

41 BNP leaders

FROM PAGE 20 documents.

All of the 41 BNP men except for Fakhru and Moudud were present at the court yesterday.

The court also transferred the charges submitted to it over blasting cocktails in the same incident to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka for a hearing.

According to law, CMM court, not the court of SM Ashiqur Rahman, is empowered to hear any cocktail blast case.

On Wednesday, detectives pressed charges against the BNP leaders in a case filed for assaulting police, torching vehicles and blasting bombs in front of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in Bailey Road on March 2 last year.

Dipak Kumar Das, a sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of police and also the investigating officer (IO) of the case, submitted two separate charge sheets to the court.

One of the charge sheets accuses the BNP leaders of assaulting police, torching vehicles and preventing them from discharging their duties and the other for hurling cocktails at the law enforcers.

The charge-sheeted accused includes BNP Standing Committee members Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and Mirza Abbas; joint secretary generals Barakatullah Bulu and Amanullah Aman; and BNP Vice-Chairman Abdullah Al Noman.

Police had filed the case against the 41 BNP men and 1,200 unknown persons with Ramna Police Station over the incident that took place during a BNP-led opposition's street agitation programme.

UK national

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Hamidur joined a group of Palestinians to resist Israeli aggression and was killed in an attack on Eid day, Monaf added.

Shahidul Islam, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, however, said he had heard the news, but had not received any official information in this regard.

SI Jahid

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said. Being informed of the incident, SI Jahid along with others picked up Jony and several other youths from the spot, took them to the police station and beat them up mercilessly.

At one stage, Jony fell sick. He was taken to Dhaka National Heart Foundation where he died. Jony was brought dead to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital eight hours later, Imtiaz said.

The victim's brother also accused sub-inspectors, Abdul Baten, Md Rashed and Shovon Kumar Saha, constable Nazrul Islam and two police sources -- Sumon and Jahedul -- of torturing Jony to death.

He said they had committed the murder on orders of the OC of the police station.

However, OC Ziauzzaman claimed that Jony had died of injuries he received during a clash between youths of Irani Camp and Rahmat Camp in Dhaka.

SI Jahid was closed to the police headquarters after the death of Jony and later posted to Mirpur Police Station.

While discharging duty at the police station, he allegedly was involved in another custodial death of trader Sujan.

The mystery

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discovering that his handlebar moustache, complete with twisted ends, is preventing his gas mask from sealing tightly during a gas attack in a trench.

The soldier, revealed to be a young Adolf Hitler, is then shown trimming the facial hair into a neat square, creating the infamous style.

Stephen David, the series' executive producer, said while making the programme, his research team had learned how Hitler favoured a longer moustache prior to the outbreak of the First World War.

After the conflict ended in 1918, Hitler kept the moustache, still preferring the trimmed style as he rose to power in Germany in the early 1930s, and it soon became one of his most identifiable features.

David said, "I think in actuality after World War I that was a fashion, and a lot of people did that. Between World War I and World War II, that was a fashion that a lot of people had. And being that Hitler had it, he kind of killed that fashion".

Although popular between the wars, when it was sported by comedians Charlie Chaplin and Oliver Hardy, the toothbrush moustache fell out of favour after the Second World War due to its strong association with Hitler.



Mother of deceased Milon Hossain cannot hold back her tears as she laments the death of her son at her village home in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

The last call

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Tears were streaming down her face as she was narrating her last conversation with her son, holding his photo against her chest when The Daily Star correspondent met her at her residence in Mathabhanga village of Moheshpur upazila, Jhenidah.

Milon along with another Bangladeshi Moshir, a resident of Gopalganj, was killed in Libya's capital Tripoli on Tuesday when a missile struck them.

Rokeya and her husband Fazlul Haque, 65, a day labourer, sent their son out to Libya for construction work one and a half years ago, spending Tk 4 lakh.

Milon was married and left behind a four-year-old daughter. The fate of his wife and daughter had become uncertain, said 55-year-old Rokeya.

All her dreams and hopes were shattered with the demise of her son, she said, adding that the family had to pay back the loan taken out for sending Milon abroad but they had no one whom they could rely upon for money or any help now.

"My son was telling me how the situation in Libya was getting worse

day by day," Rokeya said amid sobs, adding that she could hardly imagine her son's concern would come true.

"I cannot eat and sleep thinking of my son. He could not complete his sentence. I could not believe that death would part him from me... he would never talk to me again."

While Rokeya will have to live with the haunting memory of her son's untimely death, Moshir's mother in Gopalganj is struggling to deal with her loss.

Moshir went to Libya only three and a half months back and the family members counted on his income there to bring solvency in the family.

But before he could send money to them, the news of his death reached them.

The families of Milon and Moshir are now waiting for the bodies of their loved ones.

The wait may be rather long as Ahsan Kibria Siddique, first secretary (labour) at the Bangladesh Embassy in Tripoli, told The Daily Star that the bodies could not be sent back soon since Libyan airports were now under security threats.

2 top leaders jailed

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But outside the court on the outskirts of capital Phnom Penh, regime survivors burst into applause with many in tears after a 35-year wait for justice.

Judge Nil Nonn said the defendants, who are the most senior surviving Khmer Rouge leaders, were "guilty of the crimes against humanity of extermination ... political persecution, and other inhumane acts".

Their lawyers swiftly announced their intention to appeal the conviction, but the court earlier ruled the pair would remain in detention until a final judgment due to "the gravity of the crimes".

Prosecutors had sought the maximum life terms for the men, who played key roles in a regime that left around a quarter of the country's population dead during the "Killing Fields" era from 1975-1979.

Led by "Brother Number One" Pol Pot, who died in 1998 without ever facing justice, the Khmer Rouge dismantled modern society in their quest for an agrarian utopia.

Regime atrocities affected virtually every family in Cambodia as Pol Pot's peasant army -- infamous for their red chequered scarves and dark clothing -- slaughtered perceived enemies of the revolution and emptied towns and cities at gunpoint to work in the fields.

The plan spectacularly backfired, leading to the collapse of the economy and mass starvation.

Nuon Chea, wearing his trademark sunglasses, sat in a wheelchair in the dock as the verdict was read, while Khieu Samphan stood impassive next to him.

Late in their two-year trial both men expressed remorse for the suffering the Khmer Rouge inflicted on Cambodia, but remained staunch in denying knowledge of its crimes at the time.

JUSTICE AT LAST

The ruling is likely to bring a level of relief to those who survived the Khmer Rouge years, which saw Cambodians wiped out by starvation, overwork, torture or execution by ruthless cadres.

"This is the justice that I have been waiting for these last 35 years," said Khieu Pheatarak, one of around 900 Cambodians present at the court to hear the verdict.

Pheatarak was among hundreds of thousands who were forced from

their homes in the capital in 1975 by gun-toting cadres.

"I will never forget the suffering but this is a great relief for me. It is a victory and an historic day for all Cambodians," said the 70-year-old who lost 20 family members, including her husband and five siblings under the regime.

The complex case against Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan was split into a series of smaller trials in 2011 for reasons including their advanced age and the large number of accusations.

Social justice campaigners welcomed the verdict as a clear sign to ordinary Cambodians that all are equal before the law.

It shows "that even people in very high positions of power are subject to the rule of law ... even if it takes a very long time," said Heather Ryan, a trial monitor at the Open Society Justice Initiative.

Considered one of the regime's chief architects, Nuon Chea "planned, ordered, instigated, aided and abetted" extermination and forced evacuations according to the trial judge.

Khieu Samphan was found guilty of the same with the exception of ordering the crimes.

Last week a second trial of the pair began at the court on charges including genocide of Vietnamese people and ethnic Muslims, forced marriages and rape.

US HAILS VERDICT

US Secretary of State John Kerry said, "Cambodians have received a small measure of justice and a reminder that justice may not be swift, but justice is resolute."

Kerry said that the US would maintain support to the UN-backed special tribunal, which is financed by foreign governments -- with Japan by far the largest donor.

"We must now help Cambodia's people see the job through as they usher in a new era of justice, accountability and reconciliation," Kerry said in a statement following the verdict.

Kerry, who served in the Vietnam War, said he was personally committed to supporting accountability over the "Killing Fields" era.

While contributing aid, the United States has been critical on human rights grounds of Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has ruled Cambodia for nearly three decades.

Mugger killed

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of Ramna Police Station said the DB recovered a loaded pistol, a motorcycle and Tk 47,500 from his possession.

Two cases were filed with Ramna Police Station in this connection, added the OC.

A team of DB challenged a young man for his suspicious movement near Bangladesh Red Crescent Society headquarters in Moghbazar around 3:45am, police sources said.

Sensing danger, Rajib, who was on a motorcycle, fired gunshots targeting the DB personnel, prompting them to retaliate. Rajib received bullet wounds during the encounter, the sources added.

He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 5:00am where he was pronounced dead, said hospital sources.

Abul Hasnat Liton, Rajib's brother-in-law, claimed that Rajib owned a mobile recharging shop in Rampura area.

On Tuesday evening, one Tipu, an accused in a case, took Rajib from his shop telling him that they would meet a DB official regarding the case, said Liton.

"Since then he is missing. We found his cell phone switched off and could not trace him," he added.

The family identified Rajib's body at the Dhaka Medical College morgue in the afternoon after they learnt of the incident from television news.

Morgue sources said several bullets were lodged in his body.

Organisation's

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the law. He said the terms of punishment for organisations guilty of war crimes committed during the Liberation War would be revealed after the cabinet approval of the amendment.

Several organisations had been demanding that Jamaat-e-Islami be put on trial for its alleged war crimes during the war.

On Tuesday, US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice Stephen Rapp during his visit to Bangladesh had opposed the idea of trying any political party or organisation. He urged all concerned to focus on individuals who committed war crimes.

On Rapp's comment, the law minister yesterday said it could have been his personal opinion.

500 Bangladeshis

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information about any Bangladeshi returning home yet.

Currently, 45,000 Bangladeshis are working in different sectors in Libya. The Bangladeshi mission in Tripoli has advised all workers to remain alert and avoid conflict zones.

Cops foil

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on different roads on the campus around 11:00am.

They later gathered at Tukitaki Chattar to hold the rally.

On information, the RU proctorial body along with law enforcers rushed to the spot to disperse the demonstrators.

Police were arguing with the alliance leaders when OC Alamgir assaulted Alauddin Ahmed.

Admitting it, Alamgir said, "He was asked to turn off the sound system but he did not do so. That is why I slapped him."

Anger grows over

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Padma since Monday for what they could only hope are bodies of their loved ones.

"Can't I expect the body of my sister? The government did not do what it should have done from the beginning," said Sabuj in anger.

Hailing from Narayanganj, he rented a trawler and scoured the river himself for his sister's and nephew's bodies.

Another relative of a victim said, "What the government is doing is just an eyewash. We don't want any compensation. Please give us the bodies."

Some relatives of the victims have been spending the nights under a temporary shed of a market while some others made use of the benches of shops at Mawa ferry terminal.

Locals have been providing them with meals every day.

The relatives evinced no trust in the government's rescue efforts. They said they had been left in the dark about what it was doing. They alleged that the government had been insincere from the very beginning.

The district administration has prohibited fishing at Mawa since the accident. Some relatives of the victims said that if the fishermen had been allowed to work, it could have brought some results.

Meanwhile, Tugboat Kandari-2 joined the rescue operations early yesterday. But it could not locate the sunken vessel.

The official death toll, meanwhile, stands at 36 as 14 more dead bodies were recovered from different districts yesterday, according to the information centre set up by the district administration at Mawa.

Of the 36, the bodies of 17 were

handed over to family members after identification. The information centre could not provide the names of the 14 recovered yesterday.

The corpses were kept at Pachchor Primary School in Shibchar in Madaripur.

Meanwhile, survey vessel Jarip-10 was on its way to Mawa, said the authorities. Another vessel, Kandari-7, which will assist Jarip-10 in the search for Pinak-6, was also on its way, they said.

The rescuers said they had been using sonar side scanner in a 50-kilometre radius to look for Pinak-6.

They said a device called sub-bottom propeller was being used since yesterday morning. The propeller is submerged behind a tug boat and it could identify metal objects in the riverbed.

Captain Nazrul Islam of Bangladesh Navy said the propeller could detect metal even if it was covered under silt. "A cable connects the propeller with a laptop," he told The Daily Star.

On detection, the GPS system will be used to pinpoint the location of the vessel, he said.

He also said Jarip-10 was likely to arrive before midnight yesterday. The survey vessel has multi-beam sound scanner that can locate objects as deep as 250 feet underwater, he added.

BIWTA Chairman Shamsuddoha Khandakar said, "We are carrying out salvage operation using the latest technology. We are searching metre-by-metre to find the vessel. We are trying our best."

Pinak-6, on its way to Mawa from Kawrakandi, was carrying more than 200 passengers against a capacity of 85. It sank in the choppy waters amid strong winds at Mawa around 11:00am on Monday.

Keep him in prison

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"Did you receive those summonses? The court asked you 18 times to come here to give testimony. Why didn't you come?" the judge asked Khair.

The complainant then gave excuses that ranged from workload to his travels abroad.

"Were you staying abroad the whole period in which those 18 orders were passed?" asked the judge.

Before falling silent, Khair begged the court to spare him this time. "Sir, I have committed a mistake. Sir, I beg your pardon."

"The order is passed," said the judge, who allowed Public Prosecutor Shaheen Ahmed Khan to proceed with taking Khair's deposition in the second case.

At one point, the judge drew Khair's attention to the only accused present in the courtroom -- 60-year-old Shahjahan Sarkar, production manager of BCI Bangladesh Ltd.

"Don't you think this old man should see justice? ... He had to appear in court over the 26 months you were away," said the judge.

Khair, who was a drug superinten-

dent at the time of the filing of the cases in 1992, spent another hour giving testimony in the second case.

Two cases were filed against six employees of BCI Bangladesh Ltd after two batches of the company's paracetamol syrup "Paracem" were found containing more than 25 percent diethylene glycol.

The public prosecutor pointed out to the court that Khair had not brought the lab test results of syrup samples.

Shaheen told The Daily Star that it might be necessary to let the complainant go out on parole on Sunday, the next date of hearing, for bringing documents in support of his deposition.

Khair's request to the public prosecutor to help him secure release on grounds of his wife's illness went in vain.

Adjourning the hearing until Sunday, the judge ordered the police, "Take him to jail and bring him back on Sunday morning."

Khair was taken away by police around 3:30pm.

Prosecution pleads

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It [forced pregnancy] was orchestrated in a bid to annihilate Bangladeshi identity," she added.

The prosecutor argued that the woman could be shot dead after seven to eight days of confinement and rape at the army camp. "Instead of killing her, they released the woman so that she could bring a new race," Tureen said, adding, women were used as an instrument to fulfil their plan.

"The war was over 42 years ago. But the war heroines and the war children are still fighting against the society and it will go on," the prosecutor observed.

She then prayed to the tribunal to order Qaisar to compensate if he was proved guilty of facilitating rape.

Tribunal Chairman Justice Obaidul Hassan asked the prosecutor how they would order for compensation if Qaisar was awarded capital punishment after evaluation of evidence.

Tureen suggested that the tribunal could order compensation for the victims from the accused's property.

Around three million people were killed and more than a quarter million women violated during the nine-month-long bloody war that started on March 26, 1971.

The defence began placing their closing arguments after the prosecution had completed their part yesterday.

Former state minister Qaisar faces 16 charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide during the war.

The proceedings of the case were adjourned until Sunday when the defence are expected to continue with their closing arguments.

TRIBUNAL-1

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 sent war crimes suspect Sirajul Hoque alias Siraj Master to jail after he was hauled before the court yesterday morning.

The three-member tribunal also asked the prosecution to submit a progress report of the ongoing investigation against three suspects including Sirajul in a war crimes case on August 20.

Two others -- Khan Akram Hossain and Abdul Latif Talukder -- have already been arrested.

The tribunal yesterday accepted a prayer of the prosecution after they had filed an application for interrogating Sirajul at a safe home.

In reply to a question, the septuagenarian war crimes suspect told the tribunal that he had no financial ability to appoint a lawyer and wanted to conduct the case on his own.

Earlier in 2009, war crimes victim and freedom fighter Nimai Chandra Das of Raghuduttakathi village filed a case against 20-30 people, including Sirajul, Akram and Abdul Latif, with a Bagerhat court after the government had initiated war crimes trial.

The case was later shifted to the tribunal-1 and an agency started its investigation into the allegations on May 21, 2013.

Sirajul was arrested in Dema Union Parishad of Bagerhat on July 21 following an order of the tribunal.