

'TORTURE' IN COP CUSTODY IN N'GANJ HC summons Addl SP, OC on July 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned an Addl SP of Narayanganj and the OC of Arahazar Police Station on July 31 to explain their conduct over allegations that five people were confined and tortured in police custody for three days even after getting bail in a case.

The additional superintendent of police (Addl SP) is SM Ashrafuzzaman and the officer-in-charge (OC) is Akhter Morshed.

The HC passed the order after hearing a writ petition jointly filed by the five in June seeking HC directives on the government to take appropriate legal action against the perpetrators.

The five are Yeasin Sarkar of Utrapur village of Arahazar and his sons Rafiqul Islam and Azharul Islam, grandson Masud Rana and daughter-in-law Alena Begum.

Deputy Attorney General Bishwojit Roy, citing from the petition, told The Daily Star that law enforcers of the police station confined and tortured the five in March after they got bail in a forgery case.

Another son of Yeasin, Mozammel Haque Shyamol, is the main accused of the case filed by one Mir Mohammad Mazid over a land dispute, he said, adding that the law enforcers arrested the five after failing to apprehend Shyamol.

Addl SP Ashrafuzzaman recently submitted an investigation report to the HC, stating that the allegations were not true. The HC bench had examined the report yesterday.



Independent Poribar forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding arrest of Awami League lawmaker Golaam Molla Rony for assaulting Independent Television reporter Imtiaz Momin and videographer Mohsin Mukul.

PHOTO: STAR



Tajuddin's anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 88th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmad, the first prime minister of Bangladesh during the Liberation War.

On the occasion, a photography exhibition on his life and works will be inaugurated by Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman at Gallery 21 in the capital's Dhanmondi.

The exhibition will continue from 12:00pm to 8:00pm every day till August 8, said a press release of Tajuddin Ahmad Smriti Sangsad.

Born in Kapsasia, Gazipur on July 23, 1925, Tajuddin became Awami League's general secretary in 1966 and was one of the main architects of the six-point movement of the 1960s.

In absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Tajuddin led the nine-month long Liberation War and formed the government in exile at Mujibnagar in April 1971.

After independence and Bangabandhu's return, he became the finance and planning minister but resigned on October 26, 1974.

Tajuddin was brutally killed inside Dhaka Central Jail along with three other national leaders on November 3, 1975, only two and a half months after Bangabandhu was assassinated with most of his family members on August 15, 1975.

Gun-toting BCL leader apologises for misdeeds

RU CORRESPONDENT

The newly made general secretary of Rajshahi University unit Bangladesh Chhatra League, who openly brandished firearms on the campus in October last year and faces murder and robbery allegations, yesterday apologised for his misdeeds.

Towhid Al Hossain Tuhin made the apology during a press conference at the RU cafeteria a day after The Daily Star ran a report headlined "Gun-toting BCL man elevated" on Monday.

Tuhin, former organising secretary of the university unit BCL, was given the post at Saturday's BCL council. He said he had brandished firearms "only to resist fundamentalists on the campus".

Seeking assistance from journalists to form a new full-fledged committee of the unit BCL, he vowed to resist any misdeeds on the campus in the future.

Tuhin and newly made RU unit BCL president Mizanur Rahman, who was present at the conference, said they would work for creating a congenial atmosphere for holding the election to Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu).

4 CU BCL men suspended for locking Cuja office

67 activists resign in protest

CU CORRESPONDENT

The central committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday suspended four activists of its Chittagong University unit for their involvement in locking the office of CU Journalists' Association (Cuja), prompting 67 of its activists to resign in protest.

BCL, CU unit's organising secretary Pijush Kanti Barman, its assistant secretary Soumen Das Jewel, and members ASM Mehrnaz and Md Safayet have been suspended, said Sheikh Russel, office secretary of central committee of BCL. He, however, did not say how long they have been suspended for.

Mamunul Hoque, president of BCL, CU unit, said he will ask the central committee to investigate into the matter and reconsider their decision.

Protesting the decision, 67 activists of the BCL unit resigned, said Mamunul Hoque.

On Saturday, Cuja submitted a written complaint to CU's proctorial body against a faction of BCL, CU unit for locking its office.

Cuja alleged that some activists of BCL, CU unit locked their office protesting some news reports, which were published on Saturday.

Some dailies reported that two BCL students argued with a taxi driver in the university area over a trifling matter that triggered a chase and counter chase between the BCL activists and local people. However, BCL, CU unit claimed that the reports were false and also denied locking Cuja's office.

Meanwhile, Cuja formed a human chain yesterday demanding that the university authorities take stern action against those who locked their office.

EMON HOSSAIN MURDER CASE Main accused confesses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The main accused in the Emon Hossain murder case gave confessional statement before a Narayanganj court yesterday.

Nahid Hasan, in his statement, told the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Farzana Hossain that he along with others killed Emon over a family feud.

Nahid said his mother called Emon out of his house on June 13. Emon was then forcefully taken to a crop field in Char Radhanagar area by a boat where others were waiting.

He then went on to explain how he, his uncle Ahmed Ali and two others chopped Emon and left his severed body in the field.

After his confessional statement, Nahid was sent to jail.

Emon Hossain, son of Ismail Hossain, went missing after leaving his house on June 13. His body was found in nine pieces nine days into his disappearance.

Meanwhile, students of Kanainagar Sobhania High School, Emon's school, formed a human chain in front of the school demanding arrest and exemplary punishment for the culprits.



An employee engrossed in putting block prints on an outfit in a boutique factory in the capital's New Market yesterday. Factories such as these are passing a busy time due to an increased demand marking the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Australia won't let in boat people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Australian High Commission in Dhaka has said asylum seekers arriving by boat without a visa will never be allowed to settle in Australia.

In a press release on Sunday, it said that under a regional arrangement, unauthorised arrivals would be sent to Papua New Guinea for assessment and if found to be refugees, they would be settled there.

The release, issued by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, said all asylum seekers arriving by boat after signing of the agreement would be subject to the new rules.

The new arrangements will allow Australia to help more people who are genuinely in need and help prevent people smugglers from abusing its system, it added.

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