

## SEVEN VANDALISM CASES Moudud, Bulu, Anee freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After 15 days in jail, BNP lawmakers Moudud Ahmed, Barkatullah Bulu and Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee were freed yesterday on being granted bail on Sunday in seven vandalism cases.

The Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge in Dhaka granted the bail considering their parliament membership.

But the court, in the same cases, denied bail to seven other senior BNP leaders, including acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, saying "charges brought against them were primarily proved".

Irked by the court order, BNP announced a 36-hour countrywide shutdown from today.

Moudud and Anee, kept at Kashimpur jail 1 and 2 respectively, and Bulu, kept at Kashimpur High-Security Prison, walked out between 11:00am and 11:30am, said jail sources.

After the leaders came out, activists of the party garlanded them.

On April 7, Moudud, a member of BNP's national standing committee, Bulu and Anee were denied bail and sent to jail.

They had surrendered to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on expiry of their four-week bail, granted by the High Court.

According to the charges, the BNP leaders were involved in torching vehicles, assaulting police and obstructing police from performing their duties during the opposition's agitation programmes.

Police had filed the cases with Paltan, Ramna and Shahjahanpur police stations.



One of two commuter trains, imported from China, arrives at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## Tragic tale of disappearance of four of a family 42 years ago in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 42nd anniversary of the fateful day on which Mahbubur Rahman Khan and his three sons were picked up by the Pakistani army from their Chittagong home, never to be seen again.

The family presumes Khan and his sons -- Shafiqur Rahman Khan, 26, Azizur Rahman Khan, 17, and Shamsher Rahman Khan, 14, -- were killed by the army on that dark night in 1971.

One Captain Sayeed had taken away the four at gunpoint in an army car. Another of Khan's sons, Habibur Rahman Khan, being a freedom fighter, was away from home during that time.

Despite repeated attempts, the family could not find the whereabouts of their loved ones.

On April 30, 1972, The Daily Bangladesh Observer published an article stating that the three brothers were tortured and shot dead before their father on the night of April 23.

It also said Khan, unable to bear the shock, reportedly became mentally imbalanced and later died in Pabna Mental Hospital. The family could never verify the story.

Khan was the brother of prominent businessman AK Khan and the family suspects that they were targeted due to this connection.

## Fifth IO starts testifying in Ctg arms haul cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The latest and fifth investigation officer yesterday started testifying at a Chittagong court in the two cases involving the 2004 ten-truck arms haul.

Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Md Moniruzzaman Chowdhury of Criminal Investigation Department narrated the works of the previous IOs.

He said the first IO was Officer-in-Charge of Karnaphuli Police Station Ahadur Rahman, who filed an arms case and a smuggling case after the arms and ammunition were seized at the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd jetty on April 2, 2004.

Inspector Ahadur conducted his investigation until April 24, 2004 before the cases were handed over to CID and Assistant SP (ASP) AKM Kabir Uddin of CID was appointed the second IO, he told Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1.

Kabir completed the arms case probe and charged 39 persons and prayed for freeing three people from charges, but the

court rejected the prayer and Kabir was transferred to Dhaka before the smuggling case probe was completed.

CID ASP Mir Nowshad Ali, the third IO, conducted further investigation into the arms case and included one more person on a supplementary charge sheet submitted on August 28, 2004, raising the total number of accused in the case to 43. The trial then started.

On November 9, 2008, Nowshad submitted the charge sheet in the smuggling case accusing 43 persons and prayed for freeing two persons from charges, but the prayer was rejected with the total number of accused in the case standing at 45.

On February 14, 2008, further investigation into the cases was ordered and CID ASP Md Ismail Hossain was made the fourth IO, who suspected that a vessel Bongo Borak of HRC Shipping transported the arms and ammunition.

Moniruzzaman was appointed IO on January 29, 2009. The court was adjourned till today.

## 5 including 2 Rohingyas held with fake passports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed Police Battalion (APBn) yesterday arrested two Rohingya men and three Bangladeshi youths with fake passport in the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Of them, Mohammad Hasheem and Arif Ullah are Rohingyas while Md Majedul Islam, Masud Rana, and Sabuj Miah, are Bangladeshi nationals. They were attempting to go to Qatar using fake Bangladeshi passports and visas around 9:00am.

The APBn also arrested Ratan Ali and Mafizul Islam who help them manage the fake passports, said APBn sources.

## Database on disabled people on cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Social Services will create a comprehensive database of the country's disabled people with a view to detecting and addressing disabilities through special facilities.

The special needs people will be given identity cards upon completion of the one year project, which was launched in a training session at the department office in the capital yesterday.

Officials said the database would help authorities find why cases of particular forms of disability were high in a particular district and deal with those with proper scientific measures.

State Minister for Social Welfare Promode Mankin said, "It is quite impossible to achieve overall development leaving out the 1.5 crore people who are disabled." They can contribute to development if provided with education and facilities, he said.

Sixty-four officials from 63 districts, who joined yesterday's training, and union-level employees of the department will collect data through door-to-door visits in the next two months. Officials asked the participants to maintain authenticity in documenting information for the "countrywide disability detection survey". Secretary to the ministry Suraiya Begum said the project's goal was to mainstream the disabled people.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brig Gen (retd) Khurshid Uddin

Ahmed died due to old age complications in the capital's United Hospital yesterday. He was 80.

He played a vital role in the Language Movement of 1952 while he was a student of Dhaka Medical College and also played an active role in the Liberation War of 1971.

Usuf Ali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Usuf Ali, commander of Lalmonirhat district Muktiyoddhda Sangsad, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on Sunday night. He was 65.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 17th death anniversary of Syed Mozammel Huq, special correspondent of Bangladesh Sangstha (BSS), says a press release.

During his long journalistic career, he also worked for Time Magazine and Oil and Gas Journal.

Abdul Jabbar Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 29th death anniversary of Abdul Jabbar Khan, a former speaker of the National assembly of Pakistan.

Recitation from the Holy Quran will be held at his grave in the capital while a milad mahfil and a discussion will be held at his village Baherchar Khudrakathi and Kedarpur of Barisal respectively, says a press release.



Traders of traditional toys set up shop in Laldighi Maidan of Chittagong city yesterday targeting a four-day "Baishakhi Fair" from today centring "Jabbar-er Boli Khela" on Thursday. The boli khela is an annual traditional wrestling competition held at the venue in the first month of the Bangla year.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## ASAUUB CONVOCATION Nahid calls for quality edn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education quality in both public and private universities should be enhanced to ensure Bangladesh's presence in global competitions, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

University students need to have a proper perspective of political and social issues to attain a holistic education, he told ASA University Bangladesh's (ASAUB) first convocation ceremony in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman of Dhaka University urged graduating students to retain their morals and principles in their everyday lives to ensure complete use of their education.

He said education was useless without humanity or knowledge of good and evil.

ASAUB Board of Trustees Chairman Md Shafiqul Haque Choudhury and Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Dalem Chandra Burman also spoke at the programme where 1,900 students were conferred undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

## Haab wants a third airline for hassle-free hajj trips

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab) yesterday urged the government to allow a third airline alongside Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines this year so that hajj travellers could avoid sufferings as in the previous year.

The government has announced that each of the two airlines will carry 50 percent of a total of 1,27,198 pilgrims this year, but Saudi Arabian Airlines cannot ferry more than 35,000 to 40,000, said Haab President Md Ibrahim Bahar.

So a third airline will help pilgrims perform the hajj properly in a short period, he told a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The press conference was organised to brief the media about the three-day 6th

Hajj and Omrah Fair 2013, which will begin at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on Thursday. People can avail hajj information in the event.

Last year several thousand regular passengers of Biman endured immense sufferings after their flights were cancelled, as Biman airliners were used for ferrying the hajj passengers at that period due to aircraft shortage. A total of 1,09,660 performed hajj last year.

This year the hajj agencies will charge pilgrims a minimum of Tk 2,78,742 for general package and Tk 3,45,000 for a second package. The hajj fees will have to be deposited in the agencies' accounts by May 30.

This year's hajj will take place on October 14 (subject to sighting of the moon).

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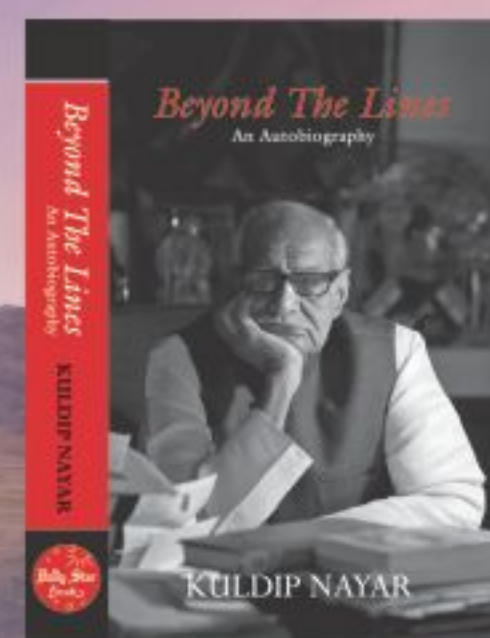
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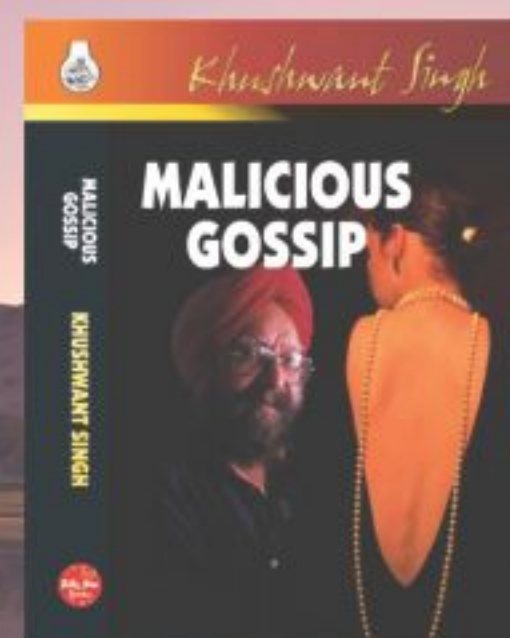
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