

Court orders treatment for Hannan Shah

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent BNP leader Brig (retd) ASM Hannan Shah to jail, directing the jail authority to provide proper treatment and first class division according to Jail Code.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tareq Mainul Islam Bhuiyan passed the order after Bhatara police produced him on completion of his two-day remand in an arson case.

Yesterday, Hannan's lawyers told the court that Hannan had been suffering from ailments and filed a bail petition with another court.

In the petition filed with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka, the lawyers challenged the legality of a metropolitan magistrate court's November 26 order, which rejected Hannan's bail prayer and placed him on the remand.

Police picked up Hannan from the capital's Baridhara on November 25 citing no specific reason and the next day showed him arrested in the case.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Wailing mother, left, and wife, right, of Shariful Islam, a bank employee, who was among 19 passengers burnt inside a bus in the capital's Shahbagh last evening following an attack by arsonists as the third day of BNP-led opposition's 71-hour blockade was in progress. Though he was still alive, one of the victims succumbed to his burns last night. Due to political violence for last few months, such stories of heartbreak have become almost an everyday phenomenon at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the photo was taken.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

3-DAY BLOCKADE VIOLENCE

Railway north incurs damage worth Tk 46 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Railway incurred around Tk 46 lakh in losses in the last three days for attacks on trains and tracks in the country's northern region during the opposition's blockade, Rajshahi Divisional Railway Manager Pankaj Kumar Shaha told The Daily Star yesterday.

The complete torching of one coach and partial burning of two others of Sirajganj Express at Ishwardi Junction Yard on Tuesday at 1:00am, five hours before the blockade began, alone caused Tk 41 lakh worth of damage, he added.

Police had to escort fire fighters to the scene as miscreants, in an attempt to delay them, were hurling cocktails and burning fires on the road. By the time they reached the scene, the damage had already been done, he added.

He said at least 33 attacks occurred, including minor arson attacks, uprooting of tracks, throwing of stones and bricks at trains and blocking of tracks with logs, and separate general diaries have been filed with Government Railway Police.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

9 injured as gang opens fire in AL leader's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An armed gang of around 20 members stormed the house of a local Awami League leader in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong early yesterday, looted valuables and opened gunfire leaving nine of his family members wounded.

The victim, Kazi Golam Mohiuddin, president of Salimpur union AL, alleged that Jamaat-Shibir men in the guise of robbers attacked his house in order to kill him.

"They were looking for me," he said. "My family hid me in a room on the second floor of the house. As they did not find me, they opened fire from lethal weapons."

The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said police.

Mohiuddin said, "We identified some of the attackers and will file a case against them."

The gang stormed the house around 1:30am in the morning and looted valuables and Tk 65,000 in cash, he alleged. They also ransacked his nearby grocery shop, he said.

Shafiqul Mawla, ameer of Sitakunda upazila unit Jamaat-e-Islami, however, denied the allegation. "We know nothing about it. It's a false and motivated allegation."

PROTEST AGAINST TCEFA Left parties' countrywide rallies tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leftist parties will organise countrywide rallies tomorrow protesting the signing of the Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework Agreement with the US, the government decision to hold a "one-sided" election and the violence and arson in the name of hartal.

At a press conference in the capital's Mukti Bhaban yesterday, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (SPB) leaders said people should unite to form an alternative political force.

On November 27, Gonotantrik Bam Morcha,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS President for scout movement

BSS, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged all concerned to introduce scout movement at primary and secondary level public and private educational institutions to produce independent and well-educated youths.

"It is necessary to form a scout team at every educational institution to build our youths into worthy citizens," he said while inaugurating the 42nd annual meeting of National Council of Bangladesh Scouts at Osmani Memorial Hall in the capital.

The president, who is also the country's Chief Scout, said the youth community would have to be brought up in a proper way, taking fruits of the country's independence, achieved at the cost of lives of 30 lakh martyrs, to the people.

President Hamid lauded activities of scouts in various fields like disaster management, particularly the efficiency they showed in the rescue operation after the collapse of Rana Plaza.

Besides, the president appreciated the scouts for their rural level work in areas like plantation, sanitation, health service and immunisation through creating mass awareness.

At the programme, 10 scouts were awarded "Silver Tiger" while seven others "Silver Hilsa" for their outstanding contributions to the scout movement.

Abdul Karim, president of Bangladesh scouts, Abul Kalam Azad, chief national commissioner, and adviser Abu Hena, among others, also spoke.

WAR CRIMES IN 1971 Bangladeshis in UK demand Mueen's extradition

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH

Bangladeshis living in the UK demonstrated outside the British parliament in London Wednesday demanding that convicted war criminal Chowdhury Mueenuddin be deported to Bangladesh to face justice.

Mueen, 65, currently residing in the UK, has been found guilty early this month of committing war crimes during Bangladesh's Liberation War by the International Crimes Tribunal on all 11 charges relating to abduction and killing of 18 intellectuals that included nine teachers of Dhaka University, six journalists, and three physicians.

The special court passed a death sentence on Mueen, who in 1971 was an active member of the student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami which actively opposed Bangladesh's independence and aided the Pakistani military in committing genocide.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Chehlum of Fazlul Quader Quaderi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chehlum of Fazlul Quader Quaderi, a banker and author of the book

"Bangladesh Genocide and World Press", will be held at his residence in the capital after Maghrib prayers today.

He was a former general manager of state-run Agrani Bank and received the Independence Award for the reference book, which contains reports of 137 newspapers from 54 countries on the mass killings during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.

In a press release, relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend today's milad and doa mahfil at House-132/2, Jahanara Garden, Green Road.

Quaderi died of old age complications at his house on November 6 at the age of 81.

Death anniversary

UNB,Dhaka



Today is the first death anniversary of Anjuman Ara Jamil, former lawmaker and wife of Shaheed Brig Gen Jamil Uddin Ahmad (Bir Uttam).

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at her residence "Villa de Anjuman", House-115, Eastern Road, Lane-6 of New DOHS in Mohakhali of the capital.

Anjuman was a great promoter of women education and a founder of "Jamil Foundation", set up after the name of Jamil Uddin, at Hashempur in Kushtia district. The organisation works for female education and empowerment by providing various vocational trainings.

Anjuman is survived by four daughters - Tehmina Enayet, Afroza Jamil, Fahmida Ahmed and Karishma Jamil.



Jahangirnagar University Jatiyatabadi Shikhhak-Karmachari Forum forms a human chain on the campus yesterday demanding cancellation of the schedule for the national election slated for January 5 and restoration of the non-party caretaker government system.

PHOTO: STAR

QUICK SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES KSA to set up special labour courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Saudi Arabian government has decided to set up special labour courts to accelerate the settlement of labour disputes, as the existing courts face backlogs of cases.

"These courts will operate under the ministry of justice. The cases that are now dealt with the labour ministry will be transferred to these special courts," Saudi Labour Ministry spokesperson Hattab Al-Anazi told the local media.

Arab News, a Saudi-based English newspaper, reported yesterday that the labour ministry received 9,960 cases last year, of which 4,243 were filed by Saudi employees and 5,717 by foreign employees.

The workers, especially foreigners, often file complaints that employers do not implement labour court decisions or orders, as the court lacks true judicial authority, the report mentioned.

Labour disputes that were previously tackled by ombudsmen at the labour ministry will now be dealt by judges appointed by the justice ministry, he said, adding that the new move would provide effective and speedy justice for ensuring transparency in trials.

The new courts would deal with all kinds of labour-related litigations, such as violation of employment contracts and delays in wage payments and compensations. The reforms are expected to benefit society at large and the massive expatriate community in particular.

Contacted, labour counsellor at the Bangladesh embassy in Saudi Arabia Emdadul Haque said the victims would be benefitted, as the special courts would ease the process of dispute settlement.

"It is a good decision to ensure the rights of the workers, as they will now get proper judgment and won't face unnecessary hassles," he told The Daily Star by phone.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

5 cases filed over violence in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police have filed five cases against scores of opposition activists, including Chittagong city unit BNP and Jamaat leaders, in connection with violence carried out in the city on Wednesday, the second day of the opposition alliance's 71-hour blockade programme.

The accused include Chittagong city BNP President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and General Secretary Dr Shahadat Hossain, BNP chairperson's advisor Mir Md Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, BNP Central Organising Secretary Golam Akbar Khandakar, Jamaat Chittagong city unit Ameer Shamsul Islam and former Jamaat lawmaker Shahjahan Chowdhury.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Exempt educational activities from political programmes

Amar Odhikar Campaign urges parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amar Odhikar Campaign, a platform working for civil rights, yesterday demanded that political parties organise their programmes in such a way that those do not hamper academic activities of students.

"It is essential to put pressure on the political parties so that they keep educational activities out of the purview of their political programmes," said Sirajud Dahar Khan, chairperson of the organisation, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

He further demanded that agitation

programmes do not obstruct students' movements.

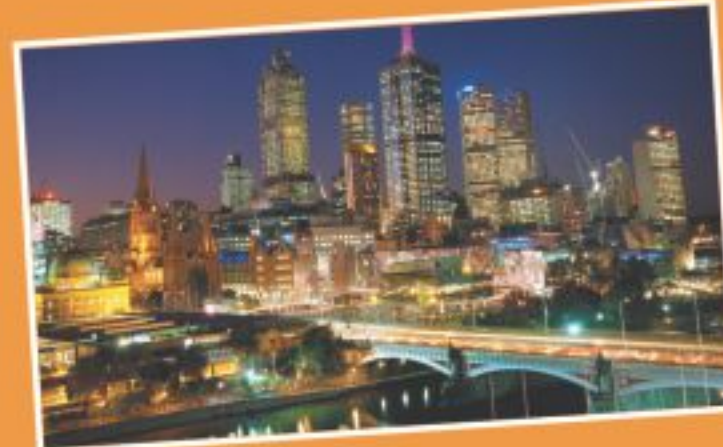
Sirajud Dahar Khan said about 30 lakh examinees giving primary, ebtedai, secondary or dakhil exams are going through endless sufferings due to the recent agitation programmes enforced by the opposition alliance.

Besides, admission tests of different universities are also being postponed due to the same reason, he said.

Some students are facing session jam that will create problems for their professional

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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