

# HC upholds death for two for killing two children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld a lower court verdict that sentenced two people to death for killing two children in Dhaka in 2008.

The convicts -- Ranju Sarker alias Ranzu Sarder, 30, and Md Liton alias Kosai Liton, 30, -- are now in jail.

The HC bench of Justice Shahidul Islam and Justice KM Kamrul Kader gave the verdict after rejecting separate appeals filed by the convicts challenging the lower court verdict.

However, the grounds on which the HC delivered the verdict could not be known as its full text was not released yesterday.

According to the case statement, Ranju and Liton killed Jewel, 10, and Biplob, 7, after sodomising them at an abandoned house in Nayatola area under Ramna Police Station on April 29, 2008.

Jewel's father Alauddin filed a murder case after police recovered the decomposed bodies of Jewel and Biplob on May 1, 2008.

Ranju and Liton made confessional statements before police and magistrates, the statement added.

Next year on August 5, a Dhaka court convicted Ranju and Liton and sentenced them to death after finding them guilty.

Liton's lawyer Khabir Uddin Bhuiyan said his client would file an appeal with the Supreme Court challenging the HC verdict.



Due to wholesale siltation in the Karnaphuli River, as a result of a similar amount of carelessness of the authorities concerned, during winter ferryboats cannot reach the banks, and makeshift piers like this one have to be put in place for cross river commuters to reach the land, while we are trying to be an example to the world. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# BNP's Nasir, Taimur get bail from HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to 22 BNP leaders and activists, including Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin and Taimur Alam Khandker, for four weeks in two cases.

Nasir got bail in a defamation suit, filed by freedom fighter Shawkat Ali Khan alias Sundar Khan for being present at the programme, where BNP Senior Vice-President Tarique Rahman termed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman "a top Razakar" on December 16, 2014, and for not protesting against the comment, said AKM Ehsanur Rahman, a lawyer for the leaders.

Meanwhile, Taimur and 20 BNP leaders and activists of Narayanganj got bail in a case filed for vandalising vehicles and exploding bombs during January 9 blockade.

# People can establish rights using RTI act

## Speakers tell launching of video on the law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By application of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009, people can establish their rights and help ensure good governance, transparency and accountability of the government and non-government service providers in the country.

Speakers made the observation at the launching of a video on how to reap benefits from application of the RTI act produced by Dnet, an NGO, with support from Manusher

Jonno Foundation (MJF).

Dnet and the Information Commission organised the event at the commission's office in the capital yesterday.

Chief Information Commissioner Mohammad Faruk said the video showed how ordinary people can be empowered with information.

"There are so many safety net programmes of the government but many people do not even know about them," said Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF and convener of

Information Rights Forum.

She hoped that the simple language used in the video would help people learn about the RTI law and its applicability easily and quickly.

Secretary of the information ministry Martuza Akhmed as a special guest at the event said he would ensure distribution of the manual in all the districts through the Department of Mass Communication. "We would also ask Bangladesh Television and other private channels to air the video," he added.

Another special guest Nazrul Islam, secretary (coordination and reforms) of Cabinet Division, said all government offices, specially education institutes, do not have information officers at present but the posts would be filled within a month.

Ananya Raihan, executive director of Dnet, said the video will be uploaded in different segments on the Information Commission's website. A mobile app for smart phones is being developed by Dnet about the usage of RTI act, he added.

From left, Nepal Chandra Sarker, Martuza Ahmed, Mohammad Faruk and Shaheen Anam at the launch of a video, produced by Dnet with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation, on how to reap the benefits of the Right to Information Act, at the Information Commission in the capital yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

# RECOVERY OF 3 BOMBS SCBA to show zero tolerance to terror

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following the recovery of three bombs from two courtrooms of the Supreme Court on Sunday, the Supreme Court Bar Association has decided to show zero tolerance to maintain the highest security at SC.

The SCBA, at its executive committee meeting on Monday, also decided to take steps so that lawyers without identity cards and advocates' clerks without licence cannot enter the court premises.

SCBA President Khandker Mahub Hossain disclosed the decisions at a press briefing in its auditorium yesterday. He said the apprentice lawyers had to take pupilage registration from the SCBA and had to carry the identity cards and badges issued by the SCBA.

Mahub said the SCBA had decided to hold an urgent meeting with the attorney general, SC registrar, former presidents and secretaries of SCBA and the officials of law enforcement agencies to discuss the issue.

# JS body for more cops

UNB, Dhaka

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Home yesterday suggested increasing police manpower and procuring necessary equipment and vehicles to maintain law and order in the country.

The suggestion came from its sixth meeting held at Jatiya Sangsad.

It also recommended that the law enforcement agencies take legal actions against illegal use of "MP stickers" on cars, and use of hydraulic horns in VIP vehicles on city roads.

# Cruden denied

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immediate inclusive election. Meanwhile, Cruden's successor Benoit-Pierre Laramée will arrive in Dhaka today.

Prior to his appointment in Bangladesh, Laramée served as high commissioner to Cameroon with concurrent accreditation to the Central African Republic and Gabon.

A geological engineer, Laramée had worked for 10 years as a geophysicist in Canada and Senegal. In 1996, at the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation, he was appointed regional director for Guinea, and two years later was assigned to Bamako, where he served as regional director for West Africa until 2000.

From 2000 to 2004, he worked with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In 2004, he returned to Ottawa to become manager of CIDA's Results-Based Management Unit. From 2008 to 2011, he was director of CIDA's Inter-American Regional Program.

He and his spouse, Christiane Giroux, have two sons.

# It was no accident

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hurling crude bombs at police, and creating hindrance to the work of law enforcers'.

This correspondent yesterday visited the scene, the victim's office and residence and neighbouring areas and talked over 50 people but none said there was a political programme or any bomb explosion.

Expressing anger over the incident, the people of the area demanded punishment for the cops involved.

Mohammad Dulal, a grocery shop owner near the rail tracks, said neither the BNP nor the Awami League had held any political programme near the rail lines in the last couple of months.

"What police is saying now is false and fabricated," he said.

The SI could not be reached by phone. Iqbal Hossain, deputy commissioner of Uttara Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said he primarily came to know that the incident followed a blockade demonstration.

A three-member team of police led by an additional deputy commissioner is investigating the matter, and will submit a report in 10 working days, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

South Asia Media Correspondents' Association condemns the January 4 attack on Charlie Hebdo, a satire magazine in Paris, which killed 10 journalists and two cops, from a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

# Road crashes kill 8, injure 12

CITY DESK

Three people died and another was injured when a taxi cab collided head-on with a truck and fell into a roadside ditch at Salla in Kalihati upazila of Tangail yesterday.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

In the same area, Izazul Islam, 35, of Pabna died and four people were injured when an ambulance hit a truck from behind.

In Hamidpur, Narayan Chandra Paul, 40, died and three people were injured when two CNG-run auto-rickshaws collided head-on in Ghatail upazila.

In Naogaon, Firoj Hossain, 20, of Bijoypur village died when a tractor ran him over in Bijoypur village of Manda upazila yesterday.

In Thakurgaon, a motorcyclist and his co-rider died and four people were injured when a motorcycle hit another one which later hit a car on Baliadangi-Ramishankoil road in Komorganj village yesterday.

The deceased were Anwar Hossain, 35, of Kornite village and Shamim Hossain, 19, of Proyogpur village.

# MONEY LAUNDERING CASES ACC approves charge sheets against trader of Old Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved charge sheets in two cases filed for laundering around US \$4.3 million abroad against a trader of Old Dhaka in the capital.

Mohammad Rafik Uddin, owner of Fyaz Uddin and Company at Mitford in the capital, opened 10 letters of credit (LC) worth \$ 4.02 million with Moulvibazar branch of Al-Arafah Islami Bank to import foodstuffs from the UAE in 2012.

According to the case statement, Mohsen Al-Barak General Trading of Dubai was shown as the exporter in the LC, said ACC Deputy Director Hrittik Saha.

In the same year, another LC of US \$278,000 was opened with the same branch for importing foodstuffs from Nabel Hossain General Trading in Dubai, he said.

Both the amounts were siphoned off to the UAE but no food was imported, said Hrittik.

The ACC started investigation into the allegation against him in 2013 and filed the two money laundering cases with Chawkbazar Police Station in the capital at the beginning of last year, he said.

Since the start of the probe, Rafik has been absconding, Hrittik further said.

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