

SC stays cases against Moudud, Mosharraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed the trial proceedings of two separate corruption cases filed against former BNP ministers Moudud Ahmed and Khandker Mosharraf Hossain till further orders.

The apex court also permitted the BNP leaders to move separate appeals before it against High Court verdicts that had cleared the way for continuing the trial proceedings of the cases.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against Moudud on charge of amassing wealth over Tk 7.38 crore illegally and concealing information about his wealth of over Tk 4.4 crore from the commission.

The ACC filed the case against Mosharraf on charge of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 12.51 crore and concealing information about Tk 3.11 crore.

Earlier, the HC rejected petitions filed by the two for quashing the proceedings of the cases.

Meanwhile, the Appellate Division yesterday permitted the ACC to move an appeal before it against an HC verdict that scrapped the proceedings of a corruption case filed against former BNP lawmaker MA Hashem.

The commission filed the case against MA Hashem on charge of illegally accumulating property worth Tk 19.81 crore.

ROHINGYA ISSUE
Dhaka, Yangon should talk

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh and Myanmar governments should sit together and involve the international community to find out a lasting solution to the long-term Rohingya issue, said speakers yesterday at a seminar in the capital.

The Rohingya issue is a big problem for both the countries and Bangladesh should make the humanitarian appeal before the international community to take measures to ensure the right of the Rohingya Muslims to live as human beings, they added.

Former BNP leader Nazmul Huda, Sanjib Chowdhury, Dr Sukumar Barua and Moshtak Ahmed Bhasani spoke at the seminar titled "Expectation of the international community over the visit of the US President Barack Obama on Rohingya issue" organised by Bangladesh-Myanmar Shampriya Parishad at Jatiya Press Club.

They urged US President Barack Obama, who is now visiting Myanmar, to solve the problem immediately after he returns to US.

Huda, the chief guest, said it is Myanmar's responsibility to accommodate its residents on its vast land.

The Bangladesh government should have sent a special delegation to Myanmar with an agenda to discuss the issue before Obama's visit to the country was finalised.

"We have to let the world know that the Rohingya issue is a problem of the world and they cannot ignore it. Similarly, we have to tell the Muslim world to stand with the Rohingyas," he added.



Lighter vessels sit idle in Sadarghat area of the Karnaphuli river of Chittagong yesterday due to an indefinite strike by dock workers. Ghat Gudam Sramik Sangram Parishad declared the strike with a four-point demand, including issuance of identity cards, a stop to extortion in the name of welfare funds and implementation of The Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006. PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Buddha statue recovered, three arrested

Police say it was looted from Ramu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another statue of Lord Gautama Buddha, which police say had been looted from Cox's Bazar's Ramu during an attack by religious bigots on the Buddhist community on September 29, was recovered from the capital's Bhashantek late Sunday.

Police claimed the five-inch, 750 gramme statue was made of uranium and other metals.

Three people -- Billal Hossain, 38, Mohammad Ali, 68, and Mohammad Kadir, 55, of Gazipur -- were arrested in this connection.

Sunday's statue takes the recovery to

seven out of some 300 looted from temples and monasteries during the mayhem. Five persons were arrested so far in this connection.

Officer-in-Charge Hosne Ara Begum of Bhashantek Police Station said on information they raided an area near Milon Hotel around 11:20pm and made the recovery and arrests.

The arrestees were trying to sell the statue in the black market, she said, adding, "We sought a five-day remand from a Dhaka court for the arrestees to know how and from where they got the statue."

Obituary

METRO DESK



Mostary Chowdhury, retired principal of Rajshahi

Khademul Islam Girls' School and College, died of respiratory diseases at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on Sunday. She was 65.

She left behind her husband, two daughters, one son, and a number of grandchildren, says a press release.

Mostary, former councilor of Rajshahi City Corporation, was also secretary of Girls' Guide Association, Rajshahi region.

Khondoker Hasnat Tarik

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Khondoker Hasnat Tarik, senior assistant secretary of commerce

ministry, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his Lalmatia residence in the capital on Sunday.

Advocate Mostafizur Rahman, state minister for land, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, organising secretary of Awami League, and Mahub Ahmed, commerce ministry secretary, expressed their deep shock at his death, says a press release.

Anti-communal confce to be held December 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen eminent citizens of the country yesterday announced a daylong anti-communal conference for December 8 in the capital, protesting the recent attacks on the Buddhist, Ahmadiyya and Hindu communities across the country.

Prof Anisuzzamann made the announcement at a press conference held in the auditorium of Liberation War Museum.

He said the anti-communal conference would be held at Mohanagar Natya Mancha.

"The organised violence across the country is designed to impede the trials of those accused of crimes against humanity," he said.

The conveners are national professors --

AF Salahuddin Ahmed, Sardar Fazlul Karim and Mustafa Nurul Islam, Jahangirnagar University's former vice chancellor Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Serajul Islam Chowdhury, poet-playwright Syed Shamsul Haq, Professor Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, veteran painter Qayyum Chowdhury, Chairperson of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) Hamida Hossain, Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Dr Anisuzzaman, popular writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, writer Selina Hossain, adviser to a former caretaker government Sultana Kamal, former director general of Shilpakala Academy Kamal Lohani, and theatre personality Ramendu Majumder.



With a train passing right in front of them, people and rickshaw and rickshaw-van pullers go past and under the rail crossing barrier risking accidents at Sayedabad in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DOMESTIC WORKERS

Inclusion of their rights in labour law urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called on the government to include domestic helps in the labour law to ensure the workers' rights to health and basic education.

They said domestic workers need protection at workplaces while the Bangladeshi expatriates working in different countries also need security.

So, they urged the government to soon enact the "Domestic Worker Protection and Welfare Policy 2010" and ratify the International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Convention 189 to ensure the protection for domestic workers worldwide and take Bangladesh ahead in the international labour market.

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) arranged the workshop at Cirdap auditorium in the capital, said a press release.

Lawmaker Israfil Alam, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Labour and Employment, was present as the chief guest. BILS Chairman Habibur Rahman Siraj presided over the workshop, the release added.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Khondoker Abu Zaffar, a freedom fighter of Bagerhat district and a former medical

officer of Bangladesh Biman, passed away following a stroke on Saturday. He was 74.

He left behind his wife, one son and two daughters, said a press release yesterday.

Zaffar was also founding president of Biman Officers' Welfare Association.

His quikhwani will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at his House No-539, Lyse Ali Sarani, Ajampur Kancha Bazar, Uttara.

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK
Ex-DGFI chief says he tried to inform Khaleda instantly

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former DGFI director general Maj Gen (ret'd) Sadik Hasan Rumi yesterday told a Dhaka court that after learning about the August 21 grenade attack on Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, he tried to inform the then prime minister Khaleda Zia.

At the time Khaleda was at a public rally in Noakhali and so Rumi could not reach her.

He then informed Khaleda's political secretary Harris Chowdhury over his mobile phone and requested him to inform Khaleda about the attack as he was with the prime minister.

Rumi said this while being cross-examined by the counsel of fugitive Harris Chowdhury, who is accused in two cases, filed regarding the August 21, 2004 grenade attack.

Replying to another query, Rumi said BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman, BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu and former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar were involved in the grenade attack.

Counsels for eight others including fugitives Mohammad Hanif and BNP lawmaker Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad completed their cross-examination of the witness.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 then fixed tomorrow for the next hearing of the cases.

The attack left 24 AL leaders and workers dead and maimed around 300 others on the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue. Sheikh Hasina, the then opposition leader, narrowly escaped death but suffered ear injuries.

LAST DATE FOR REGISTRATION
24 NOVEMBER

Bengal Foundation presents
Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Festival 2012
Tribute to Ustad Allaouddin Khan
November 29 to December 2, Army Stadium, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Thursday, 29 November 6 pm till 4.30 am next day Dedicated to Sangeetsadhak Waheedul Haque	Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain ~ Shehnaï • Omkar Dadarkar ~ Vocal Ustad Shahadat Hossain ~ Sarod • Vidushi Sujata Mohapatra ~ Odissi Waseem Ahmed Khan ~ Vocal • Ustad Shahid Parvez ~ Sitar Pandit Uday Bhawalkar ~ Vocal • Pandit Tejendra N Majumdar ~ Sarod Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty ~ Vocal
Friday, 30 November 5 pm till 4.30 am next day Dedicated to Ustad Vilayet Khan	SRA on Strings • Rajrupa Chowdhury ~ Sarod • Deborshee Bhattacharjee ~ Vocal Yaswant Vaishnav ~ Tabla • Adnan Khan ~ Sitar • Sandip Bhattacharjee ~ Vocal Kaushiki Desikan ~ Vocal • Ustad Mashkoor Ali Khan ~ Vocal Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta ~ Sarod • Ustad Rashid Khan ~ Vocal Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma ~ Santoor
Saturday, 1 December 5 pm till midnight Dedicated to Pandit Uday Shankar	Arshad Ali Khan ~ Vocal • Ebadul Huq ~ Sitar • Shashank Maktedar ~ Vocal Abir Hossain ~ Sarod • Priyanka Gope ~ Vocal • Kumar Mardur ~ Vocal Pandit Kumar Bose ~ Tabla • Vidushi Subhra Guha ~ Vocal Purbayan Chatterjee ~ Sitar • Vidushi Girija Devi ~ Vocal Pandit Birju Maharaj ~ Kathak
Sunday, 2 December 6 pm till midnight Dedicated to Ustad Ali Akbar Khan	Alif Laila ~ Sitar • Brajeshwar Mukherjee ~ Vocal • Murtuza Kabir ~ Flute Vidushi Aruna Sayeeram ~ Vocal • Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar ~ Vocal Vidushi Alarmel Valli ~ Bharatanatyam • Pandit Rajan & Pandit Sajjan Misra ~ Vocal • Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia ~ Flute

* The schedule of performances is subject to change without prior notification

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