

Ex-Meherpur OC sent to jail on surrender

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former officer-in-charge (DB) of Meherpur district to jail after his surrender before it seeking bail in a case filed against him for not submitting wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The court passed the order after ACC Public Prosecutor Rafiqul Islam Benu opposed the bail saying that Hasan Ali had been threatening witnesses not to give statements before it.

On November 24, this year the court issued an arrest warrant against him.

According to the prosecution, the ACC on October 18, 2012 sent a notice asking Hasan, who was also the OC of Fatullah Police Station of Narayanganj, to submit his wealth statement alleging that Hassan amassed a vast wealth through illegal means.

The ACC on November 27, 2012 filed the case against him. The court framed charge against him on July 27, 2013.

Beigbeder joins as new Unicef rep in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Edouard Beigbeder assumed his duties as the new Unicef representative in Bangladesh yesterday. As a development and emergency specialist, he has over 20 years of experience in working to further children's and women's rights around the world, said a Unicef press release. As the new Unicef representative, Beigbeder, presented his credentials to the Foreign Affairs Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali.

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The newly built Central Shaheed Minar opens at Chouhatta in Sylhet city yesterday with artists performing a dance at a cultural programme there. Finance Minister AMA Muhith inaugurated the memorial erected by the city corporation at a cost of Tk 2 crore after the old one had been damaged by religious bigots in February 2013.

PHOTO: STAR

Give tobacco farmers alternative

Anti-smoking campaigners urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Affected farmers and anti-tobacco campaigners yesterday demanded that the government help growers produce crops alternative to tobacco farming.

At a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club, they also sought formulation of a policy to control tobacco cultivation.

Anti Tobacco Media Alliance organised the programme titled "Voice of victims: Non-profitable tobacco farming, allurements to harmful profit."

They alleged that the tobacco companies are gradually occupying lands used for producing food grains and other crops by luring the farmers into more profit.

But the companies are making profit for years through the government's subsidised fertilisers and irrigation facilities, they further alleged.

Mohammad Abdul Bari of Kushtia, Abdus Salam of Bandarban and Alam Badshah of Lalmonirhat spoke on the occasion on behalf of the agitated farmers of the tobacco cultivation-prone areas.

Realising the disastrous impacts of tobacco farming, the farmers started growing other crops on their lands, they said.

Demanding steps against the tobacco companies, farmers started demonstrating in different districts including the three through rallies and human chains.

Addressing the event, Dr M Asaduzzaman, professorial fellow of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, explained the multi-dimensional damages and affects of tobacco farming.

"Tobacco is destroying 1-2 percent of the GDP growth. So, the policymakers should realise the necessity to formulate and implement policies for tobacco farming," he said.

ATMA Co-Convenor Nadira Kiron read out a written statement while its Convenor Ruhul Amin Rushd delivered the introductory speeches.

SE ASIANS TRAVELLING THROUGH ILLEGAL SEA ROUTES Most are Bangladeshis, Myanmar: UNHCR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Of an estimated 54,000 people in Southeast Asia who left their countries heading for Malaysia or Thailand through illegal sea routes this year, most are from Bangladesh and Myanmar, said refugee agency UNHCR yesterday.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said governments must focus on saving lives rather than keeping foreigners out at a time when more people than ever are embarking on risky sea crossings in search of asylum or a better life.

The agency said since the beginning of the year at least 3,84,000 people, including a growing number of asylum seekers, have been using illegal sea routes to look for a better life.

"This is a mistake, and precisely the wrong reaction for an era in which record numbers of

people are fleeing wars," said Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

"Security and immigration management are concerns for any country, but policies must be designed in a way that human lives do not end up becoming collateral damage," he said, according to a statement.

Guterres made his comments yesterday as UNHCR opened a two-day debate with government officials, aid workers, coastguards, lawyers, academics and other experts on the matter in Geneva.

"An estimated 1,20,000 people are believed to have left on smugglers' boats in the Bay of Bengal since the start of 2012. We estimate that more than half of them are Rohingyas originating from the Rakhine State in Myanmar," said Stina Elisabeth Ljungdell, country representative of UNHCR in Dhaka.

Teachers should follow footsteps of Prof Kabir Chy

Memorial discussion told

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of this generation should follow in the footsteps of National Professor Kabir Chowdhury so that they can steer young minds towards building a prosperous country, academicians said at a memorial discussion yesterday.

An enlightened mind, Prof Kabir, is an inspiration for the youths, they said.

The discussion was organised in RC Majumder Auditorium on Dhaka University campus by Bangladesh Karmasangsthan Sangstha, marking his third death anniversary.

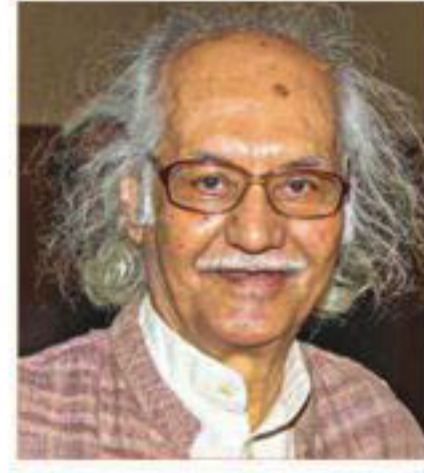
At the programme, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said Prof Kabir was one of the few outspoken persons who throughout his life had taught his students to be truthful and fight against the unjust.

"Instead of speaking the truth, many of us use such words which will benefit us and thereby refrain from telling the truth, fearing possible problems. But Prof Kabir was an exception," said Prof Abdul Latif, acting president of the BKS.

Prof Kabir also had the capability to take the right decision at the right time, he added.

DU Jagannath Hall Provost Prof Ashim Sarker said, "Some teachers nowadays neither study nor can teach students well...they should take lessons from Prof Kabir's life."

DU English department teacher Prof Tahmina Ahmed said, "He was an exceptional teacher and taught us how to lead a life".



FUGITIVE BANGABANDHU KILLER Anisul asks Canada to deport Nur Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday requested the Canadian government to deport Nur Chowdhury, a convicted killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to Bangladesh for his execution.

He made the request at a meeting with Heather Cruden, the outgoing high commissioner for Canada, at his Secretariat office. The Canadian envoy made a farewell call to the law minister.

The law minister told The Daily Star that the Canadian government is not sending Nur Chowdhury back to Bangladesh as the North American country does not support the death penalty.

The ministers concerned of Bangladesh and Canada can settle this matter at a meeting, Anisul Huq said.

The Canadian high commissioner emphasised holding a dialogue between the government and BNP for resolving political confrontation.

The law minister said no dialogue can take place with BNP leaders since its chief Khaleda Zia does not believe in the independence of Bangladesh and rule of law.



Demanding a chance to retake admission tests of Dhaka University and punishment for the law enforcers for attacking demonstrating aspirants, such candidates bring out a procession in front of TSC on the campus yesterday.

BNP demands

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League leaders. In the 1970s, he was a Chhatra League leader, said Fakhrul adding that Shahabuddin was talking in an irresponsible manner as ACC's failure to contain corruption has come to the forefront.

The ACC high-ups are burning with rage after Transparency International (TI) disclosed the corruption index, he added.

According to TI's global Corruption Perception Index 2014, corruption rose in Bangladesh as it slid two notches to rank as the 14th most corrupt country in the world.

Man held

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saying "Online Indian VISA works are available here...Those who r intend...contact me...". He put his mobile number 01683726106; skype ID: miyad30; and e-mail: miyad30@gmail.com there.

Fight for unpaid work's

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Sangha, said, "Family is a major pillar of patriarchy. Changes should be brought at the family level first."

Founder president of Karmajibi Nari Shirin Akhtar, MP, said not even men, who work with NGOs promoting women's rights, believe in women's causes.

"I have seen that many of them do not practise at home what they preach outside," she said.

Banasree Mitra Niyogi, programme coordinator of MJF, read out the key paper at the event.

Khushi Kabir, among others, also spoke. Meanwhile, at another discussion, speakers emphasised discriminatory perspective of the society as the reason women's work and contribution to the family, society and country are not recognised.

MJF and the daily Samakal organised the

roundtable "Invisible Labour of Women: Valuation, Recognition and Dignity" at the newspaper's office in Tejgaon.

A study conducted by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) on valuation of non-wage or unrecognised work of women showed that such works constitutes 76 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country, said Shahida Pervin, research associate of CPD.

The research also showed that a 15-year-old female does three times of such unrecognised work, which is not included in the GDP, than a man of the same age.

Rasheda K Choudhury, educationist and former adviser to a caretaker government, said work of women can be seen but are not recognised.

Julfikar Ali Manik, special correspondent of the Dhaka Tribune said, "There's a tendency in our society to view everything as 'ours' and 'theirs'."

No bar on arresting

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brothers in the killing of Faruk Ahmed, Awami League Tangail district unit leader, whose bullet-hit body was recovered on last January 18.

On September 17, following a writ petition, the HC passed the order and later the chamber judge of the SC stayed the HC order in response to a government petition.

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