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Mirpur cops to face trial

Court accepts charges against SI Jahidur, 4 others over killing in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted charges against sub-inspector Jahidur Rahman of Mirpur Police Station and four others in a case filed for the death of garment-waste trader Mahbubur Rahman Sujan in police custody.

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after examining a judicial probe report on the death of 35-year-old Sujan, who was allegedly tortured to death by some members of the police station on July 13 last year.

The probe found involvement of SI Jahidur, Assistant Sub-inspector Raj Kumar, constables Asad and Rashedul of Mirpur Police Station, and another person named Mithun.

It, however, didn't find involvement of Officer-in-Charge of the police station Salauddin Ahmed in the incident.

SI Jahidur and Mithun are now behind bars while Raj Kumar, Asad and Rashedul have been absconding.

Jahidur, who was suspended in connection with the case for murdering Sujan, had previously been "closed" at Pallabi Police Station on February 10 last year for his alleged involvement in the custodial death of another person, said police sources.

Sujan's wife Momtaz Sultana Lucy filed the murder case with the court on July 20, accusing 10 people, including OC Salauddin.

The court accepted the case and asked Metropolitan Magistrate SM Ashiqur Rahman to probe the allegations. In

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COALMINE CASE Court asks for HC order on Khaleda's plea

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the BNP chief and nine others to submit by April 13 a High Court order on writ petitions submitted for quashing proceedings of Barapukuria coalmine corruption case.

After submission of the HC order, the court will decide whether Khaleda Zia and others will have to appear before it.

The court also asked the authorities concerned to produce three accused, now in jail custody, before the court on the same date.

The three are BNP standing committee member Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain and Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

Judge Hosne Ara Begum of the Special Judge's Court-2 passed the order after counsels for Khaleda and some of the accused

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Bangladesh skipper Mahrafe Bin Mortaza and coach Chandika Hathursingha (R) in deep contemplation during a practice session at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday, ahead of Thursday's quarterfinal clash against India.

PHOTO: BCB

KILLING IN SYLHET Another accused 'confesses' crime

A CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Another accused yesterday confessed before a Sylhet court to have kidnapped and killed Abu Sayeed, a nine-year-old boy, for ransom.

The Metropolitan Magistrate's Court-1 recorded the statement of N Islam Talukder alias Rakib, general secretary of Sylhet district Ulama League.

Rakib's statement is similar to that of Ebadur Rahman, a police constable, who earlier confessed to have kidnapped and killed the boy for money, court sources said.

Sylhet police rescued Sayeed's body wrapped in sacks from the attic of Constable Ebadur Rahman's house at Kumarpara in the city on Saturday night.

"Ebadur kidnapped the boy for money, but killed him as he [Sayeed] recognised the policeman," said

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Putin dismisses rumours about his absence

Appears in public after 10 days

AFP, Saint Petersburg

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday dismissed days of frenzied "rumours" over his health and whereabouts as he appeared in public after an unusually long 10-day absence.

"We would be bored if there were no rumours," Putin said at a meeting with Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev at the sumptuous Konstantinov's Palace just outside Saint Petersburg.

Atambayev said his Russian host had driven him around the palace before the meeting, in an apparent bid to dispel all speculation about Putin's ill-health.

"In their dreams," Atambayev said with a smile. The meeting with Atambayev was scheduled to start at noon but few were surprised that Putin, who is known for his tardiness, showed up two hours late.

Putin, 62, was last seen in public on March 5 at a news conference with Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

Last week he cancelled a number of scheduled events including a trip to the Central Asian country of Kazakhstan and the planned signing of an alliance agreement with the breakaway region of South Ossetia.

The unusual absence from the public eye set the Internet abuzz with rumours that he was sick, had died, had been

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



'Here because we're good enough'

SPORTS REPORTER

With Bangladesh's most important game in their history due this Thursday, coach Chandika Hathursingha reckons that his side can come out victorious on one condition: they need to enjoy the occasion. A tough ask; considering the weight of their opponents and the fact that a majority of the close to 100,000 spectators at the Melbourne Cricket Ground will be expected to wave the Indian flag.

However, Hathursingha, during a press conference at the MCG following Bangladesh's training session yesterday, stated that his side could catch their opponents off-guard.

"The key is to play to our potential and then get those established sides on that day off guard and if they have an ordinary day or lesser day to their potential, I think we can beat many sides.

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"The team that will enjoy the occasion more will have a better game. For us the key is to embrace the opportunity and enjoy that situation. Because for us there's nothing to prove; we know that we are good enough and that's why we are here," the Sri Lankan said.

There was a barrage of questions at the press conference yesterday from foreign journalists hoping to learn more on Bangladesh's journey in the World Cup thus far. Hathursingha though, kept his calm and was his pragmatic-self.

"I don't think we have any hidden secrets. The preparation was very thorough and I think not playing a lot of cricket leading up to the World Cup helped as well because we played some cricket in Brisbane, to get used to the Australian conditions and now I think we are peaking at the right time.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Less sleep raises risk of diabetes

MAIL ONLINE

Losing just half an hour of sleep every day during the week can increase the likelihood of developing diabetes and obesity, a study has found.

Research funded by the Department of Health revealed that people who lose 30 minutes of sleep

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



SC clears way for release of Jannati

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court's bail to young entrepreneur Jannati Hossain in a case filed over the death of her business partner Mostamsir Ashraf.

Justice Md Imman Ali, chamber judge of the SC, passed "no order" on a petition filed by the government seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

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A Dinajpur-bound bus, which left Dhaka around 2:30pm on Sunday, and trucks behind it have to take a break at Rabeya Mor of Parbatipur around 12:15am. The police escort deployed for them won't move ahead until there are more buses or trucks. They waited there until dawn. The government took the protection measures on highways amid continuing petrol bomb attacks on public transport. Inset, passengers sleeping in the parked bus.

PHOTO: KANGKAN KARMAKAR

NIGHT-TIME BUSES Police escort delays trips

10 injured in cocktail blasts; govt office, municipality building attacked

STAR REPORT

Night-time buses and trucks were made to wait for hours at Rabeya Mor of Parbatipur upazila in Dinajpur early yesterday as police won't let them go until there was a convoy of certain number of vehicles.

The delay caused enormous suffering to passengers and transport workers.

Law enforcers provide escorts for long-haul vehicles to avoid arson attacks and vandalism by criminals during the ongoing nationwide hartal and indefinite blockade by the BNP-led alliance.

Talking to The Daily Star, driver Lal Mia of a Nabil Enterprise bus on Dhaka-Dinajpur route said his trip became too far from Dhaka. Normally, the 410-km journey takes him around nine hours, but he had to wait at Rabeya Mor for around six hours since midnight Sunday.

Lal Mia left Dhaka at 2:30pm on Sunday and reached Khalashpur of Pirganj upazila in Rangpur around 8:00pm. From there, police teams escorted convoys of vehicles to different areas around 9:30pm.

When the bus of Nabil Enterprise, carrying around 20 passengers, arrived at Rabeya Mor at 12:17am, a patrol team of highway police, led by habildar Tofazzal Hossain,

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with professor Sarwar Jahan of Buet that Dhaka city is sharply divided into the rich and the poor?

Yes (89%)

No (11%)

TOTAL VOTES: 108

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Ain o Salish Kendra that the recent police proposal seeking amendments to the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act conflict with the constitution?

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AZAN 5-00 12-45 4-30 6-14 7-45

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-45 6-18 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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