

# Court sends Oishee to jail from juvenile centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Oishee Rahman, who confessed to having murdered her parents, Special Branch of police inspector Mahfuzur Rahman and Swapna Rahman, to jail from National Juvenile Development Centre in Tongi, Gazipur.

The order came following Probation Officer Md Siddiqur Rahman's plea stating that the Children Act 2013 is not applicable in Oishee's case as it came into effect on August 21, after the murder on August 15.

The act mentions that persons below 18 years of age are minors and cannot be sent to jails. The plea also states that detectives found a record at a Khulna clinic showing that Oishee was born there in 1994, taking her current age to 19.

Oishee surrendered to police a day after the bodies were found at their house in the capital on August 16.



PHOTO: STAR

The government-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) sells onion at Tk 47 a kg from a truck in front of the Bangladesh Secretariat in the capital yesterday. The move aims to provide consumers with onion at a fair price when retail markets sell it for about Tk 60 per kg.

# HANDING OVER OF KOKO'S MONEY

## Terming it 'a drama' contempt of court

Attorney general tells press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the process of bringing back money laundered by Arafat Rahman Koko "a drama" is not only injustice and limitless falseness but also similar to contempt of court, said Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) can file a contempt of court case against those who made such remarks, he told a press conference at his office in the capital.

The ACC on August 13 brought back the remaining Tk 7.40 crore of around Tk 21 crore that Koko, the younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, and his associate Ismail Hossain Saimon, son of BNP leader and ex-minister Akbar Hossain, siphoned off to Singapore.

On August 27, the attorney general handed over the dummy cheque for the amount to ACC Chairman Badiuzzaman. The next day, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir termed the cheque handover "nothing but a drama".

Yesterday, the attorney general said the money was brought back legally. He said the money laundered by Khaleda's elder son Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun will be brought back when the court, hearing the money-laundering case filed by ACC, orders to do so.

Replying to a question, the attorney general said huge amounts of money have been laundered abroad at different times in the past and the ACC and his office have been trying to bring those back. But, he declined to disclose the names.

# Largest tea yield expected this yr

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

With favourable weather conditions, tea planters are expecting a better yield this year, which may exceed last year's 63.85 million kilogrammes, the highest ever production in Bangladesh.

Tea output is already up by more than four lakh kg in March-July this year compared to the same period last year, when the production stood at around 23.6 million kg, said Director of the project development unit of Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB) Harunur-Rashid.

Tea is a sensitive crop requiring consistent rainfall and sunshine, especially between March and October, the main harvesting period, he told The Daily Star recently.

General Manager of Khadim Tea Estate in

Sylhet Numan Haider Chowdhury said weather had been very good so far. "If it persists till October, we will get a larger yield this year."

In the March-July period, 20 gardens in northern Sylhet produced 18.52 lakh kg of tea, 9.25 percent up from last year's, said Chowdhury, also chairman of the north Sylhet circle of Bangladesh Tea Association, an organisation of tea estate owners.

Around 160 major tea plantations in Bangladesh, 140 of them in Sylhet and the rest in Chittagong, produce an average of 60 million kg of tea annually. Apart from these, some small tea holdings are located in Dinajpur and Panchagarh.

Although the start of the cropping season in March seemed not very well, it is far better

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# New Zealander of Bangladesh origin honorary consul general of Maldives

CITY DESK

Dr Ershad Ali, a New Zealander of Bangladeshi origin and an academician, has recently been appointed as the honorary consul general of the Maldives in New Zealand.

Ali, a resident of Auckland, has been closely working with the Maldivian community living in New Zealand, says a press release.

He is the first among the New Zealanders of Bangladeshi origin to be appointed in such a position.

# Bangladesh can't take in more Rohingyas

Dipu Moni tells new UNHCR representative Stina E Ljungdel; receives credentials from new UNFPA representative Argentina Piccin

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka yesterday reaffirmed its position that Bangladesh was already hosting a huge population of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and could not take in more.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said this when newly appointed country representative of the UN refugee agency UNHCR, Stina E Ljungdel, presented her credentials to the former at the foreign ministry, said a press release.

Referring to her recent visit to the Rohingya camps at Kutupalong and Noyapara in Cox's Bazar, the minister expressed concern about the socio-economic, environmental impacts that the country is facing because of these Muslim nationals of Myanmar's Rakhine State.

Around 30,000 Rohingyas are sheltered in those camps.

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Stina E Ljungdel, newly appointed country representative of the UN refugee agency UNHCR, presents her credentials to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her ministry yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY



PHOTO: STAR

Sex Workers' Network (SWN) form a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting the attack on Madaripur Brothel allegedly by activists of Islahe Qoum Parishad on Tuesday.

# Give evicted sex workers back their brothel

Demands Sex Workers' Network; ASK, Mahila Parishad condemn attack on them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sex Workers' Network (SWN) at a human chain yesterday demanded that the sex workers who were forced out from Madaripur Brothel should be safely returned to their brothel.

Sex workers, who lived in the brothel for generations, have now become homeless as activists of an Islamist organisation, Islahe Qoum Parishad, attacked and ransacked the brothel on Tuesday, said leaders of the organisation.

The human chain was formed before Jatiya Press Club in the capital. The leaders of the organisation demanded exemplary punishment for the perpetrators.

Joya Sikdar, president of the organisation, said influential political persons backed the perpetrators who attacked the brothel. Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust, HIV/AIDS Alliance Bangladesh and National AIDS STD Programme expressed solidarity with the human chain.

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# Human chain

Bangladesh Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad will form a human chain demanding scrapping of, it says, anti-labour provisions from the amended labour law; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

# Discussion

Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad will hold a discussion on the current political crisis; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

# Rally

Bangladesh Mahila Awami League will stage a rally on the country's overall situation; Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan; Time: 3:00pm.

# Human chain

Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajote will form a human chain demanding tight security in temples during the upcoming Durga Puja; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

# AL grand rally at Suhrawardy Udyan today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League will hold a grand rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan today where Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina is expected to give necessary directives to the party's grassroots leaders about their possible roles centring the next parliamentary election.

"As the election is getting closer, necessary directives will be given through tomorrow's rally for our party leaders and workers across the country," AL Acting General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star yesterday.

Hasina would also dwell on "BNP-Jamaat-Hefajat's" anti-government movements and propaganda and call upon the party leaders to build resistance against the "evil forces", he said.

Laying the utmost importance on the rally, the ruling party plans to mobilise tens of thousands of party men apparently

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