

Tarique's mother-in-law seeks time to provide wealth info to ACC

Two court office assistants quizzed over graft allegation against ex-judge Motahar; AL lawmaker's tax documents seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers of Syeda Iqbalmand Banu, mother-in-law of BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman, yesterday requested the Anti-Corruption Commission to issue a fresh notice for submission of Banu's wealth statement.

The commission, however, is resolute about suing her for non-compliance. Talking to The Daily Star, ACC Chairman Badruzzaman said, "There is no way we can give (her) more time. The submission deadline expired a long time ago."

After meeting the ACC chairman at his office in the capital, Banu's counsels Barrister Nasiruddin Ahmed Wasim and Mohammad Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan alleged that ACC had decided to file a non-submission case only because Banu was Tarique's mother-in-law.

In a letter to the commission, Banu said ACC asked her on October 20, 2011 to submit her wealth statement within seven days. Later, on January 30, 2012, the High Court stayed ACC's notice for four months. But on May 3, 2012, the Supreme Court stayed HC's January 30 order.

The letter added that since the January 30 stay, Banu had been waiting for a fresh notice to be issued to her. She will

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

3 Dhaka police stations to get help desks for women

12 other PSs to get the same in four districts, common database to be created to streamline coordination among the stations, headquarters and home ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To encourage women to approach and seek police assistance, help desks to especially cater for them will be set up in three police stations in the capital and 12 in Jamalpur, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar and Patuakhali, said a home ministry joint secretary yesterday.

To be set up in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Dhaka stations are in Mohammadpur, Pallabi and Kamrangirchar, added Jyotirmay Dutta.

The districts are among 20 judged by the Millennium Development Goal parameters as the "worst-performing", he said.

Moreover, a common database called Management Information System will link 44, police stations, including the aforementioned, to streamline coordination among the stations, headquarters and ministry to better deal with women repression cases, he said.

He was addressing a workshop, "Protection and Enforcement of Women Rights", the

ministry organised in the capital's Cirdap auditorium yesterday where discussions were held on issues barring prevention of women repression.

"It is true that even police can be insensitive," said Shamima Begum, deputy commissioner, Women Support and Investigation Division, Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Society teaches humans to blame the victims instead of the perpetrators and police are no different. "For this reason and many others, a large percentage of women repression cases remain unreported," she said.

Only 11.3 percent of married women facing domestic abuse filed police reports, stated speakers quoting Violence against Women Survey 2011.

Shamima also stressed the need for more policewomen to boost women-friendly policing. "Five percent of the total force is not enough to tackle the situation," she said.

UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PARERHAT LOOTING IN 1971 Sayedee's name was not in evidential documents

Defence lawyer tells SC on his appeal against death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Delwar Hossain Sayedee's name was not in the two documents which described the looting by the Pakistani army and Peace Committee members at Parerhat Bazar in Pirojpur in 1971, a defence lawyer told the Supreme Court yesterday.

SM Shahjahan said this while placing arguments on the appeal filed by the Jamaat-e-Islami leader against the verdict of International Crimes Tribunal-1 that sentenced him to die for crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The ICT-1 has convicted Sayedee of the Parerhat Bazar looting on May 7, 1971 based on Bangladesher Swadhinata Juddho Dalilpatra (documents on war of independence of Bangladesh) and Pirojpur Jelar Etihas (history of Pirojpur district), he said.

The two books presented in ICT-1 as evidence contained names of many but Sayedee who committed the looting, he said.

Shahjahan argued that ICT-1's findings about the charge against Sayedee of leading the Peace Committee to receive the Pakistani army at Parerhat and looting the shops of the Bazar were wrong. He also said Sayedee was highly praised in Pirojpur Jelar Etihas.

The defence lawyer said none of the prosecution witnesses, who testified at the tribunal about this charge

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

UPAZILA POLLS

AL forms 7 committees to finalise candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has formed seven committees to finalise party candidates for the upazila parishad elections in the seven divisions, although according to the law, no political party is allowed to nominate candidates or take part in local government elections.

In reality all political parties pick their favourite candidates and provide support in their campaigns under various pretexts.

Meanwhile, AL central

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Last witness against Yusuf sticks to his testimony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During cross-examination, the last prosecution witness against war crimes accused AKM Yusuf yesterday backed his earlier statement that the Jamaat-e-Islami leader was founder of Razakar, auxiliary force to the Pakistani army, during the Liberation War in 1971.

When defence counsel Mizanul Islam suggested that the witness, Helal Uddin, also the investigator, gave untrue information about Yusuf's being founder of Razakar, Helal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Ex-BCL leader 'attempts to kill himself' in police custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accused in a murder case and former Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader allegedly attempted to kill himself during last day of a three-day remand in Ramna Police Station in the capital yesterday.

Motiur Rahman Ripon, 30, who was arrested on January 25 in connection with the murder, tried to slit his throat in the afternoon with a blade which he collected from the toilet, said Selim Mia, officer-in-charge (investigation) of the police. Sensing trouble, police

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

ATTACK ON SLAIN ZUBAIR'S PEERS

Police probe finds six of 13 murder accused guilty

Court to hear on Feb 2, decide on bail cancellation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A police probe report found that six of the 13 Bangladesh Chhatra League men accused in the Zubair murder case had indeed beaten up two of his friends before Dhaka District Judge's Court on January 18.

The report, prepared by Kotwali Police Station Sub-Inspector Md Rafiqul Islam, was submitted before Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka yesterday in compliance with its January 26 order.

The court fixed February 2

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

BNP leader stabbed to death in Ctg

Police say not political, BNP accuses BCL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A ward-level BNP leader was stabbed to death by unidentified miscreants in a sports club on Ice Factory Road in Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased, Jane Alam, 45, of Chandina in Comilla, was vice president of Majhirhat ward unit BNP, said Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, president of Chittagong city unit BNP.

Quoting witnesses, Bhabesh Chandra Biswas, sub-inspector of Sadarghat Police Station, said Alam, who worked as a gatekeeper for Muktiyuddha Krira Chakra, was on duty when about five miscreants stabbed him in his right thigh around 7:30am and fled.

Locals rushed Alam to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead. The body was sent for an autopsy.

Police found no political involvement in the murder, said Bhabesh, adding that Alam often had altercations with people who wanted to enter the sports club but

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

TV, FILM DEPT AT DU Students protest high tuition fee

DU CORRESPONDENT

Three student organisations of Dhaka University yesterday vehemently protested against the high tuition fee at the television and film studies (TFS) department, which they claim amounts to around Tk 1.35 lakh for the four-year honours programme.

The activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Chhatra Front, and Chhatra Federation kept the office of the department locked and rallied in front of it demanding that the tuition fee be brought down immediately.

Chairman of the department Prof AJM Shafiq Alam Bhuiyan said 18 out of 30 students had already taken admission to the department. "We respect

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

RU students to boycott classes, exams today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Agitating students of Rajshahi University (RU) will boycott all classes and examinations today demanding immediate withdrawal of the university authorities' decision to increase fees and cancellation of the evening masters programmes.

Over a thousand students under the banner of "Teachers and Students of the University" laid siege to the administrative building from 11:00am to 1:00pm yesterday.

Addressing a short rally afterwards, the students

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



BNP Chittagong city unit President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury leads party men in chanting slogans holding black flags before the party's city office in Nasim Bhaban on Noor Ahmed Road yesterday protesting police's denial to let the party hold a black flag procession in the capital on "security grounds".

PHOTO: STAR

REDUCING DAMAGE DUE TO DISASTERS Trained volunteers, professional forces' cooperation needed

Say participants of two-week study tour to Germany

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Damage to lives and properties due to disasters such as fires and building collapses can be significantly reduced if trained volunteers work with professional forces, speakers said yesterday at an experience-sharing meeting in the capital.

GIZ, a German development cooperation organisation, organised the meeting at its office.

Earlier in October, a total of 20 representatives from the Fire Service and Civil Defence, Department of Disaster Management, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, and Ministry of Home Affairs participated in a two-week study tour in Germany on risk management.

At the meeting, the representatives shared their experience gained from the tour organ-

ised under the Global Initiative Disaster Risk Management Project.

The organisers said Germany has launched the project in seven disaster-prone Asian countries including Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, the project aims to promote fire safety through providing training aid and sharing knowledge.

Addressing the meeting, German Ambassador Dr Albrecht Conze said his government would continue with its efforts in ensuring fire safety in Bangladesh's garment industry.

Disaster management is successful when it reduces casualties in a disaster. So to reduce the casualties, volunteers have to work with professional forces, he added.

A fire service official, Zihadul Islam, said in Germany around 1.3 million trained volunteers work alongside the fire fighters.

Stephan Huppertz, regional coordinator of the project, among others, spoke.

Road crash kills schoolboy in Ctg

Peers go on rampage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Enraged school students set alight a truck, vandalised around seven vehicles and blocked Ramgarh road for two hours after one of their fellows had died being run over by a truck at Korerhat intersection in Mirsarai of Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased, Mehedi Hasan, 12, was a class VI student at Korerhat KM High School in Mirsarai.

The school Headmaster Pran Gopal Bhoomik said the incident occurred while Mehedi he was going to school riding a bicycle around 9:30am.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS' LICENCES HC re-empowers DCTB for issuance, renewal

Stays BRTA order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed a government order that empowered the BRTA inspectors to issuance and renewal of professional driving licences for motor vehicle drivers in place of the Driving Competency Test Board.

Hearing a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in two weeks why the circular issued by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority on last December 31 to this effect should not be declared illegal.

The circular said the vehicle inspectors will hold examinations and tests for giving and renewing driving licenses in place of the DCTB, another state-run body.

Following this HC order, now the DCTB will hold tests and examinations for driving licences as it did earlier, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

The organisation submitted the petition recently to the HC saying that the BRTA has issued the circular bypassing the authority of DCTB, which is empowered to issue and renew the driving licences as per the Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1983.

Secretaries to the ministries of home, and communications, chairman, director and deputy director (engineering) and inspector of vehicles of BRTA, deputy inspector general of police (highway) and joint commissioner (traffic) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police have been made respondents to the rule.

BNP's Nasir, Hannan freed

FROM PAGE 3

and a former minister, was arrested at the city's Shah Amanat International Airport on November 28.

Earlier on November 29, a Chittagong court had granted him bail in two remaining cases against him.

One case was filed on November 27, 2013 with Kotwali police over the torching of another auto-rickshaw at Kazir Dewri intersection during the blockade.

The other was filed on October 25, 2013 with Khulshi police over the torching of a motorcycle and vandalism on a market following a BNP rally in Kazir Dewri area that day.

Our Gazipur correspondent reports, Hannan was released from

Kashimpur Jail-4 in Gazipur around 10:50am on securing HC bail in five of the six cases accusing him over the killing of a cop, arson and vandalism.

He was shown arrested in the five, two of which were filed with Motijheel police over the killing of Md Shahjahan and vandalising a police box during the May 5, 2013 Hefajat-e Islam mayhem in the capital.

The three other cases were over vandalising vehicles and arson during the BNP's anti-government demonstrations last year.

He has not yet been shown arrested in the sixth vandalism case filed with Banani police.

Our staff correspondent reports, the HC granted a six-week bail to Alal over two petitions he filed concerning two cases filed for vandalism and cocktail blasts in the capital.

One case was filed with Dhanmondi police on December 1, 2013 two days after miscreants vandalised and set fire to a vehicle in the area during the BNP-led 18-party combine's anti-government demonstrations.

The other was filed on December 18, 2013 with Mohammadpur police after miscreants exploded some cocktails in the area during another demonstration, Alal's lawyer told The Daily Star.

Netherlands keen on deep-sea port, Padma bridge

FROM PAGE 3

Gerben said the Dutch minister for development and cooperation would visit Bangladesh in March or April to discuss the issue with the government, he added.

More than 100 Dutch companies have their investment in different sectors in Bangladesh.

At the end of the meeting, the principal secretary thanked the envoy for Netherlands' continued support for and interest in the development of the country.

Trade Attaché of Dutch Embassy in Dhaka Lisette Kuiperi-Blum accompanied Gerben.

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