

BISWAJIT KILLING CASE Charge framing hearing deferred till June 2 1 more accused held

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred till June 2 the hearing on charge framing against 21 accused in connection with the killing of Biswajit Das while police arrested one of the 14 fugitive accused.

Biswajit, 24, proprietor of Amantron Tailors in Shakhariabazar area in Sutrapur, was passing by Bahadur Shah Park on December 9, 2012 when a road-blockade programme of the BNP-led 18-party alliance was in progress.

Mistaking Biswajit for one of those responsible for the blockade, Bangladesh Chhatra League activists chased him and ignoring his pleas that he was an innocent pedestrian, hacked him. Biswajit died in Mitford Hospital that day.

Judge Md Zahinul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court passed the order after jail authorities failed to produce seven of the accused, now in jail custody, before it due to hartal.

On March 5, detectives pressed charges against the 21 accused.

Meanwhile, Sattaria Police Station Officer-in-Charge Saugat Alam told The Daily Star last night that, on information, they arrested Golam Mostofa from his village residence in Rajoir of Manikganj's Shaturia upazila.

Golam, arriving in the village earlier that day, would be produced before a Manikganj court today. Police had received the arrest warrant around one month ago.

30 Shibir men sent to jail in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sent 30 leaders and activists of pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir to jail in connection with assaulting police and vandalising vehicles in Chittagong city on December 9 last year and February 6 this year.

Earlier in the day, they were shown arrested in two cases filed with Panshiash Police Station.

On Saturday, the arrestees were picked up from an award giving ceremony at a community centre in Chittagong city suspecting their involvement in subversive activities, said Panchlaish Police Station Officer-in-Charge Pradip Kumar Das.

Among the arrestees, two leaders are Shibir's Hazi Mohammad Mohsin Government College unit Secretary Rezwatul Haque Zishan, and its Chittagong city unit Madrasah Affairs Secretary Enamul Haque Sayeed.

Probaho, a local coaching centre allegedly run by Shibir, arranged the programme to give awards to GPA-5 holders in this year's SSC examinations, the OC said.

Shibir's Chittagong city unit President ANM Mashrur Hossain claimed some of the arrestees are Shibir activists, but the others are innocent students who attended the programme.



Sparse presence of vehicular traffic at Motijheel Shapla Chattar in the capital yesterday during the hartal enforced by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance. The photo was taken around 11:00am.

PHOTO: STAR

14-party praises BNP for being active in city corporation polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday praised the main opposition BNP for actively backing its favoured candidates in the upcoming city corporation elections and hoped that it would also take part in the parliamentary elections.

At a meeting at AL President Sheikh Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi, the ruling combine criticised BNP for destroying the environment conducive to dialogue with the AL over a polls-time government system through enforcing hartals.

Talking to journalists afterwards, AL Presidium Member Mohammad Nasim urged the opposition to place their proposals in the parliament for discussion.

He said the 14-party decided to work in favour of AL backed candidates in the city corporation elections.

Chaired by Abdus Samad, the meeting was attended among others by Anisur Rahman Mallik and Shirin Akhter.

Russian corporation to hold seminar in Dhaka on nuclear energy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Russia's state-run nuclear energy corporation, Rosatom, will organise a two-day international seminar in Dhaka on May 29 to discuss nuclear energy, its safety and environmental aspects, and economic and socio-political implications in Bangladesh.

The theme of the seminar is "Nuclear Power: A Chance of Successful Economic and Socio-political Development".

Nuclear experts from Rosatom, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), officials of science and technology ministry and Dhaka University teachers will take part in a discussion on various topics including environmental protection and safety regarding atomic energy and current requirements for nuclear power plant (NPP) safety.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the seminar at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

"Russia, through the seminar, will inform our experts and countrymen about safety of nuclear power plant," Yeafesh Osman, state minister for science and technology, told The Daily Star.

Yeafesh further said two experts from International Atomic Energy Commission are visiting Bangladesh to attend a workshop in the city on Tuesday to train BAEC experts and officials on safety and security of nuclear power.

Bangladesh is preparing to construct its first nuclear power plant with technical and financial support from Russia.

The two nations signed a \$500 million deal in January to complete pre-construction phase of the nuclear power plant in Pabna.

Road crashes kill seven, injure five

CITY DESK

Seven people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents across the country on Saturday and yesterday.

Our Tangail correspondent reports, a schoolgirl was killed after a truck ran her over in Haripur area at Ghatail while she was crossing Tangail-Mymensingh road yesterday.

Prity Akter, 13, daughter of Hurmuz Ali of Khayerpara village, was a class-IV student.

On Saturday, a university student was strangled by her scarf when it became entangled in one of the wheels of the battery-run auto-rickshaw she was travelling in near Kagmari Bridge area of Tangail town.

Sumaiya Taslim Ivy, 20, was a student at Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University.

Our Feni correspondent adds, an unidentified driver of a pick-up van was killed after a truck rammed the standstill vehicle on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Kazir Dighi in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The accident occurred following a head-on collision between the truck and a covered van. Four other people, who were

injured in the incident, have been admitted to Feni hospital and other local clinics.

A Gazipur correspondent adds, Alal Uddin, 60, of Tangail, died when a covered van ran him over on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Safipur Bazar in Kaliakair upazila on Saturday night.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, seven-year-old Prionti Chakraborty, daughter of Kanchan Chakraborty, was killed after a truck hit her in Borpool area at Raozan upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

Police detained the truck driver Joynal and seized the vehicle.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent adds, a tractor driver was killed and his helper injured after the vehicle veered out of control and overturned in Saguni Bridge area of Pirganj upazila in Thakurgaon yesterday.

The deceased is Robiul Islam, 35, of the upazila. Injured Nur Islam is undergoing treatment at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Our Khulna correspondent adds, Akter Hossain, 30, a worker of Maniktola Food Godown, died after a truck hit his bicycle from behind near his workplace in Maniktola area of Khulna city.

RCC, BCC, SCC MAYORAL POLLS Three in each city remain in race

STAR REPORT

The deadline to withdraw candidatures in the June 15 Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal city corporation polls ended yesterday with three persons left to compete for the lone mayor posts in each of the cities.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports, the three are AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Awami League Rajshahi city unit general secretary and backed by the ruling 14-party alliance and Rajshahi Nagorik Committee; Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, Jubo Dal Rajshahi city unit president and backed by the 18-party opposition alliance and Sammilata Nagorik Forum; and one Habibur Rahman.

Besides, 154 persons are vying for 30 posts of general councillors while 66 are contesting for 10 reserved seats for women.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports, of the three, Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, Awami League Sylhet city unit president, is being backed by the Awami League-led ruling 14-party alliance and Sammilata Nagorik Committee.

Another candidate, Ariful Haque Chowdhury, BNP Central Committee member, is being backed by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance and Sammilata Nagorik Jote.

The remaining contestant is one Salah Uddin Rimon.

Yesterday, BNP Sylhet city unit Vice-President Nasim Hossain and General Secretary Abdul Quaiyum Jalali, Swechhasebak Dal Central Committee Vice-President Shamsuzzaman and Jamaat-e-Islami Sylhet city unit Ameer Ehsanul Mahbub Zobayer withdrew their candidatures.

The withdrawal came after a series of meetings held by the 18-party alliance decided to back Ariful Haque Chowdhury.

Nasim and Jalali assured to campaign for Arif while Shamsuzzaman could not be contacted for comment in this regard despite repeated attempts.

Besides, 136 persons are contesting for 27 posts of general councillors while another 36 are vying for nine reserved seats for women.

The election symbols would be allocated today.

Our Barisal correspondent reports, of the three, Shawkat Hossain Hiron, Awami League Barisal city unit president, is being backed by the ruling 14-party alliance and Sammilata Nagorik Committee, a citizens' committee.

Meanwhile, Ahsan Habib Kamal, BNP Barisal district (south) unit president, is being backed by the 18-party opposition alliance and Jatiyatabadi Nagorik Parishad, another citizens' committee.

The last contestant is Mahmudur Rahman Khan Mamun alias Khan Mamun, Jubo League Barisal district unit joint secretary.

Yesterday, two persons withdrew their candidacies for the mayor post. BNP Barisal city unit Secretary Kamrul Ahsan Shahin withdrew his nomination papers from the returning officer in the morning by submitting a letter.

Former BNP Barisal district unit secretary Ebaudul Huq Chan also arrived in the afternoon to withdraw his candidacy.

It was in line with the opposition alliance's decision to back Ahsan Habib Kamal.

Besides, 115 persons are vying for 30 posts of general councillors while 45 are contesting for 10 reserved seats for women, said Mujibor Rahman, returning officer of the BCC polls.

There are 2,10,482 registered voters in the upcoming BCC election, being held for the third time.



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni holds talks with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy R Sherman at the former's office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Boost in biotechnological research urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More research in the field of biotechnology can facilitate development of food, medicine and horticultural products to meet the increasing demand for production, speakers said at the concluding session of a two-day international conference on Biotechnology.

The speakers also said the government and the private sector have the scope and as well as the responsibility to develop research in the field of biotechnology.

With the theme "Application of Biotechnology in Addressing the Development Needs of Bangladesh", Committee of Action for Research, Extension and Services (CARES) arranged the conference at a hotel in the capital.

Around 250 participants from home and abroad took part in the conference.

The two-day conference included five sessions during which papers were pre-

sented covering areas such as medical and agricultural biotechnology, economy, industry and environment, biotechnology research and environmental biotechnology.

The papers emphasised topics such as agricultural farming coping with the changing environment, year-round and off-season production in the horticultural field, sustainable fisheries management using biotechnology and control of infectious diseases of animal and poultry.

Dr Tissa Vitharana, senior minister of Science and Technology, Sri Lanka said with newer research and innovation, scientists from the field can play a vital role in resolving the region's poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Dr A Majeed Khan, chairperson of CARES, urged the attending scientists to carry out more research works in this field.

State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman could not attend the session and conveyed his apologies.

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