

Punish Khaled Mosharraf's killers

Freedom fighters demand at seminar in capital; his widow pondering filing of a case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters yesterday demanded trial and punishment of the killers of Liberation War's Sector-2 Commander Khaled Mosharraf, who had been assassinated during a military uprising on November 7, 1975.

"We want maximum punishment," Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Moazzam Haque told a seminar in memory of the K-force commander, who had been conferred the Bir Uttam gallantry award, in the capital's Bangladesh National Museum, as the chief guest. Freedom fighters of sector-2 organised the event.

"We never thought that those who led the war would be taken away from us in such a manner," said Asaduzzaman Kamal, state minister for home affairs.

The speakers said failure to eliminate the anti-liberation war elements resulted in the killing of many freedom fighters after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

On November 3, 1975, Mosharraf led a coup and ousted Khandaker Mostaque Ahmed, who had been made the president by Bangabandhu's killers. Mosharraf was later killed in a counter coup along with Col Najmul Huda, and Col ATM Haider.

Bhorer Kagaj Editor Shymol Dutta said a white paper of what exactly happened between November 3 and 7 of 1975 should be published and a case should be filed for trial of the killings that took place during that time.

Md Nazrul Islam Hiru, a freedom fighter and state minister for water resources, said the truth would come out once the incidents of that period were put together. Lawmaker Mahjabeen Khaled, also daughter of Khaled Mosharraf, told The Daily Star that her mother was hoping to file a case in this connection this month.



It must be the age that brushes away all apprehensions and fears as has occurred in the case of the children in the picture who took to the murky shallows of the Buriganga river on Saturday, overtaken by the primal instinct to seek water for respite from the burning sun and the joy of achievement and frolic following afterwards. PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Water pollution, wastage barriers to sustainable dev

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wastage and pollution of water are major barriers to achieving sustainable development, said experts at a seminar yesterday.

With rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, the demand for water will drastically increase in the next decades, but the current rate of depletion and pollution of water will lead to its scarcity in the years to come, they added.

The seminar titled "Securing Sustainable Water for All" was organised by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Policy Support Unit, United Nations Information Centre, Unicef, The World Bank, Oxfam, Bangladesh Wash Alliance and NGO Forum for Public Health

at the DPHE auditorium in the capital in observance of World Water Day.

Stating that 10 litres of water is required to make one sheet of paper and 91 litres for 500 grams of plastic, Prof Mujibur Rahman of Buet said, "The global demand for water for manufacturing is expected to increase by 400 percent by 2050."

Meanwhile, at another discussion on Water Day, Water Resources Minister Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud said the four billion dollar Ganges barrage project is a top priority for the government.

"We will ensure proper utilisation of water of the Padma river before it flows to the Bay of Bengal," he said addressing the discussion at the Bangladesh Agriculture

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BNP announces Independence Day observance programme

Uncertainty looms over hartal, blockade withdrawal, Khaleda's presence in Savar memorial, Zia's grave on March 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has chalked out weeklong programmes including a discussion in the capital's Jatiya Press Club on March 24 and paying homage at the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar and the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar grave of its founder Ziaur

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Reshuffle again in police administration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday transferred 15 police officers to new offices, said a home ministry circular.

Awrangajeb Mahub, additional police commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, was made the commandant (additional deputy inspector general) of Armed Police Battalion and Special Training Centre in Khagrachhari.

Khondokar Rafiqul Islam, additional DIG of police, Khulna range, was transferred to Rapid Action Battalion as a director while Additional DIG Hasan Ul Haider of

APBn was transferred to Tangail Police Training Centre (PTC).

Commandant Hasib Aziz of Noakhali PTC was replaced by Additional DIG Habibur Rahman of Criminal Investigation Department. Hasib was transferred to APBn headquarters.

Rezaul Karim Mallick, superintendent of police (SP) of Bangladesh Police Academy, was replaced by Sylhet Range Reserve Force (RRF) Commandant Md J Ansar Uddin Khan Pathan. Mallick was transferred to the Police Bureau of Investigation.

Barisal RRF Commandant Kazi Mortaz Ahmed was made the SP of Tourist Police in Dhaka.

Khulna RRF Commandant Nazmul Karim Khan and Commander Delwar Hossain Mia of Mymensingh APBn were transferred to CID while SP Akkas Uddin Bhuiyan of Special Security and Protection Battalion (SPBn) was transferred to Mymensingh APBn.

Bogra APBn Commander Abu Naser Khaled was transferred to Barisal APBn while its outgoing commander Abdur Rahman was transferred to Khulna PTC.

Joypurhat SP Abdul Kalam Siddique was replaced by Deputy Commissioner Mollah Nazrul Islam. Kalam was transferred to DMP.



Sramik Nirapotta Forum forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding adequate compensation for all the families falling victim to a roof collapse in a cement factory warehouse in Mongla of Bagerhat on March 12 that left seven construction workers dead and at least 50 injured. PHOTO: STAR

4th person accuses Hasan

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tribunal led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim that the Razakars attacked at midnight, beating up Tofazzal and tying her family up with bed sheets.

"They dragged my parents out of the room. All the Razakars were equipped with firearms," said Mahfuza, adding that she heard gunshots and afterwards the Razakars looted valuables and left. Around 4:00am, Emdad, another son of Tofazzal, came and broke down in tears. "Razakar Hasan Ali shot dead my father in the pond behind our house," she quoted Emdad as saying. Informed by Emdad, they went to an army camp in Kishoreganj and traded Kamruzzaman for release of her parents. Kamruzzaman too was released once an army officer examined him and found no evidence of him being in training, she added.

State-appointed defence counsel Abdus

Shukur Khan cross-examined Mahfuza. Hasan faces six charges of alleged involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide.

MAHIDUR, AFSAR'S CASE

ZM Altafur Rahman, the 10th and last prosecution witness, told International Crimes Tribunal-2 that he started investigations on November 2, 2014 and visited the crime scenes several times and recorded statements of 24 witnesses.

Evidence showed that Mahidur and Chutu were activists of Muslim League, an anti-liberation party, in 1971 and joined Razakar Bahini in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila during the Liberation War, he said. Altafur exhibited several documents collected during investigations.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan adjourned proceedings till today, when Altafur will face cross-examination.

Court directs

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On May 29 of 2013, Abdul Matin sued the owner of Tazreen Fashions, Delwar Hossain, and 30 others for their gross negligence which resulted in the death of his sister.

After the fire, Matin searched for his sister but did not find his sister or her body. Meantime, CID Investigation Officer AKM Mohsinuzzaman Khan on December 22 of 2013 pressed homicide charges against 13 people, including Delwar, in a case over the devastating fire that killed 112 workers and injured many others.

The other accused include Delwar's wife and Tazreen Fashions Chairman Mahmuda Akter, on-duty managers, security guards and an engineer. Of them, Delwar, his wife and six others are on bail and security-in-charge Anisur is now behind bars. Four others are absconding.



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