

# More trouble for Limon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, JHALAKATHI

A day after maimed Limon Hossain's indictment in an arms case, a court here yesterday transferred the second case against him to the chief judicial magistrate for hearing on framing charges.

The college boy was sued in the second case for obstructing law enforcers in their duties.

On March 23, 2011, a team of Rapid Action Battalion shot Limon, then 16, in the left leg, taking him for a top criminal named Morshed, near his Jhalakathi home at Jamaddarhat in Rajapur upazila. The Rab members then picked him up and filed the two cases against him and six others on the same day.

As the six other accused have remained absconding ever since, Jhalakathi Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court had earlier asked police to publish a summons notice against the absconders in a daily newspaper and produce the copy of the newspaper before it, Limon's lawyer Akkas Shikder told The Daily Star.

"As per the directive of the court, police submitted the copy of the newspaper to it and now the trial will begin," he added.

The next date for hearing on the case has been fixed for August 18. Maximum penalty in the arms case is a prison term of 17 years, while it is seven years in the other case.

Rights bodies have accused the government of failing to protect the teenager, whose left leg had to be amputated following the Rab shooting.

On April 10, 2011, Limon's mother had filed a case against six Rab members for shooting and maiming her son. The case has moved at a snail's pace.



The colour of the water says it all. The Hatirjheel canal is heavily contaminated and stinky due to continuous dumping of wastes from adjacent residential complexes. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Morsi rebuffs

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In a statement issued overnight, the presidency insisted it would continue on its own path towards national reconciliation.

The presidency also denounced any declaration that would "deepen division" and "threaten the social peace".

Morsi's supporters, who have also taken to the streets to defend his legitimacy, say any attempt to remove the democratically elected president from power is no less than a coup.

Egypt's main opposition coalition yesterday said it would not support a "military coup" and trusted that the army statement giving political leaders 48 hours to resolve the current crisis did not mean it would assume a political role.

"We do not support a military coup," the National Salvation Front (NSF) said in a statement. "We trust the army's decla-

ration, reflected in their statement (Monday), that they don't want to get involved in politics, or play a political role," it said.

The army quickly issued a denial there was any attempt at a "coup", saying that army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's statement was merely aimed at "pushing all political sides to quickly find a solution to the current crisis."

As the country's political uncertainty grew, Morsi was hit with a spate of resignations, including by his foreign minister Mohammed Kamel Amr and the ministers of tourism, environment, investment and legal affairs.

Presidential spokesman Ehab Fahmy and cabinet spokesman Alaa al-Hadidi also resigned, officials and the media reported.

Adding to Morsi's woes, an Egyptian court yesterday ordered the reinstatement of Abdel Meguid Mahmud, the public pro-

secutor he had sacked in November.

The increasingly isolated Morsi is Egypt's first freely elected president.

Monday's army statement came just a day after millions of protesters took to the streets across Egypt, calling for Morsi to step down.

It received a rapturous welcome from Morsi's opponents who spilled the streets in Cairo, Alexandria and several other provinces, waving flags, chanting for the army and against Morsi.

Morsi's opponents accuse him of having betrayed the revolution by concentrating power in Islamist hands and of sending the economy into freefall.

His supporters say he inherited many problems from a corrupt regime, and that he should be allowed to complete his term, which ends in 2016.

# Prosecutors may face trial

FROM PAGE 16

"Can't I talk about the charges for which I am stood up on the stage of gallows?" said the war crimes accused.

In reply, prosecutor Zead Al Malum said, "If you commit crimes, won't you stand on the stage of gallows?"

"Exactly, but there is no certainty that you won't stand on that stage [of gallows] in future," the war crimes accused responded.

"You are giving a threat. This is not a place for threats," the prosecutor replied.

Though the tribunal on Monday did not allow the war crimes accused to mention deposition of the prosecution witnesses, SQ Chowdhury, who agreed with the court too, yesterday began pointing out some prosecution witnesses' testimony.

Reiterating that he was not present in Bangladesh during the Liberation War in 1971, he said, "This prosecution represents naked and blatant persecution of political opponents of defined

Muslim conviction." Malum raised objection to his claim and the tribunal recorded 'objection' next to the testimony.

SQ Chowdhury, who was about 22 and not any political big shot in 1971, is facing charges of crimes against humanity committed in Chittagong during the war.

The tribunal-1 had earlier in Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee's verdict explained that the Sayedee of 1971 was being tried, not the MP Sayedee or the Sayedee known for his religious sermons or political affiliation.

SQ Chowdhury yesterday said, "Political persecution against me is supported by some jilted and frustrated lovers of communism who under the guise of secularism are attempting to divide the nation into two poles as pro-liberation and anti-liberation forces."

He added the "unholy" attempt was represented by the prosecution of leaders of the Muslim Ummah under

various laws and a concerted hype against the Muslim scholars.

"I stand before this tribunal as a victim of motivated agenda," said SQ Chowdhury. "In an environment polarised into Infidels and Believers, I represent and belong to the currently threatened species of Believers. I therefore have attracted the ire and venom of the Infidels who are my traditional political adversaries."

"As a son of the soil and not a refugee from India my patriotism and allegiance to the communally demarcated territory of Bangladesh is total and unqualified."

Though the war crimes accused had promised to complete his testimony within an hour, he actually took two hours to complete it.

After his testimony Malum had begun cross-examining the accused before the proceeding was adjourned until Thursday.

ICT-2 The International Crimes

Tribunal-2 yesterday completed recording testimony and cross-examination of the 30th and 31st prosecution witnesses in the case against war crimes accused Abdul Alim.

Mobarak Hossain and Azabuddin Miah, two employees of Bangla Academy's library section, exhibited several reports of daily newspapers published in 1971-72 which were seized by the investigation officer from the academy.

The newspapers included Daily Azad, Ittefaq, Sangram, Dainik Bangla, Dainik Purbadesh and Daily Pakistan.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Judge Md Shahinur Islam adjourned the proceeding until today.

Alim, a former lawmaker of BNP, was indicted on 17 charges including murder and genocide committed during the war.

# No doubt

FROM PAGE 1

newspaper did carry an article by Khaleda titled "Zia: The thankless role in saving democracy in Bangladesh."

"The article that appeared in The Washington Times [The thankless role in saving democracy in Bangladesh] was submitted to us by Mark Pursey, a London-based intermediary acting on behalf of Begum Khaleda Zia," Jackson wrote to this correspondent.

He added: "We have been in touch with Mr. Pursey both before and after the publication of the article and we are confident in its authenticity."

Mark Pursey is Founding Managing Partner of a UK-based communications consultancy firm, BTP Advisers.

Asked to comment on Khaleda's denial, BNP Vice Chairman Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury last night said, "What she [Khaleda Zia] said on the floor of the parliament.....that's the situation."

Shamsher, now on a visit to Thailand, declined to comment further on the issue, which has already stirred a huge political debate in the country.

The January 30 byline write-up, which appeared in the opinion section of The Washington Times, drew huge public attention. At the bottom of the article, Khaleda was identified as former prime minister and current leader of opposition.

There was a reference to GSP in one part of the article.

"They [the US authorities] also must explain to Ms. Hasina that general preferences for trade will be withdrawn if those who support workers' rights and have political views opposed to those of the prime minister are not now allowed to express their beliefs," the article read.

But two days after the US suspended the GSP facility for Bangladesh, Khaleda denied having sent any write-up to the US daily.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was in the House during Khaleda's statement of denial on June 29, showed a copy of the article.

But Khaleda went on saying: "It's not written by me."

# Full freedom

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trade union. This provision will cease to exist if the proposed law gets through the House.

The provision has discouraged workers from setting up trade unions, as the workers fear they will lose their jobs for putting forward the names to the management.

"The amended law will give workers full freedom to run trade unions. They only have to prove that they belong to a particular factory," said Mosharraf, who is also immediate past labour and employment minister.

He said the US didn't cancel the GSP; it just suspended the facility for a short period. "Bangladesh will regain it, as some immediate steps have been taken to this effect."

The minister was briefing journalists at his office in the capital after a series of meetings with economists, labour leaders and garment owners.

"We want to make the labour law more worker-friendly. This is why we formed the parliamentary sub-committee, and are still giving inputs into the proposed law," he said.

The minister said the government would not allow any trade union to act as a non-governmental organisation under the proposed law.

Labour Secretary Mikail Shipar said if the law was passed, the management of a factory would not be able to transfer any executive member of a union to other factories of the same owner in other districts.

Currently, only the chief, general secretary and finance secretary of a trade union cannot be transferred to other factories, he said.

"In the proposed law, workers will be given more opportunity for self-defence in case of appointment, promotion and loss of jobs," Shipar said.

In an action plan, the US government suggested that Bangladesh bring in reforms to the law to remove key concerns over freedom of association and collective bargaining to regain the GSP to the US market.

# Water babe

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wearing arm bands, and swims to the far side of the pool unaided, without even taking a breather.

The remarkable feat has received much criticism from viewers. In particular people are concerned the baby, Elizabeth, is being forced to swim when she is tired and doesn't want to.

But notes from the parents explain the mother's remarks on the video, and the child's baby-talk.

Replying to the comments, Adam BC, who posted the video, points out that he is a registered

nurse and his wife was a life guard for six years and taught swimming.

He writes that the child in the video, Elizabeth, has been trained properly by certified instructors who teach the infant swimming resource (ISR) technique of swimming and self rescue.

He clarifies: "At no point do we force our child to do anything she is unwilling to try. We are able to recognise infant/toddler fatigue in the swimming pool."

"Elizabeth is a very determined little girl and sometimes she wants to

roll over and breath as she was taught and sometimes she wants to hold her breath the whole way."

Adam recommends that all parents should teach their children to swim "because it only takes a moment for them to slip under and drown".

The parents also warn: "Please! do not just throw your child in the water and expect them to swim. That is both dangerous and a quick way to traumatise your child and scare them from ever swimming. ISR uses specialised techniques in training infants and toddlers."

The president, speaking at the presidential palace in Quito, said his government did not intentionally help Snowden travel from Hong Kong to Moscow with a temporary travel pass. "It was a mistake on our part," he added.

Asked if he thought the former NSA contractor would ever make it to Quito, he replied: "Mr Snowden's situation is very complicated, but in this moment he is in Russian territory and these are decisions for the Russian authorities."

On whether Correa would like to meet him, the president said: "Not particularly. He's a very complicated person. Strictly speaking,

Department of the Buet, from the campus. Mezbah admitted to have carried out the attack on Dwip at the university's Nazrul Islam Hall.

The DB would soon frame charges of murder against Mezbah, said DB Inspector Jasim Uddin Dewan.

He added that they could not frame charges against Mezbah all these days as they had been waiting for the statement of Dwip.

Mezbah, Gonogajoron Mancha -- a platform set up on February 5 to demand the death penalty for all war criminals of the 1971 Liberation War -- brought out a protest rally from the Projonmo Chattar (Shahbagh intersection) to the Buet campus yesterday evening, demanding exemplary punishment for the killers of Dwip.

Dwip, member of the

Buet unit of the Bangladesh Chhatra League convening committee, beat up the imam of a Buet mosque for supplying food to the April 5 Hefajat-e Islam grand rally, the DB investigators quoted Mezbah as saying during the interrogation.

Quoting Mezbah, DB (South) Additional Deputy Commissioner Sanwar Hossain, told The Daily Star that the sermons of a Khatib of a mosque at the capital's Demra had inspired him to punish those speaking ills against Islam.

A number of Mezbah's classmates and a teacher, on condition of anonymity, said Mezbah used to be a sincere student, but he gradually started losing interest in his studies.

He used to distribute pro-Islamic books among the students, they said, adding that he had also dropped a semester.

# No asylum yet for US whistleblower

FROM PAGE 16

Ecuador is not considering Edward Snowden's asylum request and never intended to facilitate his flight from Hong Kong, President Rafael Correa said in a personal plea to Quito for his case to be heard.

Snowden was Russia's responsibility and would have to reach Ecuadorean territory before the country would consider any asylum request, the president said in an interview with the Guardian on Monday.

"Are we responsible for getting him to Ecuador? It's not logical. The country that has to give him a safe conduct document is Russia."

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Snowden spied for some time."

On Monday, Snowden broke a nine-day silence since arriving in Moscow from Hong Kong, challenging Washington by saying he was free to publish more about its programs and that he was being illegally persecuted.

That ruled out a prolonged stay in Russia, where a spokesman for President Vladimir Putin said Snowden had withdrawn his request for asylum after the Russian leader said he should give up his "anti-American activity".

But while country after country denied his asylum requests on technical grounds, Venezuela, part of an alliance of leftist governments in Latin America, said it was time to stop berating a man who has "done something very important for humanity".

"He deserves the world's protection," President Nicolas Maduro told Reuters during a visit to Moscow.

"He has a right to protection because the United States in its actions is persecuting him...Why are they persecuting him? What has he done? Did he launch a missile and kill someone? Did he rig a bomb and kill someone? No. He is preventing war."

Maduro said he would consider an asylum application. Snowden's request for safety in Ecuador, which has

sheltered the founder of antisecrecy group WikiLeaks Julian Assange in its London embassy, has seemingly ended.

Obama has made clear to a number of countries that granting him asylum would carry costs.

Snowden has prepared asylum requests in countries including India, China, Brazil, Ireland, Austria, Bolivia, Cuba, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and Venezuela, WikiLeaks has said.

But several countries, including Snowden's favoured Ecuador, said yesterday they could not consider an asylum request from Snowden unless he was on their territory.

Norway said he was unlikely to get asylum there, and Poland said it would not give a "positive recommendation" to any request. Finland, Spain, Ireland and Austria said he had to be in their countries to make a request, while India said "we see no reason" to accept his petition.

France said it had not received a request.

Officials in Russia, which has made clear it wants Snowden to leave, say an embassy car would be considered foreign territory if a country picked him up -- possibly a

# Buet student

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Technology (Buet), was hacked on the university campus on April 9.

Since then, critically injured Dwip had been undergoing treatment at the city's Square Hospital, where he died at the Intensive Care Unit around 3:30am yesterday.

His body was taken to the Buet campus for namaj-e-ajanaza around 10:00am, and later shifted to his Nazirpur village in Pirojpur district, where he was laid to rest, said Delwar Hossain, director of the Directorate of Students' Welfare (DSW) of the Buet.

Buet authorities had donated over Tk 21 lakh for Dwip's treatment, Delwar

added.

On April 18, the Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Md Mezbah Uddin, a fourth year student of Civil Engineering

# Muhith gave JS false statement

FROM PAGE 1

businesses are owned by Prof Yunus, the centre said, "The statement [by Muhith] is completely false. All the social businesses carrying the Grameen name are not owned by Dr Yunus. Prof

Yunus has repeatedly said that he does not own a single share in any businesses."

Further said, "The minister should apologise for making false assertion against a respected person if he could not produce any

evidence to show Prof Yunus owning a single or more personal shares in any company."

Muhith said Prof Yunus took several thousand crore taka in dividend from Grameenphone.

The centre questioned how the microcredit pioneer could receive that from the leading mobile phone operator in the country where he does not own any shares nor even shares bought from the stockmarket.