

JOURNALIST COUPLE MURDER AG's office gets probe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The attorney general's (AG) office yesterday received a progress report from the office of the inspector general of police on the investigation into the journalist couple murder case.

Sagar Sarowar, news editor at Maasranga TV, and his wife Meherun Runi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were found dead at their West Rajabazar residence in the capital on February 11.

The High Court on March 20 directed the government authorities concerned to submit by yesterday progress reports on their investigation into the killing of the journalist couple.

On Wednesday, the Detective Branch of police gave a progress report on its investigation to the AG office for submission to the HC.

The two reports will be placed before the HC on April 8 when the court resumes after its summer vacation starting from today, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Altaf Hossain told The Daily Star.

Asked about the contents of the investigation reports, he said, "I have no jurisdiction to open the sealed reports before it is placed in the High Court".

The HC bench of Justice ASM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim was scheduled to pass an order on this issue, but the latter was on leave yesterday.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates and inspects a military exhibition at the national parade square in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Shamsun Nahar Khan, wife of

renowned chartered accountant Ata Uddin Khan.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Dohar-Nawabganj College premises and destitute feeding programme at Nawabganj Etimkhana and Madrasa, said a press release.

Anwara Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Anwara Rahman, wife of

Mizanur Rahman Bachchu, Narayanganj district Awami League leader and also a freedom fighter.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at their Araihasar village home as well as Khanpur town residence after Juma prayers, said a press release.

Supporting Pakistan cannot be an offence: Mojaheed's counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just because Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed worked for an undivided Pakistan in 1971, it does not mean he committed crimes against humanity, said his counsel Tajul Islam before the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday.

"I admit that he [Mojaheed] was a leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha [the student wing of Jamaat in 1971]. They [Mojaheed and his associates] had addressed the people at different rallies to uphold the sovereignty of the country [Pakistan] and to save the country from Indian aggression," Tajul claimed.

"They had taken a side to uphold the country's sovereignty but it does not mean that they had committed crimes against humanity," he said, adding, "Supporting an undivided Pakistan cannot be an offence unless crimes were committed on his direct orders."

Tajul was placing his arguments during the charge framing against the Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general in the case filed in connection with his involvement in crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971. Mojaheed, a former minister of the BNP led four-party alliance government, was produced before the court yesterday. He is facing 32 charges.

The tribunal headed by Justice Md Nizamul Huq recorded the argument of the defence counsels and adjourned the hearing until March 28 following an adjournment petition filed by the defence.

The prosecution finished reading out the 109 pages of formal charges and placing its arguments in support of the charges on March 20. The tribunal had fixed yesterday for placing defence lawyers' arguments.

After hearing the defence arguments, the tribunal will decide whether to frame charges against the Jamaat leader.

Mojaheed, the then secretary of East Pakistan Islami Chhatra Sangha, through speeches delivered in Rangpur, Bogra, Comilla and Faridpur provoked and instigated the then Pakistani occupation force and its collaborators--the Razakar, Al Badr, Al Shams and other organisations--in killing pro-liberation people, according to the prosecution.

He later went on to become president of Islami Chhatra Sangha.

The prosecution also charged Mojaheed with the murders of Rumi, son of author Jahanara Imam, and journalist Shahid Sirajuddin Hossain, who were killed during the Liberation War.

Mojaheed is among six Jamaat and two BNP leaders facing charges of crimes against humanity at the tribu-

nal.

Yesterday, Munshi Ahsan Kabir, a defence counsel of Mojaheed, began the argument regarding the charges. He said the prosecution tried to establish that Mojaheed was second-in-command of Al Badr but actually it was the Pakistan army that controlled Al Badr.

Tajul Islam later took over the defence's argument.

He said the people who had been campaigning for the setting up of the tribunal believed that the Jamaat-e-Islami was an anti-liberation force consisting of war criminals; and they believed that this political party needed to be uprooted.

The defence counsel said there was a historic explanation behind Jamaat's stance during the Liberation War of 1971. He then argued that Mojaheed did not commit any crimes just by working for an undivided Pakistan during the war.

Tribunal Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq then told the counsel that the court would frame charges after getting the "prima facie" (primary proof of offence) of the crimes against the Jamaat leader.

The prosecution noted Mojaheed's superior position as he was the leader of an organisation that allegedly committed war crimes, argued Tajul Islam. He asked why the prime minister was not being accused of the crimes com-

mitted in the country as she was the "chief executive".

The counsel then told the tribunal that it was an "independent" court and appealed for holding the trial following "internationally recognised jurisprudence" and "being free from emotions", and not considering the accused as "Jamaat leaders".

Tajul said there was a government as well as the Pakistani army but they were not brought in for trial; instead some student leaders of that time have been brought before the court because they are now a vital element in the country's politics. The Jamaat leaders are facing trial because of a political conflict with the people behind the tribunal, the counsel added.

He said Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee wanted to root out Jamaat-e-Islami. "Who gave them the power to root out [the Jamaat]?"

Justice Nizamul Huq responded by saying, "It is called Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, not Jamaat Nirmul Committee."

The defence had earlier appealed for adjourning yesterday's proceedings, saying that it would file a discharge petition, which was yet to be prepared.

The tribunal then asked the defence to begin their arguments. The court will consider the adjournment prayer later in the proceedings.

Mechanisms in place to address illegal migration: India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India and Bangladesh have put in place mechanisms, including a coordinated border management plan, to address the issue of illegal migration and enhance cooperation between border guarding forces, Indian government told the Rajya Sabha yesterday.

In a written reply, External Affairs Minister SM Krishna said the issue of illegal migration is regularly discussed at relevant bilateral meetings, including Joint Working Group on Security, Director General and Home Secretary level talks and Home Ministry level consultations.

"India and Bangladesh have put in place mechanisms, including a coordinated border management plan, to address the issues arising from illegal border crossings and incidents on the border and to enhance cooperation between the border guarding forces of the two countries," he said.

On measures to prevent cross-border activities, Krishna said the two sides were cooperating in identifying vulnerable patches along the border and taking appropriate steps to prevent illegal activities, including illegal movement.

On deportation of illegal migrants, Krishna said, "Any Bangladesh national apprehended for illegal stay in India is deported back to Bangladesh after observing due procedure as per existing laws."

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Sammita Peshajibi Forum will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:30pm.

Drawing competition
Jatir Janak Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Smriti Jadugarh will organise a drawing competition; Venue: the Jadugarh's lake premises; Time: 10:00am.

Rally
Bangladesh Trade Union Federation will organise a workers' rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Prakton Chhatra League Foundation will arrange a discussion; Venue:

WORKING CHILDREN, TEENAGERS 12,500 to get decent jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Union and Save the Children Bangladesh jointly launched a three-year project yesterday, aiming to improve the lives of the country's working children and teenagers.

The programme will rehabilitate some 12,500 vulnerable children and teenagers aged 5 to 18, who live in Dhaka city, to decent jobs from hazardous works.

Among them 1,500 children and teenagers aged 14 to 18 will receive training, which would be tailored to their needs and satisfy the job

market.

There are around 74 lakh working children in the ages between 5 and 17 years in Bangladesh and nearly 13 lakh children work under hazardous conditions.

The project, "Partnerships to Combat Child Labour through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Bangladesh", will cost Tk 12.5 crore. The EU will finance 80 percent of the cost.

Two local partner NGOs--Society for Underprivileged Families (SUF) and Community Participation and Development (CPD)--are implementing the project with Save the Children.

3 Rangpur brick kilns demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday demolished three brick kilns in Pirganj of Rangpur as they were operating illegally and destroying farmland and the environment.

The brick kilns--Messrs Rahman Brothers, Messrs NTB Bricks and Messrs FRB Bricks--together had around 15 lakh raw bricks.

Earlier, Messrs Rahman Brothers had been fined Tk 7 lakh and asked to remove the brick kiln by March 19. The DoE demolished it yesterday for not complying with its direction.

The DoE summoned the owners of the two other brick kilns to its headquarters in Dhaka on March 28.

Know Bangladesh Better

Tomorrow's Star Insight brings three heroes of Bangladesh to the limelight. Find out about how one of them got people excited about the Language Movement, and about how another one, a Freedom Fighter, drew maps showing movement of the occupation forces to form battle plans. A very eventful Celebrating Life Festival in Khulna with a film screening and a musical concert is also featured in tomorrow's issue. Don't miss it!

Send your comments & contribution to

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25 March 19
The Blackest of Night

Pepsodent

WIN A LAPTOP EVERYDAY

Pepsodent GERMICHECK PLUS

As one of the most popular oral care brand all over the world, Pepsodent has been operating as the oral care expert in Bangladesh. With the ability to remove 95% germs in just two minutes, the toothpaste brand is recognized by FDI World Dental Federation and the only oral care brand recommended by Bangladesh Dental Society (BDS).

This January 10th, 2012, Pepsodent launched its nationwide campaign "Pepsodent - Win a laptop everyday". In order to participate in this campaign, consumers have to buy a 200 gram pack of Pepsodent Germicheck Plus Magnets and SMS the 7 digit unique code on the back of the pack as per the given instructions. Participants will get a question in return and by answering the question correctly, one lucky winner everyday will get an acer laptop.

Mr. Golam Sarwar
Service Holder (Khulna)
Received by his son
The laptop will allow me to work more efficiently and my children can play games on it too. My family and I use Pepsodent regularly.

Ms. Mukti
Student (Faridpur)
The laptop will be a big help for my studies. Lots of love for Pepsodent.

Ms. Afia
Student (Mymensingh)
Really happy. I can use the laptop for my studies. Pepsodent is my friend every day.

Mr. Ahsan Habib
Student (Dinajpur)
I am really happy. I can now use the laptop for my education. Pepsodent is my friend for everyday.

This campaign has become very popular among consumers in a short time. The winner's name is announced on "Pepsodent Night Brushing Hour" every Saturday to Wednesday from 10pm to 11pm on **www.pepsodent.com**. Already 52 winners have been awarded their laptops. On 8th and 17th March 2012, the 5th and the 6th laptop handover ceremonies were held at Shopno Super Shop (Green Road Branch, Dhaka) and the Unilever Pavillion at the Chittagong International Trade Fair (Chittagong) respectively.

This is how some of the winners expressed their feelings upon winning the laptop:

Ms. Nazrana
Student (Sylhet)
The laptop will be immensely helpful for my education.

Advocate Syed Muktar Ahmed
Advocate (Chittagong)
Feeling good. I use Pepsodent everyday. The laptop is a great addition to my work.

Mr. Md Abul Bashar
Student (Sylhet)
I am extremely thrilled that I got the laptop. I use Pepsodent regularly and never forget to tune in to the 'Pepsodent Night Brushing Hour' on Radio Today.

Mrs. Abira Hossain
Service Holder (Chittagong)
Received by her husband
I have always wanted a laptop and now I finally have one. Thank you Pepsodent. The laptop is helping me out a lot with my work.

30 more days to go, 30 more laptops to win

The "Pepsodent Win a Laptop Everyday" campaign, which started on Jan 10, 2012, has already announced names of 70 winners. 52 of them have already received their laptops. The laptops are from world renowned brand acer.

On the bright side, 30 laptops are still to be won. So consumers still have a huge opportunity to win laptops for themselves.

Pepsodent Laptop Offer on Facebook: For more details on this offer, log on to Facebook: www.facebook.com/PepsodentLaptopOffer. There are more than 3,500 fans on the facebook page already. Name of the daily winners, details of the offer, how to participate and other relevant details can be accessed by any facebook user on this page.