

**WAR CRIMES**

**Alim's bail extended till Oct 16**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal yesterday extended bail to former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim till October 16 in connection with crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971. It also directed Alim to appear before it on that day.

The three-judge panel headed by its Chairman Justice Nizamul Huq also directed the prosecutors to submit a progress report on the investigation if it fails to submit the full-fledged investigation report by this time.

The court passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the prosecution seeking time to complete the investigation against Alim.

Prosecutor Zeed Al Malum prayed for the court directives to stop Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami from hatching conspiracy to defame the tribunal before the people.

The tribunal directed the prosecution to submit a petition along with public documents (reports published in newspapers) about the allegations.

**\$195m WB loan for ID cards**

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday signed a US \$ 195 million financing agreement with World Bank for "Identification System for Enhanced Access to Services (IDEA) Project" to develop a secure, accurate and reliable national identification (ID) system. The project will enhance the functionality of the existing national ID system through improved infrastructure, expanded data collection, and the provision of reliable, quick identity verification services to public and private entities.

**Ethiad Airways boss asked to appear before HC on Aug 17**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday again directed Country Manager of Ethiad Airways Ashraf Kabir to appear before it on August 17 in connection with the incident of harassing and torturing two Bangladesh born women at Abu Dhabi International Airport.

Ashraf Kabir yesterday appeared before the HC for explaining the incident, as per its earlier order passed on July 14.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore yesterday passed the order after rejecting a petition submitted by Ashraf Kabir praying for exemption from personal appearance.

The court said that it will wait for the investigation reports to be made by the government authorities, and will examine those before exempting the country manager of Ethiad Airways from personal appearance.

Tanzeen Bristy, one of the victims, filed the writ petition on July 12 to pass necessary orders against the Airways authorities.

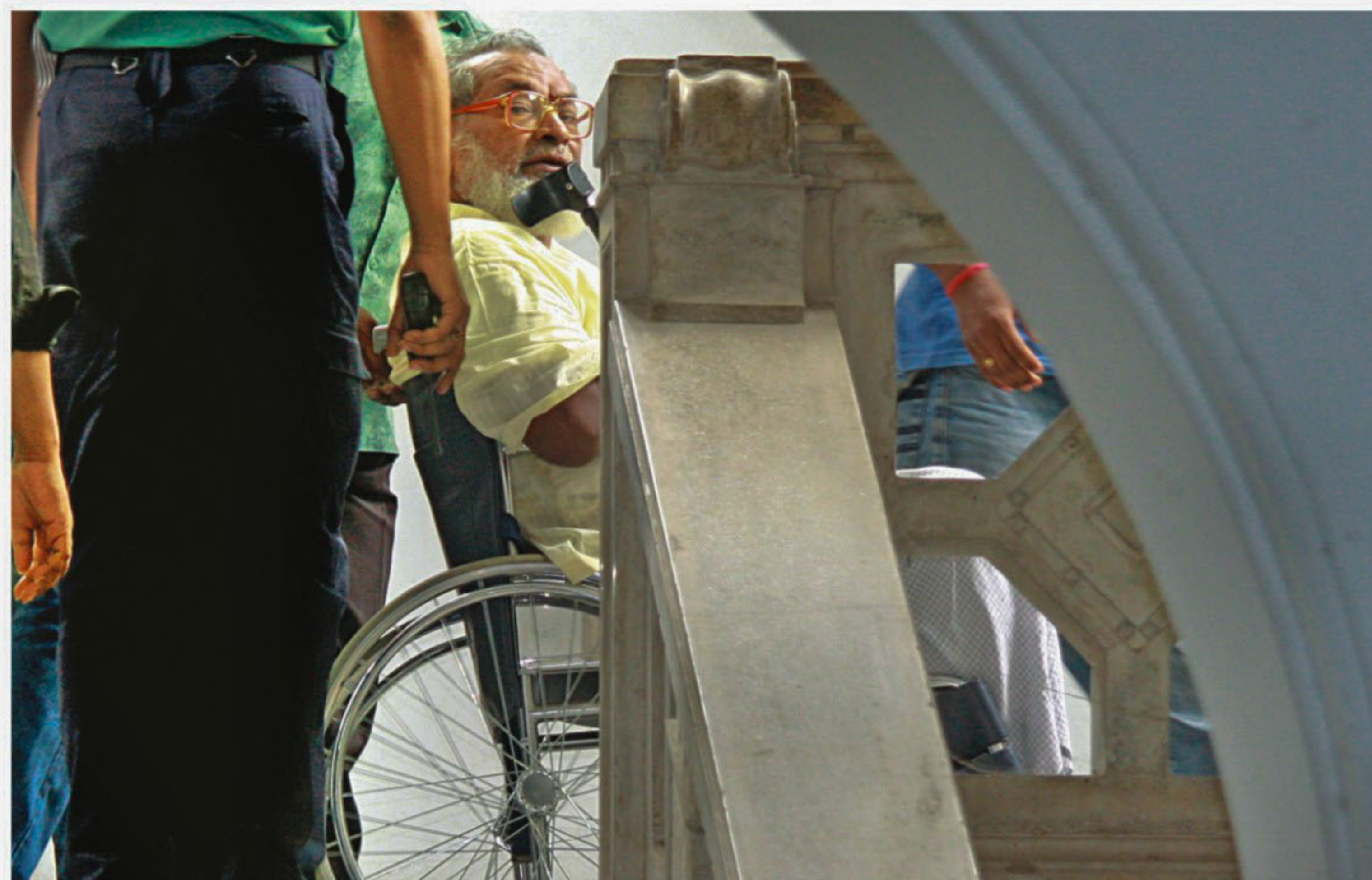
Manzill Murshid appeared for the petitioner, while Barrister Siddiqui Rahman Khan stood for Ashraf.

**Chehlum**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of poet Meherun Nahar Chowdhury will be held at Kadamtala School and College near her residence in Basabo in the city after Juma prayers today.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the chehlum and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim being produced before the International Crimes Tribunal in Old High Court Building yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**10,000 fishermen dead in two decades: Study**

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Over 10,000 fishermen are believed to have died after their fishing vessels capsized in different points in the coastal areas and in the Bay during last 20 years, says a study.

Around 3500 bodies of the victims could be recovered immediately after the accidents while the rest are thought to have floated away, it adds.

The Green Club of Bangladesh (GCB), an environment and human rights organisation, prepared the study report with information from different government and non-government organisations including the Department of Shipping (DOS), Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), and upazila offices, and talks with some victim families, said GCB General Secretary Ashis Kumar Dey.

The report obtained by The Daily Star yesterday says around 2400 large and small fishing vessels sank between January 1991 to June 2011, inflicting a loss worth Tk 480 crore.

Major reasons for the accidents include operating the vessels without proper rules, not preserving lifejacket, not listening to weather forecasts, and excessive profit earning tendency, said MMD Principal Official Capt Habibur Rahman.

According to the Merchant Shipping Ordinance (MSO) 1983, all fishing vessels must be registered with the MMD, an affiliated organisation of DOS, before starting its operation.

But the study found that at least 50,000 large and small fishing vessels are plying

fishing points in different coastal districts and in the Bay while only 1320 vessels are registered.

The MMD gave registration to some 10,000 fishing vessels but registration of over 8000 vessels were cancelled as they did not have annual fitness certificate or annual survey certificate regularly, reveals the study.

MMD's Capt Habibur told The Daily Star, "Most of the fishing vessel owners do not come to the department [MMD] for registration renewal every year. We wait few years. At one stage, registrations are cancelled automatically."

Replying to queries on how a huge number of unregistered fishing vessels are plying, DOS Director General Commodore Jobair Ahmad said his department has taken necessary measures to bring all the fishing vessels under registration.

According to Capt Rahman, there are two kinds of fishing vessels in the country -- fishing trawler and fishing boat. A vessel with a length of 24-50 metres and a 450-1800 horsepower engine is considered fishing trawlers.

The trawlers usually ply the deep-sea. On the other hand, 15-22 metres long vessels with a 20-40 horsepower engine are considered fishing boats that ply the confluences of the Bay and other coastal points.

The GCB study says about three lakh people of different coastal districts including Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Noakhali, Bhola, Barisal, Barguna, Khulna, and Patuakhali live on fishing.

**3-day DCs' confce begins July 26**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day conference of divisional and deputy commissioners will begin in the capital on July 26 to discuss a number of crucial issues like land management, prices of essentials, law and order situation and strengthening local government bodies.

The annual conference, to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, will also discuss on revenue collection, disaster management, construction and renovation of rural infrastructures, poverty alleviation, social safety net programmes, usage of modern information technology and e-governance.

"Checking environmental pollution, electricity and power management, ensuring 100 percent children enrolment, distribution of agricultural products and development activities of the government will also come in the conference," said cabinet secretary M Abdul Aziz at a news briefing at the cabinet division of the Secretariat.

A total of 20 separate sessions will be held also to discuss the affairs of 36 ministries and divisions. Concerned ministers, state ministers, advisers and secretaries of the ministries and divisions will attend the meetings. All the sessions will be held at the cabinet division.

The divisional and deputy commissioners are expected to come with various problems of their respective jurisdictions at the conference.

**Singer-Channel i new award launched**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aiming to encourage bravery among the country's people and recognise people for their heroic deeds, a new initiative -- Singer-Channel i Physical Bravery Award was launched yesterday.

Singer Bangladesh Limited and Channel i organised a press conference at a city hotel where the programme and its logo were presented.

The award will be given in five categories -- Physical Bravery (General), Physical Bravery (Police), Social Bravery, Mind of Steel and Life Time Achievement.

Acts of bravery from 2006 to 2010 by people irrespective of race, sex, religion and age could apply for all the categories except the one for police, said AM Hamim Rahmatullah, managing director of Singer Bangladesh Limited.

Neighbours, witnesses or the entrants themselves can apply for the award.

Social degradation corrodes society when people become devoid of social values and do not get proper direction, said former adviser to caretaker government Sultana Kamal.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Discussion**  
Bangabandhu Sanskritik Jote will hold a discussion. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 10:30am.

**Reception**  
Dhaka University Sociology Alumni will organise a reception. Venue: University senate building, Time: 5:00pm.

**Seminar**  
Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute will arrange a seminar. Venue: Agriculture Research Council auditorium, Time: 9:00am.

**Human chain**  
Bangladesh Jubo Union will form a human chain. Venue: BGB gate no -1, Time: 11:00am.

**Seminar**  
Green Club of Bangladesh will arrange a seminar. Venue: Mukti Bhaban, Purana Paltan, Time: 11:00am.

**Rally**  
Bangladesh Parishesh Andolon will hold a rally. Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

**Seminar**  
EastWest University will hold a seminar. Venue: University auditorium, Mohakhali, Time: 9:00am.

**Photography exhibition**  
Institute of Business Administration, Jahangirnagar University will organise

**TORTURE ON WOMAN UP chairman arrested**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A union parishad chairman of Bagerhat who was allegedly involved in torturing a housewife during village arbitration was arrested from the Supreme Court premises yesterday as per a High Court order.

Mozammel Hossain, chairman of Southkhali union in Sharankhola upazila, was nabbed after he appeared before the HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Gobinda Chandra Tagore in connection with the incident.

Firoza Begum, a housewife, was mercilessly beaten up at village arbitration in June in the presence of a large number of locals, including the chairman, on charge of having an "extramarital relationship".

After the news of the torture was reported in newspaper and television channels, the HC bench on July 14 in a suo moto order asked Mozammel and OC of Sharankhola Police Station Abdul Aziz to appear before it yesterday to explain their position over the incident.

The chairman and OC Aziz appeared before the bench yesterday morning.

After hearing their statement yesterday, the court directed the OC to arrest Mozammel immediately and file a case against him.

It also ordered the OC to produce the victim housewife before on July 25 to hear her statement.

The court asked the OC to explain why police turned down the victim from lodging a case and why they refrained from taking any action against the chairman.

In reply, Abdul Aziz said police did not find any evidence of the chairman's involvement in the torture.

Mozammel could not give any suitable answer to the HC over the incident.

After coming out from the courtroom, OC Aziz handed over Mozammel to Shahbagh Police Station in the city.

**RU MCJ dept celebration begins tomorrow**

Bss, Dhaka

Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) department of Rajshahi University (RU) will celebrate its 20th founding anniversary with a two-day gala event begins on the campus tomorrow.

MCJ department and RU Journalism Alumni Forum are jointly organising the programme.

Department Chairman Prof Moshihur Rahman said Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandoker will attend the inaugural session at RU Senate Bhaban as the chief guest.

**Govt to strengthen EC: Hasina**

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said those who want to throw away the constitution do not believe in the very existence of independent and sovereign Bangladesh.

"We have brought amendment to the constitution to prevent any bid to grab state power through unconstitutional means in future," she said when a delegation of Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad" (Professionals Coordination Council) met her at her office yesterday morning.

Convener of the Parishad and journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Member Secretary Prof Dr Qamrul Hasan Khan led the delegation.

Hasina, also Awami League president, urged the professional to play an active role to help expedite the implementation process of the programmes taken by the government in the greater national interest.

On the BNP's demand for retaining caretaker government system. She said her government will further strengthen the present election commission (EC) so that it could work independently to hold all elections in the country in a free, fair and neutral manner.

Giving a brief background of the movement for caretaker government system in 1990s, she said the then political parties reached a consensus to hold at least three general elections under the non-party neutral government.

She said, "What is the necessity of the caretaker government system now, as three elections have already been held under the caretaker governments as per charter of the then three political alliances?"

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique and Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) President Prof Dr Anwar Hossain also spoke.

**STALKING AT CTG POLYTECH Removal of hostel super demanded**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Students from Chittagong Mahila Polytechnic Institute (CMPI) yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to Jahurul Islam, hostel super and chief instructor of the institute, for his alleged stalking his students.

Over 300 female students also demanded immediate removal of Jahurul from the post of chief instructor at a protest rally after a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club.

At the rally, the students alleged that Jahurul stalks them hurling "erotic and abusive words."

They also brought out a procession from CPC premises that

paraded the important city roads. They later submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner.

They alleged that Jahurul is also involved in corruption and he used to snap close shots of them during their physical training. The instructor also threatened not to give their certificate if they demonstrate against him.

Meanwhile, acting principal of the institute Abdul Malek told The Daily Star that Jahurul, also the former acting principal of the institute, resigned from the post of hostel supper around 10:00am.

He said they are looking into other allegations against Jahurul. Word Councilors Rehana Begum Ranu, Jannatul Ferdous Popy and other rights activists also expressed solidarity at the rally.

**5 killed in Narsingdi road crash**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Five people, including four women of a family, were killed and eight others injured as a bus ramed a private car on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Basail in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Kohinoor Begum, 35, Sijala Akter, 23, Yasmin Begum, 25, the car driver Zahir Miah, 27, and another remained unidentified.

**FM leaves for Bali**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni leaves here for Bali, Indonesia early today to attend the two-day 18th Asean Regional Forum (ARF) ministerial meeting.

The meeting will discuss on how to address traditional and non-traditional security concerns in the Asia Pacific region, and develop cooperative measures to maintain peace and security in the region.

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