

Khairul Murder in Capital Sayedabad Bus Terminal Owners' Association president held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective police arrested the president of Sayedabad Bus Terminal Owners' Association in the capital's Dainik Bangla area Wednesday evening over killing of the association's general secretary Khairul Alam Mollah.

With Abul Kalam, 60, the number of arrestees in connection with the murder stands at five.

Khairul, vice-president of Dhaka city (south) Jubo League, was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants inside Samabaya Bank Bhaban in the capital's Motijheel on November 7.

Earlier, in their confessional statements before a Dhaka court, arrested Alamgir Hossain and Naimur Rahman Durjoy, named Kalam as the mastermind behind the plan to kill Khairul, said Jewel Rana, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Hearing on five BNP

FROM PAGE 5

Less than a week ago, the High Court stayed their remand following a writ petition and allowed the investigation officers to quiz them at the jail gate instead, if necessary.

The three top BNP leaders along with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser Abdul Awal Minto and her special assistant Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas are charged with 'attempted murder of cops

and creating violence in the capital" recently.

The three leaders were arrested in the capital on November 8 while the latter two were detained the next day in the two cases filed with Motijheel Police Station.

A metropolitan magistrate denied them bail on November 14 and placed each on an eight-day remand, but the order was stayed by the HC on November 17.

Two agencies' licenses

FROM PAGE 5

Probe committees identified seven fraudulent agencies, including the aforementioned, said the ministry Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal at a press briefing in the civil aviation and tourism ministry yesterday.

Investigations are ongoing against the remaining five agencies to identify those involved in swindling

four more prospective pilgrims, he said.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Faruk Khan said 85,074 of the 87,854 pilgrims who went to perform Hajj in Saudi Arabia this year have already returned.

He said they had plans to fly pilgrims directly from Sylhet and Chittagong next year.

Defend spirit of Liberation

FROM PAGE 3

who were freedom fighter, had been raised to 60 years from 57 apart from reserving 30 percent of posts as quota in government jobs for the children of freedom fighters and martyred freedom fighters alongside keeping five percent of posts as quota for admission to various public educational institutions.

Besides, she mentioned, some two lakh freedom fighters are now receiving monthly allowances of Tk 5,000, while monthly allowance for the families of the Bir Shreshthas has been raised to Tk 14,400 and for some 2,500 families of martyrs to Tk 7,020. Over Tk

61 crore was given as state allowances to some 7,838 wounded freedom fighters in fiscal 2010-11, which was raised by 20 percent the next year, she said.

Hasina also noted that some 676 gallantry award recipients were getting higher amounts of allowance. A project of Tk 228 crore is underway to ensure accommodation facilities for the landless and insolvent freedom fighters, from which some 2,971 freedom fighters will get buildings, she said, adding that a process was going on to harmonise the curriculum of the Armed Forces with the national education policy.

Earlier, the prime minister distributed cheques, mobile phones, and shawls as gifts to some selected gallantry award recipients and their heirs at the function.

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt (ret'd) AB Tajul Islam and chiefs of the three services were present on the occasion. Principal Staff Officer of the AFD Lt Gen Abu Belal Mohammad Shafiqul Haque gave the address of welcome.

Later, the PM inaugurated the newly-constructed building of Kurmitola Golf Club and Swadhinata Tower near Shaheed Bir Shreshtha Jahangir Gate of Dhaka Cantonment.

JS bodies can play vital role

FROM PAGE 5

ministries and the committees could strengthen this role further in enacting laws for people's welfare.

The MRDI team led by its Executive Director Hasibur Rahman handed over a study report 'JS Bodies Under Media Scanner' to the president. The study was conducted as part of the Engaging Media in Governance and Legislation (EMGL) project under the PROMIP programme, supported by The Asia Foundation Bangladesh and funded by the USAID and

UKAid.

The study looked into the coverage of parliamentary standing committee meetings by Bangladeshi media. It sought to enhance public participation in political governance and legislation by establishing close linkage between parliament and the civil society.

The president urged journalists to ensure accurate and wider coverage of the committee meetings to keep citizens updated and reduce the gaps between the proceedings and reporting.

Hasibur Rahman thanked the president for his support to the project when he was the speaker of parliament and hoped that MRDI would get his support and guidance in implementing the study's recommendations.

Other members of the delegation were Farid Hossain, CEO, Infocus, MRDI; Nepal Chandra Sarker and Md Shahid Hossain, advisers, MRDI; Ashish Saikat, managing editor, the daily Ittefaq; and Aktarun Naher, senior programme officer, MRDI.

Normalcy returns

FROM PAGE 3

the activists again vandalised a truck and a lorry in Sitakunda municipality area, leading to the second tail-back that lasted till 1:00am yesterday, said police.

Additional law enforcers were deployed to thwart unwanted incidents, said police.

Meanwhile, namaz-e-janaza of Aminul Islam, general secretary of Sitakunda's Barabkunda union unit Jamaat-e-Islami, was held at Barabkunda Eidgah Maidan around 2:00pm. The burial took place at the family graveyard

at Barabkunda.

"We are preparing to file a murder case," said Jamaat's Sitakunda upazila unit Ameer Shafiqul Mawla.

Quoting Aminul's wife, he said some men introducing themselves as Detective Branch of police had picked up Aminul from a Comilla restaurant on November 17.

The bus Aminul and his wife were riding on their way home from Dhaka had made a stopover there.

His body, with bullet wounds in the head, was recovered from the roadside in Sitakunda's Ponthichila around 1:30pm.

Dipu Moni

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"So, I won't have dissatisfaction if it happens after three months," she said.

Dipu Moni was replaced by Abul Ahsan Mahmud Ali, who was minister for disaster and relief, as the prime minister formed a 29-member election-time cabinet yesterday, doing some reshuffle, inducting some new faces, and dropping some old ones.

Women should be inspired

FROM PAGE 5

political crises, but women should not just be mere observers, they must try to establish a non-communal and secular country.

Women's rights leader Maleka Begum said although the country is in turmoil currently, people must try to walk the right path following the poet's examples.

Mafulud Haque, trustee board member of the Liberation War Museum, said personalities like Sufia Kamal, who showed the way to struggle for establishing democracy in the society, can guide the women of the country.

Women's rights activist, Dr Faujia Moslem, among others, spoke.

Renowned poet and a pioneer of women's rights movement in Bangladesh, Sufia Kamal's 14th death anniversary was observed on November 20.

Sufia Kamal was instrumental in establishing Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Chhayanaut and Kachi Kanchar Mela.

She received the Independence Day Award, Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Award, Deshbandhu CR Das Gold Medal, and many other national and international accolades.

Put a stop to culture

FROM PAGE 5

The team includes Workers' Party of Bangladesh leader Bimal Biswas, anti-militancy campaigner Ziauddin Tariq Ali, Bangladesh College and University Teachers' Association President Dr Noor Mohammad Talukder, journalist Salim Samad, writer Sardar Amin, Dhaka University teacher Robaet Ferdous, filmmaker Rashed Rhine, and indigenous community leader Dipayon Khisa.

"The state is not that weak that it cannot identify the perpetrators. Whoever they may be, the state should identify and try them," said veteran politician Pankaj Bhattacharya.

The citizens said the heinous attack was carried

out by those who do not believe in communal harmony and took the chance to destroy such harmony.

The affected locals had blamed police and local administrations of being negligent in their duties during and following the attack, they said.

"Despite knowing of the growing tension, only four policemen were deployed at the village who played the role of spectators during the attack," said Noor Mohammad Talukdar.

Alongside investigating negligence of the part of police, the citizens also demanded exemplary punishment for the murders, required treatment for the injured and rehabilitation of the victims.

Architect of Int'l Mother

FROM PAGE 5

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Rafiqul had been living in Canada for the last 18 years.

Initiatives by Rafiqul and Abdus Salam, members of Vancouver-based NGO "Mother Language Lovers of

the World", inspired Bangladesh government to work towards achieving UN recognition of the Language Movement.

Responding to Bangladesh's proposal, the UNESCO in 1999 declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Jamila Khatun, mother of Gaibandha municipal ward councillor Azher Ali, passed away due to old age complications yesterday. She was 95.

She left behind four sons and four daughters.

She was buried at Gaibandha municipal graveyard.

Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 15th death anniversary of Zebun Nisa Jahangir (Suraiya), said a press release.

Zebun Nisa was the wife of Lt Col NAM Jahangir, who was martyred during the country's Liberation War.

Her father Abdul Wahab was the speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan from 1954 to 1958.

A doa mahfil and feeding programme for the destitute have been arranged at different places.

SC continues

FROM PAGE 5

although it found him guilty on eight out of 20 charges brought against him.

Sayedee on March 28 filed an appeal with the SC seeking acquittal from the eight charges.

The government on the same day submitted another appeal to the apex court seeking death penalty for Sayedee on the eight charges, which were proved before the tribunal.

Pro-BNP

FROM PAGE 3

the country will have to face serious clashes," said former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emazuddin Ahmed.

DU's former VC Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, former pro-VC Yusuf Haider, and Prof Jinna Ara Naznin also spoke on the occasion.

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