



A group of people walk away with their loads on the head from Shahjhal International Airport in the capital after failing to avail any transport at the terminal during Jamaat hartal yesterday. Hundreds of people who traveled home in the last couple of days suffered immensely due to lack of transports in the four consecutive days of shutdown enforced by the party which opposes the war crimes trial. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE ON THE ECONOMIST ICT to give verdict on Aug 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 will give a verdict on August 27 on a show cause notice issued to Chief Editor of The Economist Rob Gifford and the weekly publication's South Asia Bureau Chief Adam Roberts.

The ICT-1 on December 6, 2012 issued notice to the two asking them to explain why they should not be charged with contempt of court for "interfering in ongoing trial and violating privacy of a judge".

Mustafizur Rahman, counsel for the journalists, said his clients did not do anything contemptuous by contacting the tribunal's former chairman over the phone.

"If the former chairman did not want to talk, he could have hung up. We assume he [Justice Huq] did not do it out of courtesy," said Mustafizur, adding that the intention of the journalists was naive and merely professional.

He, however, admitted that the journalists should have contacted the judge through the tribunal's registrar which is "the proper way".

Mostafizur prayed the tribunal to dispose of the matter with some observations.

Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon said hacking is an offence and therefore publishing a report on hacked information is liable to offence. "It [hacking] had been done to make the tribunal controversial," he said.

The prosecutor also said that such offences will continue, if the tribunal disposes of the matter with observation.

On December 6, 2012 Justice Md Nizamul Huq, former chairman of the tribunal, said a person from The Economist informed him over the phone that the publication had a record of his Skype conversation with expatriate legal expert Ahmed Ziauddin and asked him some questions regarding this information.

Justice Huq termed it "a serious breach of privacy" and said the people involved in disturbing the ongoing trial process had links to the hacking of the Skype and email accounts.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

6 charges pressed against Azharul

Tribunal decision on cognisance July 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 will decide on July 24 whether it will take into cognisance the war crimes charges, which were brought against Jamaat-e-Islami Acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam yesterday.

The decision came after prosecutor Nurjahan Begum Mukta told the court that she submitted the charges to the tribunal registrar office. The prosecution pressed six charges against Azharul, which include mass murder, rape, torture and looting in 1971.

The 61-year-old Jamaat leader, now behind the bars, also faces charges of abduction, confinement and arson in the northern district of Rangpur during the Liberation War.

Prosecutor Mukta told the tribunal that she had already handed over a copy of the formal charges and other documents to the defence counsels.

According to the probe report, Azharul, a wartime student of Rangpur Carmichael College and president of Rangpur district unit Islami Chhatra Sangha, was involved in the massacre in Rangpur where some 1,225 people were killed in 1971.



Besides, he was also involved in killing four people, abducting 17, raping one, confining 13, torturing 13, and looting and torching numerous houses in the district, it says.

Police arrested Azharul at his Moghbazar home in the capital on August 22 last year over his alleged wartime offences. The investigation agency, designed to probe wartime offences, investigated the allegations against him for more than one year till July 8.

Meanwhile, tribunal-1 Chairman Justice ATM Fazole Kabir yesterday ruled out a defence prayer for allowing transportation of Azharul in a "comfortable vehicle" rather than the prison van from Gazipur jail. Azhar attended the court yesterday.

The tribunal also re-fixed July 25 for starting the hearing on charge framing against Jamaat leader Mir Quasem Ali in connection with his alleged crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Quasem is facing 14 charges of looting, arson and abduction, killing of eight Bangalees and torturing of at least 27 people in Chittagong. The tribunal took the charges against him into cognisance on May 26.

Brunei to recruit more Bangladeshis

Outgoing envoy tells Dipu Moni

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Brunei will recruit more Bangladeshi workers for its infrastructural development projects, said its outgoing High Commissioner in Dhaka Abdul Razak Bin Haji Mohd Hussaini.

The envoy made the assurance during his farewell meeting with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her office yesterday.

The envoy said there is scope for more skilled and semi-skilled Bangladeshis to work in Brunei in its infrastructural development projects.

Dipu Moni appreciated Brunei's proposal of direct air connectivity between Dhaka and Bandar Seribegawan and hoped that this will not only assist Bangladeshi workers but also will facilitate bilateral trade.

The minister invited Brunei investors to explore oil and gas in Bangladesh. She greeted the high commissioner on his successful tenure in Dhaka and expressed satisfaction over the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in different areas, including defence, education and trade.

Dipu Moni also requested the envoy to increase the number of scholarship for Bangladeshi students.

MV HOPE TILTED IN ANDAMAN SEA Two victims buried

CITY DESK

Two officers of MV Hope who died after the Bangladeshi cargo vessel sank off Thailand's coast in the Andaman Sea with 17 crewmen two weeks ago were buried near their homes in Manikganj and Chittagong yesterday, a day after the bodies were flown in from Bangkok.

Chief engineer Kazi Saifuddin, 52, a resident of Gangadharpotty of Manikganj, was laid to rest at Sewta graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza. He left behind his wife, two daughters aged 15 and 11, and a four-year-old son. Saifuddin joined the ship three months back.

His coffin arrived at Hazrat Shahjhal International Airport in Dhaka on Wednesday evening along with the body of MV Hope chief officer Mohammed Mahabub Morshed, 45.

Morshed lived with his wife and two daughters aged six and one at Halishahar in the port city. He was buried at Chittagong Port graveyard after two namaz-e-janazas.

The crew of foreign merchant ship Bux Lagoon recovered the two floating bodies on July 5, a day after MV Hope tilted while heading for Bangladesh from Malaysia with 5,500 tonnes of ball clay. It was scheduled to arrive at Chittagong Port on July 8.

Nine crewmen of MV Hope survived, while six members are still missing.

4 die in Gazipur road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Four people, including two brothers, were killed and eight others injured in a road accident at Bagharpara in Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur last night.

The dead brothers were Sohrab Hossain, 20, and Delwar Hossain, 22, of Narsingdi. The injured were taken to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex.

Kaliganj police said the accident occurred as a vegetable-laden truck veered out of control and overturned due to the poor condition of the Dhaka-Kaliganj road.

Communications on the road remained disrupted for an hour following the accident.

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