

Don't show Mintoo, Khokon arrested in any more case

HC tells govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government not to show detained BNP leaders Abdul Awal Mintoo and AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon arrested in any case "without the due process of law".

It means that police cannot implicate or show them arrested in any more case if their names are not in the first information report (FIR) of the case and if there is no specific allegation or arrest order against them, their lawyer, AKM Ehsanur Rahman, told The Daily Star.

He said police had already shown Mintoo, an adviser to the BNP chairperson, arrested in five cases, and Khokon, joint secretary general of the BNP, in three cases although their names were not in the FIRs.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Md Habibul Gani passed the orders after hearing two separate petitions filed on behalf of the detained BNP leaders.

Mintoo's wife Nasrin Awal

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Members of Prothom Alo Bondhusabha's Chandpur unit alongside people from all walks of life form a human chain at the base of Ongikar in Chandpur city yesterday bearing candles and chanting the slogan "No more communal violence - let's ignite the light of harmony".

PHOTO: ALAM PALASH

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Ershad's aides claim he was confined to CMH without illness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of Jatiya Party (JP) leaders having good ties with its chairman HM Ershad yesterday claimed that he was not ill but confined to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) last month.

"He just told me that he was not ill and has been always fit," lawmaker Salma Islam, a JP presidium member, told journalists after coming out of Ershad's President Park residence in the capital's Baridhara.

"He also wanted to know who had stated that he was ill," she added.

On the night of December 12, members of an intelligence agency allegedly picked up Ershad from the residence under Rapid Action Battalion escort and took him to CMH.

After staging a month long "treatment" drama, Ershad went to the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan on Saturday, took oath as a lawmaker and returned to CMH. He had once said he would rather die than contest the January 5 general polls.

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Attack on Hindus in Jessore was planned

Says Gonojagoron Mancha report

CITY DESK

The attack on the Hindu community of Malopara in Abhaynagar of Jessore was carried out in a planned manner by political activists opposing the 10th parliamentary polls, alleged a report of Gonojagoron Mancha following their visit to the area.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Welfare Front placed a five-point demand, including formation of a neutral judicial probe committee, to prevent attacks on minority communities.

"After investigating, we found that as soon as the voting had ended, perpetrators with hired goons swooped on the minority com-

munity after propagating a rumour that 'four Muslims were killed in Malopara'," said Imran H Sarker, spokesperson of the mancha, according to our DU correspondent.

Some of the attackers, positioning themselves a kilometre away from the village's entrance, also gave wrong directions to a fire fighting unit that had come to the villagers' rescue, he said.

A 16-member team collected the findings on their first road march to Jessore from the capital.

Some locals were also involved in the incident as they had hoped the attack would drive the Hindus away and they could grab

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Govt fully prepared to tackle diplomatic barriers

Says new state minister for foreign affairs; Nahid plans continuation of efforts to ensure quality of education

CITY DESK

New State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam yesterday said the new government is fully prepared to face any barriers to maintaining friendly relations with the international community.

"We do not consider anything as threat before us...we are prepared for any future barriers," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid thinks that his ministry would continue its endeavour to improve quality of education taking it as the main challenge ahead.

State Minister Shahriar said the presence of a large number of foreign diplomats at Sunday's oath-taking ceremony

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Hannan, Rizvi denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected bail prayers of BNP leaders Brig (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah and Rizvi Ahmed in connection with cases filed against them for "attempting to murder policemen" and "triggering violence" in the capital.

Hannan Shah is accused in two cases: one filed on September 24 last year for attempting to murder police men and one on November 5 for triggering violence in Motijheel.

Rizvi is accused in a case filed also for attempting to murder law enforcers. The case, filed on November 28, says Rizvi assaulted police, prevented the law enforcers from discharging their duties and threw bombs at them.

Judge Md Zahirul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after lawyers of the two BNP leaders submitted three separate bail petitions against a rejection order of the lower court.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on different dates had rejected their bails in the cases.

Army deployment extended till Jan 19 in 8 constituencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has decided to extend duration of army deployment by two days, till January 19, for election duties in eight constituencies of six districts.

"We have taken the decision to beef up security measures for resisting post-poll violence, if it occurs,"

Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told journalists at the EC Secretariat yesterday.

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Seven killed photojournalist Aftab for money: Rab

Five of them arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran photojournalist Aftab Ahmed was killed by seven robbers including his chauffeur in the capital's West Rampura in late December, Rapid Action Battalion said yesterday.

The murderers entered the house, saying they wanted to pay money in advance for renting a flat in the four-storey building, of which, Aftab lived alone in a second-floor apartment.

Rab arrested five of the alleged killers in Dhaka and Gazipur on Sunday, Rab Media Wing Director Habibur Rahman told journalists at Rab headquarters in the capital.

They arrestees are Humayun Kabir, 32, driver of Aftab's car; Belal Hossain Kisl, 35, mastermind of the killing; and aides Habib Hawlader, 21, Raju Munshi, 22, and Sabuj Khan, 18, he said.

Two others, Rasel and Nizam, are on the run, the official added.

A Rab-3 team first arrested Humayun at Sayedabad, and he led them to arrest the four others.

The 79-year-old Ekushey Padak winning

photojournalist was found dead at his residence on December 25 last year. His hands and legs were tied and mouth gagged.

The Rab official said that after learning about Aftab's solitary life from driver Humayun, the group planned to rob the house in mid-December. Humayun was reluctant at first but got interested when he saw some cash in Aftab's hands one day, he added.

Humayun, who took up the job in early November and lived in Rampura, told Rab that on December 24, his six accomplices arrived around 7:15pm.

Entering the flat, Kisl, held Aftab's collar and asked for money and other valuables. As he shouted for help, Kisl, Humayun, Habib and Rasel strangled him, said the Rab official.

Later, they placed the body on sofa and locked the door before making off with Tk 65,000 from the wardrobe and Aftab's cell phone. Later, Humayun received Tk 10,000 from Kisl.

Aftab's daughter Afroza Ahmed, who attended the press briefing, demanded that everyone involved in killing her father be

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Five of the seven alleged killers of Ekushey Padak winning photojournalist Aftab Ahmed at Rapid Action Battalion headquarters in the capital yesterday. The five including his chauffeur Humayun Kabir, 32, far left, were arrested in Dhaka and Gazipur on Sunday, while the remaining two are on the run. The 79-year-old photographer was strangled at his West Rampura residence in the capital on December 24 last year.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

CTG POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE BCL leader stabbed by rival faction men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A BCL leader of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute unit was stabbed by activists of a rival faction on the college premises yesterday over establishing supremacy.

The injured -- Md Mahmud, 22, a student of electrical engineering department of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute and sports secretary of its Bangladesh Chhatra League unit, -- was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

A faction led by Md Shamim attacked Mahmud while the latter was on his way to take an exam, said Kazi Rabiul Islam Fahad, senior joint-secretary of the BCL unit.

On information, police rushed to the college premises and brought the situation under control.

A dispute existed between the two BCL factions over establishing supremacy in the area, said Nurul Islam, sub-inspector of Khulshi Police Station.

Contacted, Shamim said he heard that some outsiders attacked and injured Mahmud.

Meanwhile, at the University of Science and

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2 Bangladeshis held with 55 gold bars in UAE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Arab Emirates customs officials detained two Bangladeshi expatriates with 55 gold bars weighing 6.41kg at the Sharjah International Airport on Sunday.

The duo was not named but identified as MM Sh and MAA.

They were trying to smuggle out the bars, hiding them inside a tin of powdered milk, to Bangladesh, the UAE based Gulf News reports.

They confessed to their crimes and were referred to the public prosecution for further action.

Meanwhile, another Bangladeshi expatriate, Khokon Molla, died after falling from an under-construction building in Al

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL Decision on Qaisar's indictment Jan 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fixed January 30 to decide whether it will frame charges against Syed Mohammad Qaisar, former state minister in military ruler HM Ershad's cabinet, for his alleged involvement in war crimes during the Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan fixed the date after both the prosecution and defence completed their submissions over his indictment yesterday.

On November 10, the prosecution pressed 18 charges against Qaisar for crimes against humanity and genocide in Habiganj and Brahmanbaria in 1971.

According to the prosecution, Qaisar was the founder of the "Qaisar Force", an associate organisation of the Pakistani army, and involved in an act of genocide that left 108 people dead, and at least 10 incidents of killing that left 47 people dead.

Qaisar, 73, was arrested in the capital on May 21 last year.

SC resumes Sayedee hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a 49-day recess, the Supreme Court yesterday resumed hearing Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee's appeal against the death penalty given to him for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

During the hearing, defence counsel SM Shahjahan read out from the documents produced before the International Crimes Tribunal-1, which sentenced Sayedee to death on February 28 last year.

After the 19th day's proceedings yesterday, the five-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain fixed tomorrow for further hearing.

The apex court held the last hearing on November 25

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Govt to bring back fugitive killers of Bangabandhu

Law Minister Anisul Huq tells The Daily Star

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said that after learning about the latest progress, he would take necessary steps to bring the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman back to the country so that they face the further process of trial.

He said this while talking to The Daily Star at the law ministry following his takeover. Anisul was the principal counsel for the state in the cases of killings of Bangabandhu and four national leaders in 1975, and the Pilkhana carnage in February 2009.

"I joined the office for the first time today. I don't know what measures the last government took to bring back the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu. I'll use my experiences to get the Supreme Court verdict executed after knowing about this."

Six convicted killers of Bangabandhu and most of his family members are now absconding. They are Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim, Nur Chowdhury, Rashid Chowdhury, Abdul Mazed and Moslehuddin Khan. Two of them are now in the United States and Canada, while whereabouts of the remaining four are not known.

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Two killed in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two youths were stabbed to death in the capital's Mirpur and Bangshal areas yesterday afternoon.

In Mirpur's Darus Salam area, Fazal Miah, 21, a garment trader, was killed by some of the local youths.

Fazal's cousin, Md Jewel, said a football match was held in the area. After losing, Fazal's team blamed the winning team for cheating.

Around 4:00pm Fazal went to meet five members of the winning team after getting a call from them. The youths stabbed Fazal indiscriminately. He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In Bangshal area, Md Shahed, 26, was also killed by some of the local youths as he filed a case against them on November 21 for beating him up. Shahed was declared dead at Mitford Hospital. Police are trying to arrest the killers.