

Sufia Kamal's role recalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at different programmes recalled the role of Sufia Kamal in various rights movements and paid tributes to the poet on her 101st birth anniversary yesterday.

Sufia Kamal played significant roles in all pre- and post-independence movements to establish equal rights of people, said National Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam, who was conferred "Kobi Sufia Kamal Shammomona Padak 2012" at a function at the capital's BIAM Foundation.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organised the programme.

At another function of Bangladesh Narimukti Andolon, lawmaker Tarana Halim talked of Sufia Kamal's dream of women's freedom and their participation in all sections of the society.

Jatiya Gonotantrik League organised a discussion on the occasion.

Sufia Kamal passed away on November 20, 1999.

MANIK'S REMARKS

Speaker's ruling historic

Says Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former railways minister Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said the crisis between a bench of judiciary and the legislature had been over with the historic ruling of the Speaker.

"With the ruling, all questions raised have been settled," he said. "Now the ball is with the chief justice."

On Monday, Speaker Abdul Hamid ruled that High Court Judge AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik had violated the constitution by making derogatory remarks about parliament and the Speaker.

He, however, urged lawmakers to withdraw their proposal about removal of Justice Manik.

Suranjit was addressing a commemorating meeting on language heroes Bahauddin Chowdhury and Gaziul Haque, organised by BangabandhuAcademy.

The child was encouraged to mock a policeman like this by the mindless violence that was unleashed yesterday in Chittagong by readymade garment workers following the death of one of their colleagues in a road accident. Inset, one of the violence mongers about to throw a brick at a policeman from a close range. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Indo-Bangla home ministers to meet yearly

UNB, Dhaka

India and Bangladesh have decided to institutionalise a yearly meeting of home ministers to have a direct "political supervision" of bilateral issues concerning home affairs and economic matters, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Tariq Karim said during his recent visit to Shillong.

He said they would meet annually or more often "so that there is political supervision of what is happening and what should not happen."

The decision for the institutionalised meeting assumes significance in light of the efforts of the prime ministers of the two countries to improve the bilateral ties they share as neighbours, said a report of Times of India.

The home ministers of Bangladesh and India have not met in the past 40 years.

Sayedee's family wants his treatment abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of war crimes accused Delawar Hossain Sayedee yesterday urged the government to allow them to take Sayedee abroad for better treatment.

Addressing a press conference at National Press Club his son Masud Bin Sayedee said, "Doctors recommended sending him abroad for better treatment."

He said if Sayedee is freed on parole, they will return home on time after the treatment, and their family will bear the medical expenses.

"If he is not sent abroad, and if that decision causes any harm to him, the government has to take the responsibility," he added.

The Jamaat-e-Islami leader was admitted to Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital on June 14 after being sick in prison. He was shifted to National Heart Foundation in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

Stop pushing back Rohingyas

Urges HRW

STAR REPORT

New York based Human Rights Watch (HRW) urged Bangladesh to stop forcibly pushing back Rohingyas fleeing sectarian violence in Myanmar.

It also urged the government to provide Rohingyas with humanitarian assistance and grant them temporary refuge until it is safe for them to return.

A press release of HRW published on its website yesterday said at least 18 Rohingya asylum seekers, including three young children, are in immediate danger of being returned to Myanmar on World Refugee Day, June 20.

"Bangladesh is putting the lives of those fleeing violence - including young children -- at risk by sending them back to Myanmar," Bill Frelick, refugee programme director at HRW, said in the press release.

"This is a reminder that the fundamental principles of refugee protection still need to be respected," he added.

The rights body said while Bangladesh is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, it is to other treaties, including the Convention against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child that provide protections to refugees and asylum seekers.

HC issues rule on marriage registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule asking authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why it should not be compulsory to register marriages based on couple's national identification (ID) cards.

The court also asked the authorities to explain why rights of street children should not be incorporated into the newly proposed amendment to the child law.

The HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Zafar Ahmed issued the rules in response to two writ petitions filed on behalf of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association on foiling child marriage and protecting rights of street children.

VEHICLE TORCHING BEFORE PMO Charge framing deferred

Four pro-BNP men remanded over bus driver's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rescheduled for July 3 the hearing on charge framing against 46 accused, including the BNP acting secretary general, in connection with torching of a vehicle before the Prime Minister's Office on April 29.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court placed four leaders of BNP's front organisations on a one-day remand in a case filed for killing a driver by torching a bus at the capital's Khilgaon on April 21.

The rescheduling order was passed by Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Erfan Ullah after some of the defence lawyers submitted separate deferment petitions, saying that their clients failed to appear due to various reasons.

Earlier on June 13, the court had fixed yesterday's date to hear the charge

framing. All of the accused got bail on June 7 and 14.

4 PRO-BNP MEN REMANDED

The remanded men are Jatiyatabadi Swechhasebak Dal President Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku and its Dhaka University unit Convener Abdul Motin and Jubo Dal General Secretary Saiful Islam Nirob.

Metropolitan Magistrate Amit Kumar Dey passed the order after Khilgaon Police Station Sub-Inspector Moksedur Rahman, also the investigation officer of the case, produced them before the court with a 10-day remand prayer.

The court also rejected a remand prayer for Swechhasebak Dal General Secretary Sarahafat Ali Safu due to his illness and ordered to send him to jail.

Bus driver Badar Ali Beg was burnt alive while asleep inside his bus that was torched in front of Khidmah Hospital.



The road before Islamic Foundation in the capital's Agargaon gets flooded like this even after a brief spell of shower. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Deposition against Quader Mollah deferred to July 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday deferred the date for recording statements of the prosecution witnesses against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah to July 3.

The date was announced following a time petition filed by the defence.

The three-member tribunal headed by its Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir also directed the defence to submit its list of witnesses and documents, if it has any, on that day.

Yesterday was scheduled for examination of prosecution witnesses and submission of defence documents. The tribunal, however, heard the prosecution's opening statement

against the Jamaat leader.

On May 28, the tribunal framed six specific charges against Quader Mollah for his alleged involvement in murders and mass killings during the Liberation War of 1971 and fixed June 20 for hearing of the opening statement.

Reading out from the 96-page opening statement, Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon said that as an organiser of Al Badr Bahani, an auxiliary force of Pakistan occupational army, Quader Mollah directly took part in killing, mass killing, arson and looting during the war.

The Jamaat leader was arrested in a criminal case on July 13, 2010, and later shown arrested in the case for crimes against humanity committed in 1971.

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