

DEATH OF BIBHAS  
Journos for  
resignation  
of shipping  
minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting the death of Bibhas Chandra Saha, journalists staged a demonstration before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday halting traffic movement on the road for more than one hour.

They also burnt effigy of Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan demanding his resignation for "defending drivers."

Bibhas, 46, chief crime reporter of The Independent, was killed when a bus crashed his motorcycle in Dhanmondi area on Friday.

Journalists from different media houses under the banner of Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh (CRAB) brought out a procession from its Segunbagicha office yesterday.

After the procession that paraded different areas of Segunbagicha and Paltan, the protestors held a rally in front of the press club around 12:00pm suspending traffic movement on the road.

The journalists said they would stage a demonstration in front of secretariat if the shipping minister and the officer-in-charge (OC) of Dhanmondi Police Station are not removed by Tuesday morning.

O C M o h a m m a d Moniruzzaman charged batons on the journalists on Friday when they were demonstrating at the accident spot.

C R A B P r e s i d e n t Akhtaruzzaman Lablu and Secretary Israf Hossain spoke at the rally.

Earlier, Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) held a meeting at its auditorium commemorating its member Bibhas.

DRU and CRAB leaders demanded exemplary punishment to the driver of the killer bus and compensation to the family of Bibhas Saha.

They also demanded naming the road, on which Bibhas was killed, after Bibhas Das.



Ambassador of Myanmar in Bangladesh U Min Lwin pays a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

# PM wants vibrant ties with Myanmar

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government was keen to build vibrant relations with neighbouring Myanmar in the backdrop of its changing political situation.

She said Dhaka greatly gave value the importance of strengthening relations with Yangon as the country was the first stepping stone for Bangladesh to build bridge with South East Asia.

Hasina said this when outgoing Ambassador of Myanmar in Bangladesh U Min Lwin paid a farewell call on her at Gono Bhaban in the capital.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said Hasina congratulated the envoy for his valuable contribution during his stay in Dhaka to improving the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Expressing satisfaction over the settlement of long-standing demarcation of the maritime boundary issue, the premier said Bangladesh was willing to forge stronger relations with Myanmar for greater interests and welfare of the people of two countries.

She referred to the excellent historic

relation, bondage, cultural traditions and people-to-people interactions and common aspirations saying direct road and rail connectivity would give a tremendous boost to trade opportunities between the two countries, Azad said.

Stressing the need for putting in place a multi-modal regional connectivity, Hasina said easy communication would facilitate boosting regional trade and strengthening cooperation in other areas of economy to alleviate poverty from South Asia.

Expressing happiness on recent revision of Air Service Agreement and inclusion of private sector airlines between Bangladesh and Myanmar, she hoped that direct flight between Dhaka/Chittagong and Yangon would resume soon.

She appreciated the assurance of Myanmar president to resume repatriation of his country's Rohingya refugees living in two camps in Bangladesh for the last two decades and called for expeditious action in this regard.

Hasina also expressed her government's interest to enhance cooperation with Myanmar in energy sector

saying Bangladesh was keen to import surplus hydro-electric power from Rakhine and Chin states of Myanmar at mutually convenient rate.

She urged the Myanmar government to remove policy barriers to import more Bangladeshi pharmaceuticals and consider importing Bangladeshi products including RMG, electronic equipment, jute and jute products and leather goods.

Hasina renewed her invitation to Myanmar President Thein Sein and Madam Khin Khin Win to visit Bangladesh and hoped that the visit would take place shortly at a mutually convenient time.

The envoy praised the role and dynamic leadership of Hasina for overall development of Bangladesh and regional cooperation.

Ambassador at-Large M Ziauddin, PM's Special Assistant Abdus Sobhan Golap and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present on the occasion.

U Min Lwin has been assigned as Ambassador and Permanent representative of Myanmar to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

# Quota for Dalit children in education demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dalit community leaders yesterday urged the government to introduce specific quotas in education for their children and ensure their job security to end discrimination.

The leaders made the demand at a dialogue on incorporating Dalit children into the mainstream education held at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Pointing out the lack of primary and tertiary education of Dalit community people, speakers urged the government to fix quotas for their children so that they can complete education.

Quoting a study of International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) on Dalit people, an Oxfam representative said only 30.4 per cent of the Dalit children receive primary education worldwide.

But Dalit community leaders claim that only five to twelve per cent of the children from Dalit community receive primary education in Bangladesh.

After getting job, Dalit people eventually

face difficulties at their workplace due to their Dalit identity, they said.

Bangladesh Dalit Nari Andolon, Bangladesh Dalit Rishi Panchayet Forum and Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad jointly organised the event in association with Self Help Association for Rural People through Education and Entrepreneurship (Sharee) and Oxfam.

Member of the parliamentary standing committee on the education ministry Prof Shah Alam said, "I am totally unaware about 70 lakh Dalit people living in the country who are facing sheer discrimination."

When a Dalit community person at the dialogue claimed that admission of a child from a Dalit community is cancelled at a primary school and the child is engaged to clean the school lavatory after his/her Dalit identity is made public, the lawmaker said he could not imagine such type of discrimination.

Dhaka University teacher Ajay Roy said, "People need to change the way they think [about the Dalit people]."



Non-government primary school teachers stage a demonstration at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs. Bangladesh Beshkari Prathomik Shikkhak Oikya Parishad organised the event.

PHOTO: STAR

# QUICK PURCHASE OF ESSENTIALS TCB exempted from PPA for three years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) is exempted from the obligations of Public Procurement Act for three years so that the state agency can buy essential commodities quickly from local and global markets to keep their prices stable.

The cabinet committee on economic affairs, at a meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair yesterday, approved the proposal, sent by the commerce ministry.

A TCB official said they could not import the commodities, purchased under the act in the past, on time. The tenure of the present

waiver for TCB expires on May 25.

A commerce ministry official said TCB took initiatives to procure edible oil, sugar, lentil, gram, onion, milk powder and dates on an emergency basis to keep market prices stable during Ramadan, starting in July.

The commerce ministry, in its proposal, said TCB, in the current fiscal year, will purchase 75,000 metric tonnes (MT) of sugar, 50,000 MT of refined and 5,000 MT of crude soybean oil, 5,000 MT of lentil and 2,000 MT of gram.

Letters of credit (L/Cs) were already opened to import some of the commodities while some items have already arrived, said the official.



Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh (CRAB) brings out a procession in Jatiya Press Club area yesterday, demanding the driver of the bus, which killed their colleague Bibhas Chandra Saha, a reporter of The Independent newspaper, be brought to trial.

PHOTO: STAR

# DISCHARGE PETITION

# Qaoder Mollah counsels end argument

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence counsels yesterday completed their arguments on the petition seeking discharge of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Qaoder Mollah from the charges of crimes against humanity he is facing at International Crimes Tribunal-2.

After the lunch break, Abdur Razzaq, chief of defence counsels, resumed his arguments for the second day on the discharge petition.

Referring to the first count, Razzaq said there was no witness in support of the charge, which had been brought on the basis of a newspaper report, and the newspaper made the report quoting a 2007 book edited by Shahriar Kabir.

After being "wiser" by the repeated questions of the Tribunal-1, the prosecution submitted a petition, seeking two additional witnesses to support the charge, the defence counsel said, quoting some news reports about the March 14 proceeding of Tribunal-1.

As there is no witness, the charge could not be framed, Razzaq said and appealed to the tribunal for not

accepting the petition.

He placed his arguments on all seven charges brought against the Jamaat assistant secretary general and sought discharge of his client from the charges.

The three-member Tribunal-2, headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, fixed May 16 for recording the prosecution's reply in this regard.

Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam are two other members of the tribunal.

The chief defence counsel also placed his arguments against the prosecution's petition, which sought permission to make some correction, addition and omission of the formal charges.

Qaoder Mollah was not produced yesterday as per the tribunal's earlier direction.

**BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim**  
The defence counsels of former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim placed their arguments for second subsequent day yesterday, supporting their discharge petition, which was filed in response to the prosecution's prayer

to indict the former minister.

As yesterday's proceeding began at 10:40am, Tajul Islam, one of the defence counsels of Alim, resumed his arguments referring to a website.

Prosecution documents show the website calls Abdul Alim a Razakar.

Tajul Islam said the website was built on March 23, 2009 in the USA, and it is not "dependable" and "authentic", as it is an individual's website. So it could not be used as a document, he said.

The defence counsel then went through the counts of crimes brought against the former minister and placed his arguments.

Tajul referred to the first count where the prosecution said Alim along with the Pakistani army and other auxiliary forces looted the house of a local Awami League leader in Joypurhat and then torched it on April 20, while the formal charges said the Pakistan Army came to Joypurhat on April 21.

"So how it was possible to commit such crimes on April 20", he asked. "The prosecution brings the allegation as it, by some way, wants to

implicate me [Alim]".

Tajul yesterday completed his arguments on 13 out of 28 incidents of crimes allegedly committed by the lawmaker, who had been elected three times.

The tribunal adjourned the case proceeding till today.

Alim, who is facing 74 charges of crimes against humanity, was present in court yesterday.

**Jamaat leader Sayedee**  
Meanwhile, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 recorded the cross-examination of Investigation Officer Mohammad Helal Uddin, the 28th and last prosecution witness against Jamaat-e-Islami Delawar Hossain Sayedee, for the eighth day yesterday. His cross-examination will resume today.

The Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer was produced before the court. He is facing 20 specific charges of crimes against humanity that he allegedly committed during the Liberation War of 1971.

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We should help our parents around the house everyday.

Then our family will be happier and easier to take care of.

পরিবারের সদস্য হিসেবে আমাদের প্রত্যেকেরই রয়েছে কিছু দায়িত্ব। তাই আসুন, আন্তর্জাতিক পারিবারিক দিবসের এই দিনটিতে আনান ও জেরিনের মতো আমরাও পরিবারের একে অন্যকে সহযোগিতা করি। প্রতিটি পরিবারের জন্য আমাদের শুভকামনা।

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