

Blogger Asif gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to blogger Asif Mohiuddin in a case filed against him for making “derogatory comments about Islam and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)” in social media.

Judge Md Zahirul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Asif's lawyer submitted a bail petition in connection with the case.

Earlier on different dates, three other bloggers—Subrata Adhikari Shuvo, Russel Parvez and Mashiur Rahman Biplob—were granted bail from the same court accused of the same charges.

The court also fixed August 25 for hearing on charge framing against the four accused.

Obituary

CITY DESK

Nilufer Hafiz, mother of Ihtesham B Shahjahan who is the president of Feed Industries Association Bangladesh, died of old age complications in the USA yesterday morning.

Breeders' Association of Bangladesh has expressed deep shock at her death and prayed for her eternal peace and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Saifuddin Khan, central presidential member and Chittagong district president of Gonotantri Party.

During his 54-year political career, he always engaged himself in all democratic movements from 1952 to 1971, said a press release.

His family will arrange a programme today at his village Bara Uthan in Patiya upazila of Chittagong to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



One of the accused in the Biswajit killing case aggressively shouts at photojournalists for taking photos when they were produced in a Dhaka court yesterday. The accused, mostly Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists, were charged with murdering Biswajit Das, a tailor, near the capital's Bahadur Shah Park on December 9 last year.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BALU MURDER

Journos demand fresh trial

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Journalists in Khulna yesterday reiterated their demand for fresh probe and trial of journalist Humayun Kabir Balu murder case as all the accused were acquitted due to weak investigation and flawed charge sheet.

They also demanded that charge sheet of explosive case relating to the murder be submitted after completing the investigation soon.

They were speaking at a discussion organised to observe Humayun Kabir's ninth death anniversary at Khulna Press Club.

On June 27, 2004, Humayun Kabir, editor of local daily Daink Janmobhumi, was killed in a bomb attack before his residence on Islampur road in Khulna city.

Maruf Ahmed, the then sub-inspector of Khulna Police Station, filed a murder case and an explosive case without mentioning anyone's name on the next day of the murder.

With Khulna Press Club President Mokbul Hossain Mintu in the chair, its former presidents Liaquat Ali, Wadudur Rahman Panna, Ahmed Ali Khan, General Secretary Zakir Hossain, former general secretaries SM Zahid Hossain, Saheb Ali and AKA Saroj Noon also spoke.

The speakers also demanded that the masterminds behind Balu murder be arrested and killers of around 25 journalists, including Manik Saha, be tried in a special tribunal.

MAY 6 HEFAJAT VIOLENCE

9 BNP men sent to jail in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday sent nine BNP activists to jail in two cases filed over attacking law enforcers during the mayhem of Hefajat-e-Islam on May 6, after rejecting their bail petitions.

The cases were filed with Siddhirganj and Sonargaon police stations.

The court, however, ordered to continue bails for another nine BNP men, including the district President Taimur Alam Khandaker.

Judge Malik Abdullah al Amin of District and Session Judge's court passed the order in the afternoon.

On May 6, some 19 people, including two border guards and two policemen, were killed and more than 100 were injured in the clash in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj.

Ward-based governance for capital stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wards in Dhaka city should be given more decision-making power to develop a ward-based democratic local governance structure, said Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, yesterday.

The central government refuses to delegate decision-making power to the local government, he told a roundtable on “Politics of Urban Local Governance: A Case of Dhaka City” in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

Presenting a joint keynote speech, Mohammad Sirajul Islam and Harun-or-Rashid, research associates at the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) in Brac University, said the central government held the power to appoint the chief executive of the city corporation or take any institution or project off its hands.

The local government bodies lacking autonomy face even more problems when the mayor and the central governance belong to opposing political blocs, they said, adding that ex-mayors Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Mohammad Hanif lacked cooperation from the state, as they held position when their rival political parties were in state power.

The management of the city is wholly dependant on a political loyalty structure where hooligans lie between the state and the citizens, undermining the people's direct access to services and the representatives' answerability to the citizens, according to the speech.

Unelected officials holding control of the city's local governance is unconstitutional, said Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, a professor of the public administration department in Dhaka University, referring to the absence of an elected administration in the Dhaka city corporation since May 2007.

Dr Rizwan Khair, director of IGS, which organised the roundtable, and Executive Director of IGS Dr Sultan Hafeez Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Razzak Plaza top floor added without approval

Says Buet inspection team

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Razzak Plaza in Savar Upazila, a Buet inspection team yesterday found construction faults in the building's rooftop tin-roofed structure, where cracks were seen in the walls on Tuesday, according to television reports.

After primary inspection of all the floors, the Bangladesh University of Engineering and technology (Buet) team led by engineer Dr Syed Fakhru Amin said there were no cracks in the pillars and beams towards the bottom.

Amin told journalists that the building had approval for eight stories, but later one more floor was added without approval. The standard of the construction work of the 8th floor is low, he said.

The building was sealed off on Wednesday. Decision to open the building may be taken on Saturday after further inspection by the Buet team, he added.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) representatives and upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) were present during the inspection.

Engineer Abdul Khaleque of BGMEA engineering team told The Daily Star, “The Buet team will submit the inspection report on Saturday.”

RESTRUCTURING GRAMEEN BANK 40 DU teachers slam govt move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 40 teachers of Dhaka University, under the banner of “Dhaka University Teachers, Officers and Employees Council” condemned the government for “its vindictive attitude towards Grameen Bank and Prof Muhammad Yunus”.

The condemnation came when the teachers met Nobel Laureate Prof Yunus at his office in the capital on Wednesday, states a statement of the council.

A government-sponsored commission is set to recommend on July 2 either to split the microcredit organisation into at least 19 zones in the format of Rural Electrification Board or shape it in a way to give the government at least 51 percent share of Grameen Bank.

The teachers told Prof Yunus that they would always stand by him and Grameen Bank which he founded three decades ago. The Banker to the Poor thanked them for their support.

Former vice-chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, the forum President Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan and Secretary General Prof Md Mizanur Rahman, and professors Maimul Ahsan Khan, Md Abbas Ali Khan, Tania Rahman, Monzur Morshed, Anwarul Islam, Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and Shahidul Islam were present.

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Issued on: 28 June 2013
Deadline for Application: 13 July 2013

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- Dairy Technician and Project Coordinator
(UN Salary scale and benefits for similar position apply)

Interested qualified candidates will find the post descriptions, the link to the Personal Profile Form (PPF) and the information on how to apply in the following web link: <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/bangladesh> and www.bdjjobs.com. All applicants must submit their PH-Form to: FAOBD-Vacancies@fao.org by close of business on 13 July 2013.

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