

MANZOOR MURDER TRIAL Ershad appears before court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday appeared before a Dhaka court to face the trial proceedings of Gen MA Manzoor murder case.

Asaudduzaman Rochi, public prosecutor of the case, told The Daily Star that the court of First Additional Sessions Judge Badrul Alam Bhuiyan set up near Dhaka central jail heard arguments in the case for second day.

Ershad's lawyer Sheikh Sirajul Islam placed arguments for around half an hour.

On October 2 last year, Ershad submitted an application to the court, claiming that he was innocent.

On June 1, 1981, Manzoor was killed at Chittagong Cantonment. After around 14 years' of the killing, a case was filed with Panchlaih Police Station on February 28, 1995.

Later, the case was transferred to Dhaka on security reasons.

Earlier, the court had recorded statements from 28 people, court sources said.

CORRUPTION CASES Court accepts charges against former JS speaker Sircar

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted the charges against former speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar, deputy speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and a former official of the Parliament Secretariat in five corruption cases.

The court fixed July 11 for starting hearing on charge framing against them in the cases.

Hamid and Ashraf-ul-Islam, former chief accounts officer of the Parliament Secretariat, were present at the courtroom while Sircar remained absent.

On December 28, 2010, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the cases with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

The ACC pressed the charges against the three in November last year and dropped the name of BNP leader Khandaker Delwar Hossain as he died earlier.

According to a case statement, Sircar drew around Tk 27.86 lakh in the name of medical treatment abroad. He himself approved the amount of money, abusing his power as the speaker. Ashraf helped him in the process.

Sircar has been charged in connection with abuse of power in two other cases for drawing around Tk 6 lakh and Tk 1.21 lakh in the name of overseas medical treatment. Delwar and Hamid were also accused in the cases.

According to another case statement, Delwar took furniture worth Tk 6.09 lakh from the chief whip's official residence to his own house on Sircar's approval, which was unlawful.

Meanwhile, the court granted bail to Jubo Dal President Moazzem Hossain Alal in two cases filed with Paltan and Motijheel police stations on March 11 for assaulting police and blasting cocktails.

CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2013



Mayoral candidate AHM Khairuzzaman Liton meets Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin on the campus yesterday as part of his campaign for the upcoming Rajshahi City Corporation polls.

PHOTO: STAR

Rebel riles AL in Barisal

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The ruling Awami League (AL) faced a drama over managing the party's lone rebel mayoral candidate of the June 15 Barisal City Corporation (BCC) elections.

The drama intensified when Mahmudul Haque Khan Mamun alias Khan Mamun, Jubo League Barisal city unit joint convener, went into hiding since May 25 to avoid being coerced into withdrawing his candidature.

May 26 was the withdrawal's last date.

Several teams of pro-AL bodies, including one of central Jubo League comprising its Chairman Omar Faroque Chowdhury, recently went to Barisal to locate and anyhow convince Mamun to withdraw.

This was to ensure that the AL backed candidate Shawkat Hossain Hiron, also the outgoing mayor and AL Barisal city unit president, gets a smooth ride in the election.

But they failed to locate Mamun. He does not even receive calls. "We are in an embarrassing situation," Faroque told this correspondent yesterday.

AL leaders opined that since the withdrawal deadline had passed, Mamun could at least stop electioneering for himself and start backing Hiron.

Mamun has a history of being a rebel candidate.

He contested the 2009 upazila polls defying party orders, bagging 14,000 votes. The AL backed Monirul Islam got 20,000 votes while BNP backed Azizul Haque won by bagging 27,000 votes.

Mamun was also a rival AL mayoral candidate in the 2008 BCC polls but the AL was later able to manage him.

Mamun was a former president of Bangladesh Chhatra League of BM College unit during the 1990s, Barisal district unit Jubo League General Secretary Fazlul Karim Shahin told The Daily Star yesterday.

He took part in the college students' union election three times from 1990 to 1998 as BCL's rival but won in none, he said.

Omar Faroque said Mamun was expelled from Jubo League eight times but he managed to mysteriously come back every time.

Jubo League leader Iqbal Mahmud Bablu told this correspondent yesterday that their team decided in principle to again expel Mamun.

The Daily Star could not reach Mamun over his cellphone.

Our Barisal correspondent adds, Jubo League, the youth front of the AL, decided last night to expel Khan Mamun for his refusal to withdraw from the mayoral run.

The youth organisation took the decision at a meeting in a Barisal city hotel.

JP backs Hiron for BCC mayor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Jatiya Party (JP) of HM Ershad yesterday formally announced to back mayoral aspirant Shawkat Hossain Hiron in the June 15 Barisal City Corporation polls and urged its leaders, activists and supporters to vote for him.

At JP's divisional councillors' meeting in Barisal Club auditorium in Barisal city, JP leaders also held hands with Hiron and raised them as a symbol of their support and announced to introduce him to the party members.

Hiron, the outgoing mayor, was a former JP Barisal district unit joint secretary and JP Barisal city unit president before joining Awami League (AL) in 1996.

He is now the AL city unit president and is being backed by the ruling 14-party alliance and Sammilito Nagorik Committee, a citizens' committee.

JP Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Howladar said although local government elections were apolitical, JP, as part of the alliance, was backing Hiron.

SYLHET, RAJSHAHI Mayoral campaigns gain momentum

CITY DESK

Mayoral aspirants have intensified their campaigns for the upcoming city corporation polls in Rajshahi and Sylhet.

In Rajshahi, mayoral aspirants continued seeking votes, although downpours that plagued the city yesterday hampered their campaigns.

The downpours led to water-logging in some areas while incessant rain at times forced the aspirants to seek shelter and ease off campaigning.

AL-backed candidate and former mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and BNP-backed candidate Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul conducted mass contact campaigns to garner votes in the Rajshahi City Corporation polls.

Liton called upon the votes to elect him for the second time while Bulbul called for a change in the mayoral post, reports our Rajshahi correspondent.

The whole city is abuzz with election gossip while streets were covered with placards, posters and banners. Campaigners also used loudspeakers in their campaigns.

Meanwhile in Sylhet city, mayoral candidate Badar uddin Ahmed Kamran, AL-backed candidate, visited the city's Topkhana, Mogaltola, Kangalibazar and Kazirbazar and adjacent areas yesterday. He was accompanied by leaders and activists of the 14-party alliance, reports out Sylhet correspondent.

Talking to traders in the areas, Kamran, also former mayor of Sylhet, highlighted his initiatives for the city's developments during his time in the mayoral office.

Seeking the traders' support to continue developing the city, Kamran claimed he had made a lot of progress in improving the city roads and lanes and solving the age-old water stagnancy problem.

He further said a major water-supply project is being implemented.

Meantime, Ariful Haque Chowdhury, BNP-backed mayoral candidate, conducted mass contact programmes in the city's Zindabazar area to seek votes in the upcoming election.

Hall-Mark chairperson denied bail again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected bail petitions of detained Hall-Mark Group Chairperson Jasmine Islam in connection with 11 corruption cases.

On October 4 last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the cases against 27 top Hall-Mark and Sonali Bank officials for their alleged role in a Tk 2,600 crore loan scam.

The court passed the order as the High Court on May 21 rejected her bail in the cases.

Earlier on February 7, the same court granted bail to Jasmine in the cases on the condition that she and Hall-Mark will repay Tk 2,600 crore, which the company swindled out, to Sonali Bank.

On February 17, the Dhaka court cancelled its bail order on her surrender, since the HC issued a rule on February 13 asking the government to explain why the bail order should not be cancelled.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

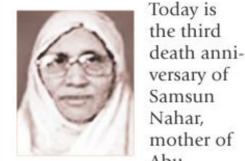
Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, convener of Jatiya Party Lalmonirhat district unit, died due to illness in the capital's Aysha Memorial Hospital on Wednesday. He was 57.

He left behind his wife, and two sons.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur yesterday.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the third death anniversary of Samsun Nahar, mother of Abu Kawser, special correspondent of the daily Samakal. A Qurankhwani and a doa mahfil will be held today in the afternoon at her Palishara residence in Hajiganj of Chandpur, said a press release.

HSC 13

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৩য় তলা, বাটার শো রুমের বিপরীতে)

এ সুযোগ ২ জুন পর্যন্ত

Road crashes kill seven

CITY DESK

Seven people were killed and 13 others injured in separate road accidents in the country on Wednesday and yesterday.

A Bagerhat correspondent reports, a bus passenger was killed and nine others were injured when the vehicle collided head on with a truck in Chulkathi Bhottey area of Bagerhat Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

Deceased Rozina Khatun, 42, of Mongla municipality, was a schoolteacher. The injured were taken to different hospitals and clinics in Khulna.

Our Chittagong correspondent adds, five-year-old Arifa was killed after a microbus hit her at Sholoshahar intersection in Chittagong city yesterday.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports, a tempo passenger was killed and two others were injured when the vehicle fell into a roadside ditch at Mendo village in Nasirnagar upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased is Abu Taher, 40, of Sarail upazila.

Our Khulna correspondent adds, a driver of a human hauler Nosimon died when the vehicle collided head-on with another Nosimon in Mechaghona area at Dumuria upazila yesterday.

Victim Shajahan Gazi, 27, resided in the upazila.

Our Bogra correspondent adds, a motorcyclist died after a truck hit his vehicle at Khejurtola in Sherpur upazila on Wednesday night.

Abdul Motin, 32, of the upazila, was a leader of Jubo League Sherpur upazila unit.

Our Narayanganj correspondent adds, two passengers of a pick-up van were killed when an oncoming bus rammed the vehicle at Aukhabo in Tarabo municipality yesterday.

Bajlur Rahman, 48, hailed from Narsingdi, and Delwar Hossain, 30, from Chandpur. Two people injured in the accident were admitted in the capital's Pongu hospital.

GCC POLLS 600 aspirants collect forms

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Around 600 aspirants, eight for a mayoral post and the rest for general and reserved women's councillor posts, till date collected nomination papers for the July 6 Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) elections.

The aspirants must submit their candidacy seeking applications by June 6.

Three mobile courts led by executive magistrates are conducting drives to punish electoral code violators. Three more are to join next Sunday.

The government on January 7 constituted GCC comprising 57 general wards and 19 reserved wards for women of Gazipur and Tongi municipalities.

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