

THREATENING EGYPTIAN EMBASSY

Suspected Shibir man on four-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed a suspected activist of pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir on a four-day remand in a case filed over threatening to blow up the Egyptian embassy in Dhaka.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ismail Hossain passed the order after inspector of Detective Branch of Police Mahmudul Haque, also the investigating officer of the case, produced Shaukat Afsar, 18, before it with a 10-day remand prayer.

Mahmudul, in the prayer, said Afsar needs to be remanded to find out his role in the incident and to know the whereabouts of his associates, who are also involved in it.

Defence submitted a bail petition saying that Shaukat was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him.

Detective police arrested Shaukat in the capital's Farmgate Wednesday afternoon.

Introducing himself as a supporter of Muslim Brotherhood which deposed Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi, Shaukat wrote a letter to the embassy threatening to blow it up if the authorities did not forward the letter to the Egyptian government, according to DB.

RESOLVING ONGOING POLITICAL CRISIS

National dialogue now essential

Suggests SHUJAN roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A national dialogue involving representatives of political parties, the media, business community and civil society has become essential to resolve the growing political stand-off in the country, speakers told a roundtable yesterday.

The rigid stance of the major political parties on the issue of a polls-time government has made the upcoming election uncertain. A delay in resolving the political crisis may put the democratic system at risk, they said.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagarik (SHUJAN), a platform of civil society members, organised the roundtable, "Permanent solution of political crisis and thoughts of reforms", in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Eminent jurists, citizens, politicians and academics who attended the roundtable

came up with a number of proposals on political and electoral reforms.

Addressing as chief guest, noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said people from all walks of life should press from their own positions for a greater dialogue immediately.

Pointing to the prime minister's recent remarks that the next election would be held in line with the constitution, he questioned, "Election will be held following which constitution?"

Amending the constitution in one's own interest and adopting such amendments in the name of the people is as good as deceiving them, he said.

The then premier Khaleda Zia had also said the same thing before the election in 2007 but that did not happen, he added.

Dr Kamal also said the country's people did not get their due services in the last four and a half years.

Political scientist Prof Dilara

Chowdhury said the way the country was getting fragmented both politically and ideologically had become a matter of concern.

The only way to resolve the crisis is by keeping the democratic process going, she added.

Stating that political parties start their campaigns before the announcement of the polls schedule, former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain suggested formulating a law to check such electioneering.

Nagorik Oikko Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna urged noted citizens to call for a convention in order to find a solution to the crisis.

Moderated by M Hafizuddin Khan, the roundtable was addressed, among others, by SHUJAN Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder, columnist Syed Abul Maksud and media personality Muhammad Jahangir.

PRITI'S DEATH BY THROWN STONE

Probe report submitted

CU CORRESPONDENT

The committee formed to probe the death of Priti Das submitted its report yesterday.

The report recommended that awareness was the only way to prevent stone throwing at trains.

On August 10, Priti, who along with her husband was travelling in a train at Bhatiyari in Sitakunda of Chittagong, died instantly as a stone from the outside hit her in the head.

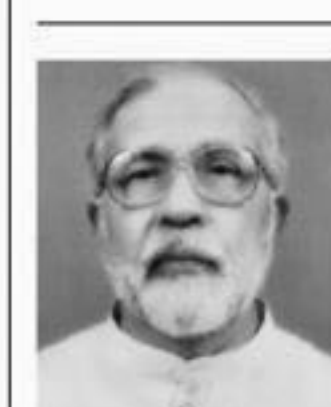
However, Abdur Razzak, a member of the probe body, admitted that they could not identify any one responsible for the incident.

Razzak, also Bangladesh Railway (East Zone) assistant transport officer, said the report made three recommendations - campaign against such incidents through radio, television and newspaper; giving punishment according to the Article 127 of Bangladesh Railway law when anybody is identified, and increasing the awareness among the mass.

After Priti's death, Government Railway Police filed a case and the railway authorities formed the three-member probe committee headed by Assistant Mechanical Engineer of Railway (East Zone) Md Wahidullah.

Obituary

CITY DESK



SKM Abdullah, a geologist, died at his Siddheshwari Century Tower residence yesterday. He was 78.

He left behind his wife, a son and a host of admirers to mourn his death, says a press release.

His family members have requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Abdullah, former director general of Geological Survey of Bangladesh, was also chairman of Petrobangla and a member of Public Service Commission.

KILLING OF SRAMIK LEAGUE LEADER

Local drug traders involved

Say police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday claimed to have found the link of some local drug peddlers in the killing of a Sramik League leader in the capital's Malibagh Wednesday.

Moktar Hossain, 40, joint general secretary of ward 23 of Dhaka city unit Sramik League, was stabbed to death as he was vocal against the drug traders, said his relatives.

Moktar's brother Sirajul Islam yesterday filed a murder case with Ramna Police Station against 10 alleged drug peddlers, including Abul Hossain.

Talking to The Daily Star, Moshirur

Rahman, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station, said in the primary investigation, they found the involvement of Abul in the murder. All the accused are on the run, he added.

Meanwhile, local units of the Awami League and its associate organisations brought out a protest procession in Malibagh yesterday, demanding arrest of the killers. More than 200 people, including local AL lawmaker Rahmatullah, took part in the procession.

Locals said Moktar was involved in trading jhut (scraps of fabrics) in his neighbourhood and used to supply workers to garment factories.

Joydevpur-Dhaka DEMU train inaugurated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Railway Minister Mujibul Haque yesterday inaugurated a commuter train known as Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) at Joydevpur railway junction.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony as the chief guest, Mujibul Haque said the present government has made significant changes in the railway sector with an aim to ensure better services for passengers.

The DEMU will run on Joydevpur-Dhaka route. The commuter train will make four trips daily between the capital and Joydevpur. The train will make two trips from Dhaka at 9:15am and 12:40pm and two trips from Joydevpur at 10:20am and 1:55pm.

The authorities have fixed the fair at Tk 20.

CTG ARMS HAUL CASES

Coerced witnesses implicated Liakat

Claims lawyer for the ex-NSI official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two witnesses were coerced into implicating former NSI deputy director Maj (ret'd) Liakat Hossain in the Chittagong arms haul cases with the assurance that they would not be accused in a separate arms seizure case, claimed Liakat's lawyer yesterday.

Police sergeants Alauddin and Helal Uddin, accused in the separate case filed in 2005 in Noakhali's Sudharam, were also assured of being reinstated in their jobs, added Advocate Kamrul Islam Sazzad.

The witnesses, in four statements each of them gave, never mentioned that Liakat was one Abul Hossain, who investigators say was present during the unloading of the arms on the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited jetty, he said.

The process of the two identifying Liakat, among 10 persons presented before them at Chittagong Central Jail on June 26, 2009, as Abul Hossain was staged as Liakat and Abul Hossain are two different persons, he added.

Kamrul was cross-examining a prosecution witness, Moniruzzaman, also the fifth and last investigation officer (IO), before the Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal Number 1.

The statements mentioned of a person, taking the false identity of one Abul Hossain, who was present at the jetty, said Moniruzzaman in reply, adding that Liakat and Abul Hossain were the same person.

The two Chittagong cases were filed a day after seven truckloads of arms and ammunition were seized at the jetty in Chittagong city on April 2, 2004.

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