to the president for his son's life.

Meanwhile, the district jail superintendent has sent a letter to the inspector general of prisons regarding the clemency and also sent a copy to the tribunal.

Contacted, Public Prosecutor Ayub Khan yesterday told The Daily Star that the Laxmipur jail super had sent them a copy of the letter on Tuesday informing about the presidential order.

In another instance, Zillur Rahman pardoned 20 death row convicts in Jubo Dal leader Gama killing case on September 6 last year.

Sabbir Ahmed Gama was the nephew of former BNP deputy minister Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu and he was gunned down in Natore in 2004.

Amini

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The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore ordered the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner to take legal steps against the IOJ leader for making the comment.

The DMP commissioner has also been asked to submit a report before the court within two weeks on compliance with the order, Advocate Manzill Murshid, counsel for the petitioner, told The Daily Star.

Based on the Amar Desh report, Shahriar Kabir yesterday filed the petition with the HC, seeking its directive on the government to take actions against Amini for making the comment.

The petitioner said the arrogant comment made by Amini on the constitution, which has been achieved through the sacrifice of 30 lakh martyrs, is seditious and he should be punished.

The HC bench heard expert opinion from eminent constitution expert barrister M Amir-UI Islam on the issue during the hearing yesterday.

\$195m WB loan

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range of both public and private services.

An agreement will be signed in this regard at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) in city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar today.

ERD Additional Secretary Arastoo Khan and World Bank acting Country Director Tahseen Sayed will sign the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

The estimated cost of the project is \$197.02 million of which Bangladesh will contribute \$2.02 million. The rest \$195 million would be financed by the International Development Association (IDA).

The loan will be received in standard terms and conditions of IDA, which includes 0.75 percent service charge on the disbursed amount.

The repayment period of the credit is 40 years, including a 10-year grace period.

Trust aspirin

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nearly 40,000 patients who had been prescribed the drug by their doctor.

For every 1,000 patients over a one-year period, there were about four extra cases of non-fatal heart attack among patients who recently stopped taking low-dose aspirin compared with those who stayed on it.

Low-dose aspirin is recommended for all heart disease patients to help prevent blood clots which can lead to future heart attacks.

HSC results

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354,618 female. The number of examinees was 629,619 in eight general education boards, 76,957 in Madrasa Education Board and 68,961 under Technical Education Board.

The examination began on April 5 this year.

Cameron faces the music

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But the 44-year-old Conservative premier said after his toughest two weeks in power: "You don't make decisions in hindsight; you make them in the present. You live and you learn -- and believe you me, I have learnt."

Cameron, who cut short a tour of Africa as parliament delayed its summer recess to quiz him, said in his opening statement: "I have an old-fashioned view about innocent until proven guilty. But if it turns out I have been lied to, that would be a moment for a profound apology. And, in that event, I can tell you I will not fall short."

Labour's Ed Miliband, whose muted first year as opposition leader has been given a boost by his assault on Cameron over the scandal, calling the hiring of Coulson a "catastrophic error of judgement."

"Why doesn't he do more than give a half-apology and provide the full apology now for hiring Mr Coulson and bringing him into the heart of Downing Street?" Miliband asked.

CAMERON'S REGRET
Cameron resisted, with a note of regret: "On the decision to hire him ... it was my decision ... Of course I regret and I am extremely sorry about the furore it has caused. With 20:20 hindsight ... I would not have offered him the job."

It would, he went on under questioning later, be a matter of "disgrace" for the government if Coulson, appointed by the Conservative party in 2007 and brought into the prime minister's office after the May 2010 election, had been lying about not knowing of

criminal practices at his newspaper.

A day after Murdoch denied his own responsibility for the affair, Cameron gave details of final arrangements for a judicial inquiry into the scandal and the wider issues it has raised over unhealthy relationships among Britain's press, police and political establishment.

He also tried to move the political agenda away from the scandal, saying voters wanted his government to concentrate on handling an economic crisis and other pressing matters.

The scandal has forced the resignations of senior executives at News Corp and two of Britain's top policemen as well as fuelling opposition attacks on Cameron's judgement.

The 80-year-old Murdoch was attacked by a protester with a foam pie when he appeared before a parliamentary committee on Tuesday and made a "humble" apology for the scandal, but he refused to resign. He said staff who "betrayed" him were at fault.

He later sent a message to his staff that his company was taking steps to ensure that "serious problems never happen again."

"Those who have betrayed our trust must be held accountable under the law," he added in an email sent late on Tuesday.

The scandal is unlikely to bring down Cameron, in office for less than 15 months, but could make it harder for him to manage a coalition that is focussed on quick deficit reduction through austerity measures, which have labour unions threatening mass

strikes.

"The Murdochs can say they apologised unreservedly, they faced the music, [and] they endured a personal physical attack," said Andrew Hawkins of polling company Comres.

"It puts the attention firmly back on the political ramifications and, in particular, David Cameron and his judgement over the whole Andy Coulson issue."

JS body

FROM PAGE 20
Suranjit said diplomats, donors and other development partners are concerned about the changes proposed in the bill.

On the proposal for increasing different parliamentary committees' powers, Suranjit said the law minister yesterday gave assurance that he would look into some relevant laws in other countries, and then place the proposal before the cabinet.

Facing opposition from most of the ministers, the cabinet on May 30 rejected the proposal. And it sparked sharp criticism by a number of AL lawmakers.

BNP

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opposition leader will be sent to rights bodies, including the United Nations and Amnesty International, to draw attention regarding the "deteriorating human rights situation" in the country.

In the letter, the party will also mention about the torture on other opposition leaders, including BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, in police custody.

Police role in question

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Kanto offered prayers at Darussalam Furrua Sharif Mosque and met Shams Rahim Shamam, Ibrahim Khalil, Tipu Sultan and Sitaf Jabi Munif when they came to the main road for a walk.

The seven decided to have tehari at Gabtoli and took two rickshaws. Reaching there they changed their mind and decided to spend the night roaming the area and have some fun. So they crossed Gabtoli bridge on foot and went along the Turag river up to Keblarchar.

"We split into two groups and sat by the river. Palash, Kanto and I were together while Shamam, Tipu, Ibrahim and Munif were about 200 yards away. Suddenly, we three heard the other four screaming for help. We thought they were attacked by muggers or robbers.

"We rushed for their help but found hundreds of villagers beating them indiscriminately while about 50 others were coming to attack us calling us robbers," Al Amin continued.

"We tried to tell them that we were students, not robbers and have come from Darussalam area. But by then, several people swooped on and started beating us up. I heard the assaulting villagers say they had already killed four of us.

"Scared of death, I grabbed the legs of an elderly man and begged for my life but he kept hitting me. Then I spotted plain-clothes policemen with shotguns standing there and watching the mob go crazy. I begged them to save my life."

A policeman then stopped the attackers, he said.

"All of your friends are dead and so will you soon unless you agree to say whatever we want you to say," said Al Amin quoting the "saviour" policeman as saying.

The policeman asked him to admit that the students had robbed a sand trading post and taken away Tk 5,000. Al Amin agreed. He was then sent to a hospital

under police arrangement.

Earlier, police and villagers claimed that there were 14 to 15 "robbers" and the rest of them got away by an engine boat. Police also claimed to have recovered six sharp weapons from the spot.

But Al Amin dismissed the claims saying that there is no question of carrying sharp weapons as they were there just to have fun. He believes that the villagers brought the weapons as the bodies of the six students killed in the incident bore injury marks from sharp weapons.

Al Amin, eldest of two brothers and a sister, supplies fruit juice to shops to help his family.

His father Khabir Bapari, who used to drive a CNG-run-auto rickshaw, told the daily star that he can only afford to admit his son to a hospital but is in no position to bear the cost of the treatment. Moreover, the family is afraid to take him to a hospital since police are against them.

Pintu, AL man Torab

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defence lawyers said the indictment is illegal since the accused were not earlier informed in writing about the charges brought against them.

Many accused alleged they had made confessional statements in the face of severe torture and not before any magistrate.

A total of 543 accused in this case made confessional statements.

"You shot and killed Col Mujibul Haque, Col Enayet and Maj Mokbul and you have already confessed that," the court told Havilder Yusuf Ali and asked whether he would admit it now.

As the court insisted that records show he made confessional statement, Yusuf just denied it.

As he tried to explain, the court said, "You take that much opportunity the court allows at this stage." As he continues, the court asked guards to take away the microphone from him.

The court said the accused, who have no defence counsel, would be provided with state defence to move for them.

Of the 850, 20 are still absconding while three are

dead. Twenty three of the accused are civilians.

About the absconding accused, one of the special public prosecutors of the case, Sheikh Baharul Islam, said charges will be framed against those on the run in their absence.

Criminal Investigation Department submitted charge sheet against 824 people. Later, 26 other BGB jawans were made accused in a supplementary charge sheet.

Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Torab Ali were indicted for instigating and planning the killing. The other nineteen were charged with theft.

Pintu was also charged with abetting mutineers to flee Pilkhana, attending a meeting at the residence of an accused on February 24, 2009 and masterminding the massacre and organising procession in support of mutineers.

As the court asked Pintu how he would plea, he said many accused placed confessional statements against many ministers and lawmakers. "There is nothing against me, but I have been made an accused."

RMG factory

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They also demanded their lunch allowance to be raised to Tk 1,500 from Tk 500 and an increase of Tk 300 in transport allowance, Sirajul said.

Factory officials were beaten up by the workers when they tried to prevent them from ransacking furniture and machinery.

Later, police reached the spot and brought the situation under control, though the workers refused to resume work.

The workers looted at least 7,000 pieces of T-shirts along with some electronic tools and gadgets, claimed Kutub Khan Chowdhury, deputy general manager of the company.

"We have met some of their demands but the workers are demanding 10 percent share of the factory," he said.

"We will decide whether to reopen the factory or not after our managing director, who is out of the country, returns on July 25," Kutub Khan said.

No case was filed in this connection yesterday.

Export-oriented composite knitwear factory Grameen Knitwear Ltd is one of the Grameen family of organisations.

Go to Pakistan

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dustbins. How audacious they are! They do not believe in the country's independence and sovereignty. They should go to Pakistan," she said.

Hasina made the remarks at the Awami League (AL) working committee meeting held at her Gano Bhaban residence in the afternoon.

If she [opposition leader] would have respect toward the constitution, she could not make such remarks, the premier said.

"She has forgotten that 30 lakh people sacrificed their lives and two lakh mothers and sisters sacrificed their honour to attain the constitution of independent Bangladesh," Hasina said.

The premier alleged that the opposition leader and Jamaat are trying to save the war criminals and the killers of others who lost their lives in the August 21 grenade attack.

On strengthening the Election Commission (EC), she said "The commission is independent now. It will be further strengthened to arrange elections in free and fair manner."

The AL government never tries to influence the EC, Hasina said.

The premier said that with the 15th amendment to the constitution, avenues of grabbing the state power unconstitutionally have been stopped forever.

"People have got their power back through this amendment," she said.

"If she [Khaleda Zia] demands the caretaker system of government, she has to admit that the last caretaker government had done the right thing by filing corruption cases against her and her sons," the premier said adding that it was the last caretaker government which found out that Khaleda Zia had "plundered the money of orphans under the Zia Orphanage."

Listing various development works done by the preset government, she said that on Tuesday total electricity generation was 4,993 megawatt which was the highest after the government assumed power.

Hasina said the government is making all out efforts so that people do not suffer during the ensuing holy month of Ramadan.

"We are keeping close watch so that none can hoard food to make extra profit at the cost of public suffering," she said.

3 drown

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unusually strong currents in streams and rivers of the hilly areas.

Nearly two lakh people in Cox's Bazar have been marooned as a 596km long cross-dam developed breaches in at least 80 spots, said Md Mohiuddin, executive engineer of Cox's Bazar Water Development Board.

Sugar Tk 65

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The refiners will sell each litre of palm and soybean oil at Tk 93-96 and Tk 103-105 respectively at factory gates.

Prices of bottled cooking oil will be Tk 15 higher per litre than the loose product, noted the BTC chief.

Both the government and companies will monitor market prices to ensure the announced rates are followed, maintained Mozibur.

The decision coincides with a recent trend of price spiral of sugar and some other essentials in the domestic market ahead of the fasting month of Ramadan, when the consumption of these items shoots.

Sugar price increased further by Tk 1.5 per kg yesterday as a supply crunch continued due to closure of four out of six refiners and hoarding by a section of wholesalers.

However, its retail price rose to Tk 70-74 per kg from Tk 68-73 the previous day, according to data of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Price of loose cooking oil also maintained upward trend during last week.