

As a part of the national flag hoisting programme of Shahbagh movement yesterday, Imran H Sarker, convener of the Bloggers and Online Activists Network, hoists the national flag at Shahbagh Gonojagoron Mancha in the capital in the morning demanding that war criminals be hanged and Jamaat-Shibir be banned.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Delhi HC stays Bangladeshi's extradition to USA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday stayed a lower Indian court order to extradite a Bangladeshi national to the USA where he is wanted in a 24-year-old murder case.

In 1989, a USA court framed charges against Mehfuз Huq for killing a 19-year-old boy, Todd Kelly, in Indianapolis, on August 9 of that year.

After murdering Kelly for his alleged intimacy with his girlfriend, Mehfuз had fled to Dhaka, read the Indian prosecution documents adding that then he started working as teacher at a Dhaka school run by the US embassy.

Mehfuз was arrested at Indira Gandhi International Airport on February 10, 2011 following an Interpol Red Corner Notice.

On January 9, 2013, the Indian court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) ordered to extradite Mehfuз to the US to stand the murder trial.

Following the order, the authorities of Delhi's Tihar jail was about to hand him over to the US marshals on Friday.

Challenging the extradition order, Mehfuз's lawyers contended that ACMM's order was based on those documents which were not enough to extradite him.

On Monday, in an interim order, Justice GP Mittal of the High Court said Mehfuз should not be sent outside India until the next hearing.

The High Court also asked Indian Home Ministry, External Affairs Ministry and Tihar Jail authorities to send their replies by March 18.

ARSON, LOOTING BY JAMAAT-SHIBIR Damage in Kansat Palli Bidyut Office worth Tk 250 crore

40,000 subscribers without power supply; farmers not being able to run irrigation pumps

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Firefighters yesterday afternoon were able to douse a fire ignited by Jamaat-Shibir activists in Palli Bidyut Office in Kansat area of Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila on Thursday.

Property, documents and machinery worth Tk 250 crore have been destroyed while 40,000 electricity connections to Shibganj upazila have been disrupted, said Nurul Islam, the office's assistant general manager (finance).

He said a substation and all official documents were completely burned down and there was no knowing when restoration works would begin.

Farmers of Shibganj are suffering the most as large areas of land could not be irrigated due to the absence of electricity for the last three days.

Many electricity-dependent appliances are now inactive. People were partially detached from the rest of the country as they are unable to watch televisions and use mobile phones while food is spoiling in refrigerators.

Some 200-250 activists of Jamaate-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir carried out the arson attack and

looting around 1:30pm right after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced to death Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

Witnesses said the activists, armed with sticks, iron rods and sharp weapons, broke in through the main gate and started vandalising and looting the office and adjacent five residential quarters, rest house and the power substation.

Within minutes, some of the attackers doused the aforementioned areas with petrol and set those alight, said Kazem Ali Sarker, a lineman of the office.

Fire fighters from five stations, situated around one kilometre away, were able to arrive around 5:30pm as the attackers barricaded the Chapainawabganj-Sona Masjid Land Port Highway, said Chapainawabganj Fire Station Deputy Assistant Director Ohidul Islam.

Another lineman, Azizul Haque, said during the attack two jeeps, 39 motorcycles, and around 50 bicycles were destroyed.

Jahid Hasan, a messenger of the office, said they were not able to save anything and had shifted the 60 families living in the residential quarters to safety.

Irri-Boro cultivation under

Shibganj and a few parts of Gomostapur upazilas have been hampered as the absence of electricity halted irrigation, causing many paddy fields to dry up.

A farmer, Mohammad Rubel Hossain, of Bahalabari village of Shibganj said his paddy field had dried up as he could not pump up water from deep tube wells due to the absence of electricity.

Electricity from the Kansat office helped irrigate 1,200 hectares of land in Shibganj by pumping up water from deep tube wells, said Abul Kalam Azad, deputy director of Chapainawabganj Agriculture Extension Office.

Farmers irrigating another 2,425 hectares of land using 1,489 diesel-run pumps are suffering due to a shortage of diesel, alleged farmers of Shibganj.

Mamunur Rashid, area manager of a telecommunications company in Chapainawabganj, said four out of seven mobile phone towers in Shibganj had run out of backup power supply and were now out of order.

The Kansat office figures say only 10,000 out of 55,000 connections are being provided electricity from Bholahat, Moharajpur and Nayagola substations.



Charred remains of transformers and power supply equipment in Palli Bidyut Office in Kansat area of Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila following an arson attack by Jamaat-Shibir activists on Thursday. Inset, the burnt down office. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN Situation can improve with socio-economic dev

Prothom Alo discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence against women is an age-old phenomenon, which cannot be banished until a just socio-economic system develops, participants viewed at a discussion yesterday.

They suggested a host of ways to break out of the situation as they spoke on "Sexual Harassment: Prevention, Protest and Cure" at the daily Prothom Alo office in the capital.

"The culture of impunity has to be stopped," said Sultana Kamal, a rights activist and former adviser to a caretaker government.

"General people have lost faith in the law enforcement agencies. Law practitioners, police and doctors should be made accountable to mitigate the situation."

Md Hannan Miya, a hawker who rescued and helped a rape victim in Manikganj, also spoke at the roundtable, jointly organised by the Prothom Alo, Department of Women and Gender Studies, Dhaka University, and ActionAid Bangladesh.

Professor Maleka Begum of Central Women's University urged the Shahbagh youths to show solidarity against violence against women on Women's Day (March 8).

Sayed Shaikh Intiaz, assistant professor of women and gender studies at DU, quoted a study, saying a "psychological dilemma" was growing in men as women were progressing and succeeding in different sectors. "So men should be counselled instead of being treated as opponents."

Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh Farah Kabir suggested introducing sex education in schools.

Meher Afroze Chumki, chairperson of the parliamentary body on women and children affairs, highlighted the abuse of technology in sexual harassment. Improving quality of education, stern action against the practice of dowry and child marriage, training police members to be gender sensitive, providing safe accommodation and transportation for women, came as some solutions to the problem.

Resist BNP, Jamaat's hartals: 14-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday urged the country's people to resist BNP-Jamaat's hartals and rise against war criminals.

Lambasting BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia for calling hartal for Tuesday, they said it has proved that she is against the trial of war criminals.

The comments came from different protest rallies arranged by the alliance at different points in the capital yesterday.

AL Joint General Secretary Mahabub-Ul-Alam Hanif said attacks on law enforcers should not be a political programme, it is undoubtedly terrorism.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua said the opposition chief is trying to save the war criminals, not democracy.

At another rally at Motijheel, Workers Party President Rashed Khan said the opposition leader is pushing the country toward mayhem.

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In this connection, some brokers/fraudsters are signing agreements with established individuals/institutions and conducting fraudulent financial transactions. It is notable here that, several times I have published cautionary notices in the various renowned newspapers to restraint individuals and institutions from dealing with these fraudsters, filed GD at concerned Police Station and informed the concerned authorities.

Under the given circumstances, any transaction undertaken with any such land brokers/fraudsters shall be illegal, fraudulent and non-enforceable in the eyes of law. Hence, this repeat notice of caution is published for all concerned persons in refraining from undertaking transactions with such individuals with regards to the said property.

Iftekhar Ahmed Khan
Constituted Attorney of Intekhab Ahmed Khan
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Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Syed Md Habibul Haque,

founder managing director of Crystal Insurance Company Limited.

He passed away on this day in 2002 at his residence.

Habibul was a prominent personality of the insurance industry. He significantly contributed to the development of the industry in the country, said a press release.

Board of directors, shareholders, executives, all officers and staff of the company prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul.

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