



The 25 affected publishers form a human chain on the Bangla Academy premises to demand compensation for the damage they suffered in the early yesterday's fire, which completely destroyed 37 of their stalls in Amar Ekushey Boi Mela.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Begum Rokeya University reopens Thursday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

All academic and administrative activities of Begum Rokeya University Rangpur (BRUR) will resume on Thursday. The university remained closed since January 11 following an attack allegedly made by a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists on teachers who were demonstrating demanding the resignation of Vice-Chancellor Dr Muhammad Abdul Jalil Miah. University sources said the decision to open the university was made at an academic council meeting held with the VC on Saturday.

Bazlur Rahman's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Bazlur Rahman,

one of the country's most eminent journalists, a freedom fighter, and former editor of the daily Sangbad.

On the occasion, his family including his widow Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Bazlur Rahman Foundation, and other organisations will place wreaths at his grave at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at 9:00am.

A doa mahfil will also be held to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Bazlur Rahman died in 2008 at the age of 67. He graduated in economics from Dhaka University and earned acclaim for writing articles on economy and different issues.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Zakia Chowdhury, wife of late Abdul Halim Chowdhury of Laxmipur, died due to old age complications on Saturday in the capital. She was 76.

She left behind two sons and a daughter to mourn her death.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Laxmipur on Sunday following her namaz-e-*janaza* after Esha prayers. Her kulkhwani will be held on Friday after Maghrib prayers in the capital's Paltan.

Over 4,000 sued for violence

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A total of six cases were filed with Singair Police Station on Sunday night on charges of killing, arson, vandalism and attacking police, police sources said.

Raiding different parts of the district on that night, police detained 13 people for their alleged involvement in the violence, said Md Mizanur Rahman, additional superintendent of police of Manikganj.

Police sued 4,553 supporters, mentioning names of 20, of Khelafat Majlish and seven other Islamist parties, he said.

A one-member probe body, headed by the additional SP, has been formed to investigate two of the six cases.

Foyjur Rahman, son of Abdul Majed Khan, filed a case against 20 named and 100 unnamed people on charge of attacking his father during the clash, the additional SP said.

Majed is the general secretary of Singair upazila unit Awami League.

Businessmen Azhar and Abdul Quader filed two separate cases against 355 people in connection with vandalising their business

establishments at Kashimpur Bazar.

Reajul Islam, of Joymantap village in the upazila, filed a case against 33 named and 25 unnamed persons, the additional SP said.

Reajul was injured during a clash between supporters of Islamist parties and police on Sunday, he added.

Meanwhile, eight Islamist parties observed a daylong hartal in the district yesterday, protesting the killing of their "activists" during Sunday's violence.

Trial of 46 opposition men

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Office during hartal hours of April 29 of that year. Mirza Fakhrul filed the petition, challenging the legality of the trial court's jurisdiction to try the case against them.

Later, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court vacated the HC stay order and directed the trial court to resume the case's proceedings.

In line with a summons, Fakhrul and 34 other accused appeared before the court around 10:30am yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Harun-or-Rashid passed an order

on the complainant of the case to appear in the court on March 28 to give an account of the arson.

Five law makers, including barristers Mahbub Uddin Khokon, who are accused in the case, were absent yesterday as they were busy with parliament session.

Six other accused, including Jamaat-e-Islami acting ameer Maqbul Ahmad, have been absconding since the case was filed.

The opposition alliance enforced the hartal on April 29 last year to protest the disappearance of

BNP organising secretary M Ilias Ali.

Soon after the filing of the case, all the opposition leaders, including Mirza Fakhrul, went into hiding and then surrendered before the HC on May 7.

Three days later, Detective Branch of police pressed charges against Fakhrul and 45 others in the arson case.

In line with HC directives, they surrendered before the trial court on May 16. The court sent them to jail.

The accused obtained bail in June from the High Court and the trial court.

Ghulam Azam termed

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separatist movement" in East Pakistan.

"There is no alternative to freeing the country from the separatists without the army," the prosecutor said quoting Azam, adding that the accused also made eulogy of intervention by Pakistan army.

The daily Sangram, mouthpiece of Jamaat, published a report on June 22, 1971. Simon presented Azam's quote from that report.

He explained that Azam had termed the freedom fighters "separatists" and used Islam as their weapon to substantiate the attack on them.

The prosecutor further said Azam was aware of the atrocities committed by the Pakistani army and their auxiliary forces. "Even after that he supported them which proves his complicity with the war crimes committed by the Pakistani army and auxiliary forces," Simon added.

Azam raised the issue of the incidents taking place in Bangladesh, the overall

situation and what was needed to be done at a press conference held at Jamaat-e-Islami's Lahore office on June 20, 1971.

Two newspapers -- Daily Pakistan and Daily Azad -- ran reports on the press conference, copies of which were produced before the tribunal.

Azam told that conference the freedom fighters were active in the then East Pakistan and "peace-loving" citizens should be provided arms in order to effectively combat them.

The prosecutor argued that the policy of the Pakistan government was also to root out the freedom fighters.

"Azam's recommendation to provide arms to the auxiliary forces proves his complicity with the policy of the Pakistan government," Simon added.

He said Azam at another press conference held in Karachi on June 22, 1971 urged his followers and everyone else to extend all-out cooperation to the authorities in order to restore peace in the then

East Pakistan.

The then Jamaat ameer also said the objective of the six-point demands of the Awami League was to separate East Pakistan from the West, the prosecutor added.

"The government should ban those political parties that had been openly engaged in movement in support of the six-point demands," the prosecutor said quoting Azam as saying.

The daily Ittefaq and the Sangram published the news on their June 23, 1971 issues.

The prosecution have been placing argument over the last six days. In the morning, they completed placing closing arguments on the charge of incitement. Simon placed 13 out of 23 counts of complicity charges.

Azam is facing five charges -- conspiracy, planning, incitement, complicity and murder and torture -- in the war crimes case.

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until today.

Mobarak charged with war crimes

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The tribunal fixed March 11 to decide whether it would accept the charges.

The tribunal fixed the date after the prosecutor informed the tribunal that he had submitted the formal charges to the registrar office of the tribunal in the morning.

The tribunal yesterday also extended Mobarak's bail until March 11. Mobarak appeared before the tribunal yesterday. He has been on bail since July 16 last year.

Investigation officer of the case Shyamol Chowdhury told The Daily

DESECRATION OF FLAG, SHAHEED MINAR It's an attack on sovereignty: 15 VCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The vice-chancellors of 15 universities, among 24 teachers, have signed a statement condemning the recent vandalism at Shaheed Minars and desecration of the national flag by Jamaat-Shibir and like-minded Islamist parties and termed the incident as an attack on the country's sovereignty.

They demanded trial of the perpetrators and their exemplary punishment immediately.

Under the banner of University Swadhinata Shikkhak Parishad, the university teachers also expressed solidarity with the six-point demand of the Shahbagh movement, which includes death penalty for all war criminals and banning of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir.

On Friday, Jamaat-Shibir and their sympathisers burned the national flag in Chandpur and Bogra, and vandalised Shaheed Minars in Feni and Sylhet.

The signatories include Shikkhak Parishad Convenor and Vice Chancellor of Noakhali Science and Technology University Prof AKM Sayedul Haque Chowdhury, Joint Convenor and Dhaka University teacher Prof Anwar Hossain, and Member Secretary Prof M Ohiduzzaman.

The other vice chancellors are from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BuEt), Bangladesh Agriculture University, Chittagong University, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Sylhet Agricultural University, Begum Rokeya University, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Khulna University of Science and Technology, Chittagong University of Science and Technology, Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Comilla University, Jessore University of Science and Technology, and Barisal University.

Construction worker dies in accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker was killed and four others were injured when a girder of Kuril Flyover partially collapsed after a big lorry hit a part of the under construction flyover at Kuril-Bishwa Road intersection yesterday.

Palash Miah, 34, who was welding standing on the flyover, died on the spot as he fell onto the road and the lorry ran him over, said Khorshed Alam, sub-inspector (SI) of Bhatara Police Station.

The injured are Firoj Alam, 30, Alamgir Hossain, 35, and Wahid Miah, 40. The four were injured as they were working beneath the girder that partially collapsed on them around 2:00pm, the SI added.

Khorshed further said the lorry has been seized but its driver and his helper managed to flee the scene.

Counsels for Alim absent

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situation".

Yesterday, one of them did not show up due to "personal difficulties" while another could not appear due to "illness".

The prosecution claimed that such adjournment went against the concept of expeditious trial, and vehemently opposed the defence plea for adjournment.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with member Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Judge M Shahinur Islam, however, adjourned the case proceedings until tomorrow.

Last Sunday was scheduled for recording the testimony of the 11th prosecution witness in the case against Alim, but AEM Khalilur Rahman and Ahsanul Huq Hena, who usually cross-examine the

prosecution witnesses, had not gone to court.

Tarikul Islam, a junior member of Alim's defence, told the tribunal that senior counsels could not show up due to "unavoidable situation" and sought adjournment. Eight Islamist parties had enforced a daylong Hartal that day.

The tribunal, however, recorded the witness's testimony but adjourned the case proceedings until yesterday, as Tarikul sought adjournment, asking just one question.

When the tribunal wanted to record the cross-examination yesterday, Munshi Ahsan Kabir, another counsel for Alim, sought adjournment, as the conducting counsel was not there.

Replying to questions of the tribunal, Ahsan Kaibr said Khalilur Rahman was sick while Ahsanul Huq could not

come as his daughter was getting married.

"How would it [the trial] continue if you say one is absent for illness and another for his daughter's marriage," said the tribunal.

Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta said they vehemently opposed the petition, as the tribunal, on several occasions, adjourned the case for the sickness of Khalilur Rahman and due to his illness, the tribunal asked the defence to get a new lawyer.

New lawyer Ahsanul Huq is now absent on personal grounds, the prosecutor said.

"Besides, prosecution witnesses are coming from Joypurhat, and they become frustrated due to the delays," added the prosecutor.

On June 11, 2012, the tribunal framed 17 charges of crimes against

humanity against Alim including genocide and murder of Bangalee civilians and burying people alive and a total of 11 prosecution witnesses so far have testified since August 6, 2012.

Meanwhile, defence counsel of Muhammad Kamaruzzaman appealed to the tribunal to reconsider its earlier decision of closing the cross-examination of last prosecution witness.

The tribunal refused. On Sunday, the tribunal closed the cross-examination of Abdur Razzaque Khan, the last prosecution witness and the investigation officer of the case against Kamaruzzaman, for defence counsels' repeated failure to appear before the court.

It had fixed today for recording the testimony of first defence witness in the case.

3 MORE DAYS LEFT
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TILL 28TH FEBRUARY.

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