

TWO HIZB UT MEN Hearing on remand prayer not held

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Hearing on a five-day remand prayer to interrogate the son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's press secretary and another youth was not held as police could not produce any progress report of investigation before it yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shahadat Hossain fixed December 12 for hearing on the remand prayer and asked Sub-Inspector Mohammad Shihabuddin, also the investigation officer of the case, to produce all relevant documents on that day.

Police arrested Rishad Kamal Khan, son of Khaleda Zia's Press Secretary Maruf Kamal Khan Sohel and one Faisal Ahmed, from the city's Mohammadpur area on December 5 on charges of their involvement with banned outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir.

Ex-cop held for making fake BRTA documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion personnel arrested two people, including an ex-policeman, on Tuesday night from the city's Mirpur area for making and selling fake Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority documents.

Rab also recovered 32 fake car licenses, blank registration forms and fitness certificates from their possession.

One of the two men had been arrested once before for his involvement in the illegal trade, Rab officials said.

Ex-police constable Mohammad Rafiq Miah, 55, was fired from his job in 2008 for making fake BRTA documents while posted at the Traffic department of Chuadanga police.

\$1.35m Swiss grant for disaster recovery strategy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Switzerland will provide US \$1.35 million to develop a comprehensive disaster recovery strategy for Bangladesh.

This contribution is meant to support the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) led "Early Recovery Facility (ERF)" project, said a press release of the Swiss Embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

UNDP will implement the project in partnership with the food and disaster management ministry, local and international NGOs, private sectors and financial institutions.

The project intends to put in place an effective, comprehensive and evidence-based nationwide early recovery coordination mechanism complemented by major humanitarian agencies like the UN, developing partners and NGOs.

DHAKA TODAY

Symposium

National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled will hold a symposium. Venue: 63, New Eskaton, Biman Foundation, Time: 4:00pm.

Day

Saarc Charter Day will be observed. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 8:00am.

Musical programme

British Council and University Grants Commission will jointly organise a musical programme. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Time: 7:00pm.

Seminar

UNDP Bangladesh and Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives will jointly hold a seminar. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 10:00am.

Rally

Nonantik Bam Morcha will organise a rally. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 3:30pm.

Cultural Programme

Transparency International Bangladesh will hold a cultural programme.



This bus plying on Dhaka-Madaripur route miraculously managed to come to a stop right on the edge of an extended part of Buriganga Bridge-1 after ramming and dislodging a portion of the bridge railing yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Remembering Bangladesh's friends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When looting, arson, massacre and brutal persecution aimed at erasing the existence of Bangladesh, the then East Pakistan, was encircling Bangalees, a ray of hope and support shone bright from a neighbour.

This ray was a series of collective acts of humanity from thousands of individual Indians, glowing proof that the saying "A friend in need is a friend indeed" is a reality.

These acts were reflected in a documentary, "Dushshomoyer Bondhu" (a friend in troubled times), produced by journalist Shahriar Kabir.

The documentary was screened in the city's WVA auditorium on Tuesday (December 6). Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the screening to commemorate the date, when India became the first country to recog-

nise Bangladesh in 1971.

The 1.5-hour documentary was shot in Tripura, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Delhi and Maharashtra.

It contains interviews of high officials, social workers, journalists and cultural activists from India who served Bangladeshi survivors lucky to escape through the borders opened by India after the crackdown on March 25, 1971.

These Indians helped in the refugee camps, trained the Bangladeshi freedom fighters and provided moral support at a crucial time when an estimated 30 lakh Bangladeshis were brutally murdered and around two lakh women were violated.

"Deep in the night of April 16, 1971 in Kolkata, the government in exile was finalised. Suddenly we discovered that there was no flag," said Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal AK Khandker at a discussion after the screening.

"Someone spoke of a tailor near the Bangladesh high commission in Kolkata. We went there and awakened the poor tailor. He agreed to make the flag and spent the whole night doing so.

"When we asked how much he charged, the tailor said, 'Sir, please forgive me. I cannot take any money,'" said Khandker, the then deputy chief of staff of the Bangladesh forces.

The documentary narrates the views of the widow of an Indian soldier named Albert Ekka, who was killed while fighting the Pakistani army to save a freedom fighters' camp at Gangasagar in Brahmanbaria.

Now a resident of Ranchi in Jharkhand, India, the widow Balandina was asked how she took her husband's death. "It was very painful, but I forgot the pain as he wanted to save the lives of his co-

fighters," she said.

Around 17,000 Indian soldiers were killed during the War of Liberation.

Rabin Sengupta, a photojournalist from Tripura, narrates how he rushed to Akhaura only to find the bodies of women, young and old, stripped of their clothes, some dead while others lay injured.

"How could I take their photos? They were my mothers and sisters. I could not do it," says Rabin in the documentary as he went on crying.

Well-known Indian film star Waheeda Rehman mobilised the showbiz community there to generate funds.

The Urdu-speaking Waheeda, in the documentary, says, "I went ahead to help because it is humanity that stands high, not language, culture or boundary."

Indian military expert K Subramaniam said, "Indira Gandhi's government imposed a

SABBIR MURDER CASE

Judgment on December 15

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgment in the Humayun Kabir Sabbir murder case against Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir, son of Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam, and four others will be delivered on December 15.

The four others are Nure Alam and Humayun Kabir, security guards at Sabbir's house, Sanvir's bodyguard Khairul Hassan Ujjal and Shamsuddin Ahmed, a director of Bashundhara Housing Estate.

Of them, Sanvir, Nure Alam and Humayun Kabir are still at large while Ujjal and Shamsuddin Ahmed are now on bail.

The same court on January 9 this year issued warrants of arrest against Sanvir, Nure Alam and Humayun Kabir.

After completion of arguments from both the prosecution and the defence yesterday, Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 set the date for delivery of the judgment in the case.

Meanwhile, the judge cancelled the bail of Ujjal and Shamsuddin Ahmed and ordered that they be sent to jail.

Sabbir, a director of Bashundhara Telecommunications Network Ltd, was brutally killed on July 5, 2006 and his body was found outside a building in the Bashundhara Residential Area in the city.

Shah Alam gave Tk 21 crore as bribe to former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar to save his son from the murder charge. The bribery came to light after the CID started investigations into the murder.

Sanvir is also the accused in several other cases, including one filed for giving the bribe.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AJM Abdul Halim Mollah, father of Junayed Ahmad Halim, chairman of mass communication and journalism department of Jagannath University, passed away yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 83, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, eight sons, four daughters, a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first death anniversary of Rashed Mashru Khan, a social worker and a businessman, was observed on Tuesday, December 7, says a press release.

Son of Arshaduzzaman Khan, Rashed was the former director of Bengal Fine Ceramics, a member of Dhaka Club and a former member of Lions' Club.

He is the younger brother of Rashed Moudud Khan, former president of Bangladesh Ceramics Industries Association; and Rashed Maksud Khan, former president of Dhaka Chambers of Commerce and managing director of Bengal Fine Ceramics.

AFM Khalilur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Prof AFM Khalilur Rahman, founder chairman of Bangla department of Government Sadat University College, says a press release.

Khalilur was former president of Principal Ibrahim Khan Smriti Sangha in Dhaka, president of Bangladesh College Shikkha Samiti and member of trustee board of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University.

On the occasion, Principal Ibrahim Khan Smriti Sangha and his family members requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Hafeza Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the third death anniversary of Hafeza Khatun, mother of Sadiqul Haque Bhuyan, a retired deputy secretary, says a press release.

On the occasion, food will be distributed among the destitute at Naljani village of Gazipur Sadar.

Road accidents kill 15, injure 28

METRO DESK

Fifteen people were killed and 28 others injured in separate road accidents in Rangpur, Dinajpur, Chapainawabganj, Pabna, Narail, Khagrachhari, Bogra, Chuadanga and Barisal in last three days.

A correspondent from Rangpur reports: At least six people were killed and 25 others injured when a bus plunged into a roadside pond on the Rangpur-Badarganj road in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Five of the deceased were identified as Asad Ali, 55, Rezaul Karim, 55, and Kafil Uddin, 55, Sadeque Ali, 60, and Akil Uddin, 60.

Police said the Muslim devotees of Tablig Jamat hired the bus to return home after attending the Akheri Munajat of the Bishwa Ijtema, held on the east bank of the Turagin the capital on Tuesday.

The accident occurred when the driver of the Badarganj-bound bus lost control over the steering and fell into the roadside pond while giving way to a microbus coming from the opposite direction in Nazirhat area, police added.

The bodies were handed over to the victims' family members without autopsy following their request, police said.

Our Dinajpur correspondent says: At least two people were killed in separate road accidents here yesterday.

The deceased were Md Nasir Uddin,

wheels of a bus while he was crossing the road in Uttar Mohalchhara area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased Kachak Tripura, 30, a human-hauler driver, of the area.

UNB says: Three people were killed in separate road accidents in Bogra and Chuadanga on Tuesday night.

In Bogra, two students were killed and another was injured when a speedy truck hit their motorcycle on the Bogra-Naogaon highway at Saharpukur in Dhupchachia upazila.

The deceased were Toni, 20, son of Mahbubul Alam, of Post Office Para and Abdullah Al Farabi Piash, 20, son of Abdul Jalil, of Judge Court area of the town. They were students of Naogaon Degree College.

In Chuadanga, a motorbike rider was killed when his motorbike collided head-on with a tractor coming from opposite direction on the Chuadanga-Meherpur highway near Alokdia Bus Stand crossing.

The deceased was Nasim Iqbal Khan Tutul, son of late Tofazzul Hossain, of Post Office Para in the Meherpur district town.

In Barisal: A rental motorcycle driver was killed on the spot and his passenger injured when a bus hit their motorcycle on the Charkawa-Tumchar road at Chandramohon in Sadar upazila on Monday.

The deceased was bike driver Jasim Akon, 28.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Legal experts brush aside BNP's demand

BSS, Dhaka

Leading legal experts have brushed aside the main opposition BNP's demand for closing the proceedings of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), saying that without pinpointing a reason in its support, raising such a demand is politically motivated.

"It is merely a demand with a political motive," Dr Shahdeen Malik said adding that without giving any explanation from a legal point of view, a demand for stopping trial of all war criminals is political.

"Moudud didn't specify when, where, how and which clause of the ICT Act conflicts with the constitution and international law," he noted.

AFM Mabsahuddin Ahmed, ex-president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, termed Moudud's demand unreasonable, unconstitutional and politically motivated.

Referring to the chairman of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, Dr Mizanur Rahman, Mabsahuddin said the ICT fulfils all international requirements.

"In case of such crimes, other countries usually do not have any appeal provision, but in the ICT Act there is a provision to challenge the verdict of the ICT in the Appellate Division," he added.

Former law minister and Supreme Court lawyer Abdul Matin Khsru said in different countries there is a lot of evidence for holding such trials even after a decade.

He said Moudud raised this demand to appease a certain quarter and protect their interest. The accused are getting all legal facilities, he added.

German envoy supports LDCs on climate issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The German ambassador to Bangladesh yesterday supported the demand of vulnerable and least developed countries for a legally binding agreement on climate change, terming it the only way to cap global warming at two degree Celsius.

"We all need the present climate change negotiations in Durban to come up with tangible results," said German Ambassador Holger Michael in a statement.

Rising sea levels are already threaten-

Ensure quality higher edn Speakers say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a policy dialogue yesterday stressed the need for building bridge between universities and communities to ensure quality at tertiary level education and build up a knowledge-based society.

They said effective partnership between academia and communities can be an innovative solution to face the global challenges.

They made the observations at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day regional policy dialogue on "Building the bridges between universities and communities" organised jointly by British Council and University Grants Commission (UGC) at a city hotel.

High profile delegates from Afghanistan, China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and UK and

academics from Bangladesh are taking part in the dialogue.

The dialogue will be followed by a one-day Bangladesh Policy Dialogue on Friday to come up with an action and implementation plan.