

Dhaka court orders further probe into Salman Shah's death

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered a further investigation of the death of silver screen actor Shahriar Chowdhury Imon popularly known as Salman Shah.

Metropolitan Magistrate Jahangir Hossain passed the order after Salman's mother Nilufar Chowdhury filed a no-confidence petition against the judicial probe conducted by a metropolitan magistrate.

The court asked Rapid Action Battalion to probe the case and submit a report by April 12.

On July 9 last year, Metropolitan Magistrate Imdadul Haque submitted the probe report which found no indication of murder, and reported that the actor had committed suicide at his Eskaton residence on September 6, 1996.

His father, Kamaruddin Chowdhury, had filed an unnatural death case which he later turned into a murder case.



The ever-shifting Jamuna is fast losing navigability at many points, including at Bangabandhu Bridge, but there has been no serious initiative from the government to restore the river to its previous state. The photo was taken on February 4.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

4 robbers held

Tk 15 lakh recovered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday arrested four of a robbery gang for allegedly looting around Tk 92 lakh when some officials of Dutch Bangla Bank were loading the money into an ATM at Sonargaon intersection in the capital on December 30 last year.

They were arrested in different areas of the city. Tk 15 lakh of the looted money, two machetes, and two knives were also recovered from their possession, said DB officials.

Shibir calls

2-day strike at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Islami Chhatra Shibir yesterday called a two-day strike at Rajshahi University from today protesting the death of its leader in a "shootout" with law enforcers.

On February 6, Sahabuddin Ripon, information and technology affairs secretary of RU unit of Shibir, was killed in a "shootout" with police at Katakhal outside the city.

Meanwhile, an indefinite strike enforced by pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal is going on at the university.

60 cook it up in capital

35 get "Yes" cards

CITY DESK

Participation of over 800 people made the Dhaka auditions of the Rupchanda-Daily Star Super Chef 2015 one of the hardest fought rounds yesterday.

The round, held at Gulshan Shooting Club, began with a written exam at 8:00am. The written exam comprised of 50 questions testing the participants' culinary knowledge.

Only 60 participants managed to make it to the next round which was a cook-off. The competitors were given Tk 500 each to buy ingredients. The participants, split into six groups, had to prepare dishes using the ingredients in 30 minutes.

Syed Tazammul Huq Tareq, head chef of Watercress Hotel, and culinary expert Shaheda Yesmin were the judges of the Dhaka auditions.

Finally, 35 people managed to get "Yes" cards and made it to the final round to be held in the capital.



WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Two more implicate Siraj in Bagerhat massacre of Hindus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more prosecution witnesses testified that war crimes accused Sheikh Sirajul Haque alias Siraj Master was involved in killing 500-600 Hindu villagers of Bagerhat on May 21, 1971.

One of them saw Siraj Master shoot and stab dead three residents of Dakra village.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim recorded the depositions of the 20th prosecution witness Rabinranath Adhikari and 21st witness Kalipado Mondal.

On Sunday, a survivor testified on the massacre.

The witnesses, both in their 70s, said they took shelter at Dakra Kali Mandir along with 5,000-6,000 villagers fleeing to India for life amid atrocities by the Razakar, an auxiliary force to the Pakistani army.

Around 1:30pm, they saw 40-50 Razakars coming towards them by two boats, they said. One boat stopped by Dakra School and another at Dakra Bazar.

The witnesses said the Razakars opened fire on the people taking refuge at the temple, indiscriminately.

Kalipado said he hid in a bush near Thakurbari. "From there I saw accused Siraj Master shoot Kumod Thakur, Rashik Thakur, and Shushil Thakur and knife them to death," he said.

Rabinranath said he heard from others that Siraj Master along with other Razakars hurt his father and brother. His father succumbed to injuries 10 days later while his brother recovered after treatment. "My brother is still alive but cannot move like a normal person," he said.

Both witnesses said they saw around 500-600 bodies lying in different parts of the temple.

After their testimonies, state-appointed defence counsel Mohammad Abul Hasan completed the cross-examination of Rabinranath and started that of Kalipado.

Siraj faces six charges of crimes against humanity and genocide, but denies all.

The proceeding was adjourned until tomorrow.



Siraj Master



Participants battle it out in the 30-minute cook-off in the Dhaka auditions of the Rupchanda-Daily Star Super Chef 2015 held at Gulshan Shooting Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

WHO

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The meeting, inaugurated by Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, also includes a panel session on infrastructure, manpower and financing for UHC, social determinants of UHC, challenges for ageing and fiscal sustainability, and non-communicable diseases and UHC.

Bangladeshi Health Minister Mohammad Nasim thanked the WHO DG for acknowledging the country's successes.

RMG

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production manager and a security guard during a heated exchange.

The management is providing Tk 650 for lunch bill, Tk 10-15 (per hour) for overtime while Tk 300 for attendance bonus which is already more than what is mentioned in the government wage structure. But the workers are demanding twice as much.

According to the demonstrators, they usually get paid per piece produced but the production time fluctuates depending on fabrics. So, if their salary does not increase, it will be difficult for them to survive.

The injured including workers from both the demonstrating and pro-management groups took first aid at a local hospital. Production resumed yesterday after a daylong shutdown.

Additional police have been deployed in Pukurpar area.

NEWS IN brief

Newly married couple found dead in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the hanging bodies of a newly married couple at Bomail in the capital's Demra yesterday.

The deceased, Pia Akhter Athena, 20, and Md Aslam, 32, got married about five months back, said police quoting family members.

The couple was having family problems and Pia was staying at her parents' house in the area, said police adding, they might have killed themselves.

Liberation War era bullets found in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Police yesterday recovered 310 bullets, suspected to be of Liberation War period, from a pile of earth at Omarshah Para in South-middle Halishahar area of Chittagong city.

Police suspected that the ammo might have been left by the Pakistani army during the Liberation War in 1971.

While filling a pond, workers found a metal box containing the bullets of light-machine gun in 12 magazines, around 12:30pm, said police.

Illegal Indian medicines, other goods seized, 2 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized illegal Indian medicines, saris and clothes worth Tk 3 crore in Baishmail area of Ashulia on Sunday night.

Tipped-off, a team of Rab-4 searched a Dhaka-bound covered-van and recovered the goods, said Rab officials yesterday.

They also arrested the van driver Tarek Hosen Mintu and his assistant Habibur Rahman. Both hail from Jessore.

Pabna road crash kills 1, hurts 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A university student died and two others were injured when a motorcycle fell into a roadside ditch in Gaspara area of Pabna Sadar on Monday night.

The deceased Pias Hossain, 20, of Bohorpur village was a second-year student of computer science and engineering at Brac University.

Firoz president, Litu general secretary of UAMCTA

BSS, Dhaka

Prof Firoj Quader and Prof Raqibul Islam Litu were elected president and general secretary respectively of Uttara Adhunik Medical College Teachers' Association (UAMCTA) yesterday.

Firoj is a general surgeon and Litu is an interventional cardiologist.

At the annual general meeting of the teachers' body Ferdous Mahal Runi, Shakil Aktar and Akel Mohammad were elected vice-presidents, according to a UAMCTA statement.

Law, justice feature well at book fair

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Bangla Academy, while Gatidhara has books on the cases of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination and the Agartala conspiracy.

Besides, Jyotiprakash, Utso Prokashon, Ankur Prokashani, Academic Press and Publishers Library, Adorn and Bhasachitra also have law related books.

Ahmed Al Amin, a journalist of a daily newspaper, wrote about the trial of war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah in "Note Booke Quader Mollah: Haathkora to Fasir Dori" published by Mohammad Ali, which can be found at Jatiyo Granthakendra's stall on the Bangla Academy premises.

Yesterday afternoon, Bangla Academy director general Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan opened the e-information centre of the fair on the veranda of the Burdwan House.

With just one click, the stall locations, information on new books, and programme schedules can be found there, said Aparesh Kumar Banerjee, director, information technology, Bangla Academy.

Yesterday, 125 new books arrived and six were launched.

NEW BOOKS ON LAW, JUSTICE

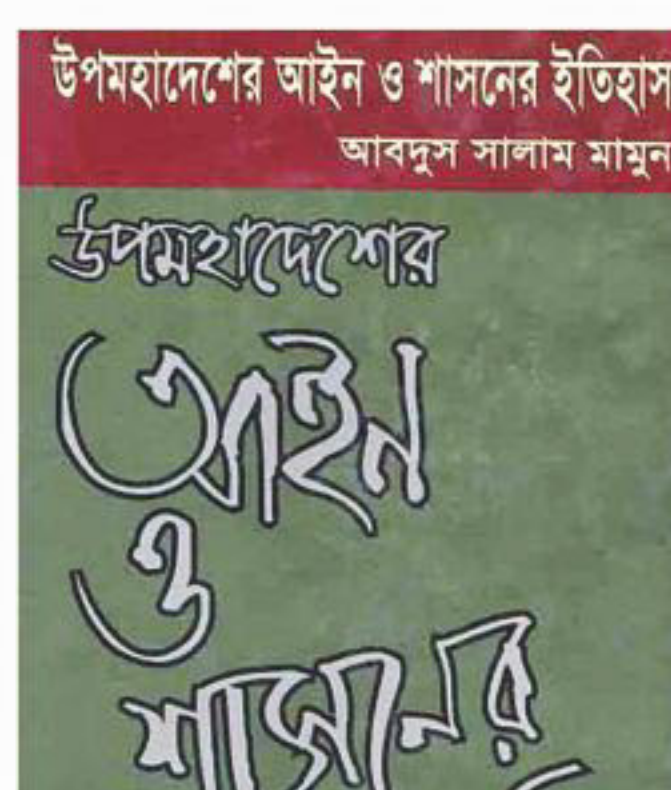


OPOHORON, HOTYA, GOOM BISHOYOK AIN

Author: Sahida Begum

Publisher: Kamrul Book House

PRICE: BDT 300



UPOMHADESHER AIN O SHASHONER ITIHAS

Author: Abdus Salam Mamum

Publisher: Adorn Publication

PRICE: BDT 940



SHANTRASHI ERSHAD SIKDERER BICHAR

Author: M Hassan Imam Dulal

Publisher: Abdul Mannan Swapon

PRICE: BDT 150

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