

RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE Court asks CID to finish probe by Dec 24

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to submit within seven working days the progress reports on investigation into two cases filed over Rana Plaza collapse.

The order came after Bijoy Krishna Kar, assistant superintendent of police of CID and also the investigation officer of the cases, had failed to submit any probe reports yesterday.

The court also asked the CID to complete the probe and submit those reports of the cases before it by December 24.

Following two petitions submitted by the IO, the same court, earlier on September 18, asked the public administration ministry and Rajuk to immediately approve the names of three government officials to help include them as accused in two cases.

The officials are Md Kabir Hossain, former Savar upazila nirbahi officer; and Uttam Kumar Roy, chief executive officer, and Awlad Hossain, building inspector of Savar Municipality.



Two of the kids, on the rickshaw, taken with an anti-hartal procession of Bangladesh Chhatra League on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Tarabo of Rupganj, Narayanganj yesterday, in violation of the National Children Policy 2011 that prohibits use of children in political activity.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

President leaves for China

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid left Dhaka last night to attend the Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Beijing, China.

Opportunities and challenges for closer regional connectivity, and ways to advance cooperation on the initiatives on "Silk Road Economic Belt" and "The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road" will be discussed in the dialogue tomorrow, said officials.

Topics, including regional economic integration, will be discussed during the APEC summit themed "The Region Beyond APED: Opportunities for Growth and Cooperation" on Sunday, they added.

Hamid will hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and will attend a luncheon meeting which will be hosted by Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao tomorrow.

The president will also hold a bilateral meeting with Myanmar President Thein Sien on Sunday. On Monday, he will attend the 22nd APEC informal meeting.

During his nine-day visit, the president will spend five days in China and four days in Singapore for medical check-up, said sources at foreign ministry and Bangabhaban.

The president is being accompanied by 42 officials and four family members. He is expected to return home on November 16.

Korea offers to buy defence hardware

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Korea has urged Bangladesh to purchase training and combat aircraft and high-tech defence hardware from the country.

Korean First Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Ambassador Cho Taeyong made the call at the second Bangladesh-South Korea Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Seoul on Wednesday.

Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque led the Bangladesh delegation at the FOC.

According to a foreign ministry press release yesterday, the Korean side appraised their expertise in manufacturing the aircraft and hardware. However, there was no response from Bangladesh side regarding the issue.

The meeting discussed full-range of Bangladesh-Korea bilateral relations including existing bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, investment and economy, and regional cooperation including Saarc multimodal connectivity.

The Bangladesh foreign secretary apprised his Korean counterpart of the possibility of importing pharmaceutical products, ceramics, more jute and jute products from Bangladesh.

He emphasised that Korean entrepreneurs and big companies may consider taking advantage of the prevailing very competitive investment incentives by investing in the Special Economic Zones in Bangladesh besides in Korean Export Processing Zone.

Bangladesh side sought Korean support in infrastructural improvement including road and rail connectivity and requested to consider establishing direct air connectivity between Dhaka and Seoul, which they took due note of.

Jabbar shot dead brother

Victim tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A third villager yesterday narrated witnessing a family member being shot dead by war crimes accused fugitive Abdul Jabbar in Pirojpur's Noli village during the 1971 Liberation War.

Santos Kumar Kharati, 63, the 19th prosecution witness, was testifying before the three-member International Crimes Tribunal-1. Jabbar is facing five charges of crimes against humanity.

"On May 22, 1971 members of Razakar (auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army) led by accused Abdul Jabbar attacked our village Noli and the accused shot dead my elder brother Sokha Nath Kharati.

"During the incident I was with my brother," he said, adding that later he had hidden himself with others in a nearby canal to save their lives.

"On Jabbar's instruction razakars shot dead a total of 11 persons including Jitendra Nath Biswas, Ganesh Chandra Mistri, Nepal Chandra Mistri, Upendra Nath Mistri and Bosonto Halda," the witness said.

Santos recalled one Razakar member, Nur Hossain, who shot dead two villagers, Nishi Kanta Biswas and Surendra Nath

Biswas, also on Jabbar's instructions.

After the killing, Razakars looted and set fire to 60 houses.

"When Abdul Jabbar and the Razakars left our village in the evening, we returned to our houses and buried the bodies," said Santos.

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until November 9.

ABDUS SUBHAN

The prosecution yesterday continued placing their closing arguments in the war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan at International Crimes Tribunal-2.

On the second day of placing their arguments, Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman stated the second and third charges citing testimonies of five prosecution witnesses.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan adjourned the case proceedings until Sunday, when the prosecution will place further arguments.

Subhan, a nayeb-e-ameer of Jamaat, faces nine charges including genocide committed in Pabna during the Liberation War in 1971. Subhan, however, pleaded not guilty before the tribunal.

EU opposes death penalty

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union has again called on Bangladesh to stay all pending executions, and establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a first step towards its abolition.

The statement was issued yesterday in Brussels in the wake of the Supreme Court upholding the death sentence against war criminal Jamaat leader Mohammad Kamaruzzaman.

The EU statement reads, "We are closely following judicial proceedings in Bangladesh. The European Union reiterates its strong and absolute opposition to capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances."

Meanwhile, new EU head of delegation in Dhaka Pierre Mayaudon Wednesday told reporters that the EU was not taking sides with the war criminals in Bangladesh by issuing statements against death penalty.

NHRC boss doubts cop chain of command

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman yesterday said when police personnel hailing from "one particular district" got custody of the accused, they thought they were above everything and that law could not touch them.

"Even they think the instructions of their superior officials are not worth obeying," he said, casting doubt whether the chain of command in the police force is properly functioning. He said such perception had grown in the general public.

Mizanur made the remarks while talking to journalists after visiting an alleged activist of banned outfit Hizb-ut Tahrir, Mohammad Nafiz, 32, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A resident of the capital's Mohammadpur, he was shot in the left leg and lower back during a police raid in the neighbourhood on October 17.

Around 10-12 operatives of the militant group were distributing leaflets promoting their ideology after Juma prayers on Iqbal Road, said police.

Police rushed to the spot while they were preparing to bring out a procession, said Azizul Haque, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station.

As the Tahrir men attacked police, they responded with gunfire, injuring Nafiz, he said.

Nafiz, however, denied involvement with Tahrir and said he was shot point-blank by police after a chase.

Alluding to shootings outside law, Prof Mizanur said he would write to the president about such violations if the law enforcers "continued" behaving like this.

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MIRPUR DOUBLE MURDER

Husband's 'extramarital partner' interrogated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday interrogated the woman, who allegedly had an affair with a man accused of killing his wife and son in the capital's Mirpur on Wednesday.

The accused, Amanullah, was also shown arrested yesterday after the deceased's uncle Younis Hawlader filed a case with Mirpur Police Station.

Amanullah is still firm on his claim that he did not strangle his wife Irin Akter Arzu and their seven-year-old son Sabbid Hossain.

Salahuddin Khan, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said the circumstantial evidences and Amanullah's contradictory statements indicated his involvement.

Younis claimed Amanullah used to torture Arzu following their regular feuds over his

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Qulkhwani

CITY DESK

Maheda Islam, advocate of the Supreme Court, passed away on October 31.

She was the mother of Maidul Islam and Mazruq Islam, and wife of late Majidul Islam.

Her qulkhwani will be held today after Asr prayers at house-26 on road-6 in the capital's Dhanmondi. Friends, family and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.



Presence of traders and customers of Jamdani, one of the finest Muslin textiles, was sparse at the weekly wholesale market of BSCIC Jamdani Palli in Rupganj, Narayanganj yesterday due to the hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami. The photos were taken around 2:00pm. Inset, this photo taken in July shows the usual crowd that throngs the market.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN