

KILLING OF 42 PEOPLE Court asks for probe report on Khaleda

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the police to submit a probe report before it by June 18 against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and three others in a killing case.

The case was filed on charges of killing 42 people across the country during the nonstop blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance earlier this year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Maruf Hossain fixed the fresh date for submitting the probe report as Gulshan police failed to submit the report before it yesterday as per the court's earlier order.

On February 2, another Dhaka court asked Gulshan police to investigate the charges against Khaleda and BNP leaders Rafiqul Islam Mia and Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and pro-BNP intellectual Prof Emajuddin Ahmed and asked the police to submit the probe report within a month.

Probe finds

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compound on the afternoon of May 5. The girl had punched him in the abdomen and fled.

Her mother verbally informed the school authorities about the incident on May 9.

Mostafizur Rahman, head of the three-member probe body, last night said based on the student's statement, they identified the staff as Gopal, a cleaner of the elementary wing of the school.

He added that they recommended sacking the staff "permanently" and taking steps as per the law for "threatening" the girl.

The probe body comprising two teachers and the father of the student submitted the report at a board meeting last evening.

Gopal was removed temporarily on Saturday following allegations from guardians.

The school authorities also suspended rector Zeenatun Nesa of the girls' section for making derogatory comment on the sexual assault allegation and for not cooperating with the guardians when they inquired about the incident.

Wishing anonymity, a teacher of the boys' wing said this was not the first allegation of sexual assault at the school.

A chemistry teacher was suspended six months back after guardians of a female student alleged that he harassed her sexually at his home when she went to take lessons, he added.

Meanwhile, the authorities at a press briefing on the school premises where claimed that "several outsiders" took part in Saturday's protest along with guardians and former students.

They physically assaulted the school's principal and some of the students, said M Tamim, a member of the trustee board.

India seeks duty benefits

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been allowing duty-free benefit on exports of all Bangladeshi products, except for 25 alcoholic and drug items, under Safta.

During the meeting, India also demanded reduction of duty on exports of pomegranate and orange from India and permission to set up pasteurised milk factories in Bangladesh.

"Regarding the dairy milk factory, we told them that we will give our decision during the next meeting in New Delhi, after consulting the sector people in Bangladesh," Roysaid.

He said Bangladesh and India would sign a trade agreement during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Dhaka visit, likely next month.

At yesterday's meeting, the Indian side agreed to accept Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution's (BSTI) certification of 25 items for export to India, mainly dairy and food products.

India will also consider removal of 12.5 percent countervailing duty (CVD), a domestic tax to protect the local industry, on export of Bangladeshi garment items to India.

They also agreed to consider the removal of trade barriers on export and use of jute bags from Bangladesh, as exporters are facing problems on export of such goods to India.

India agreed that it would not stop exporting some essential commodities like cotton to Bangladesh without prior notice.

India often stops exporting essential items to Bangladesh without prior notice, for which Bangladeshi businesses suffer a lot.

Exports to India declined 19 percent year-on-year to \$456.63 million in fiscal 2013-14, mainly due to a slowdown in shipment of garment items that enjoy duty benefits in the neighbouring market.

In fiscal 2012-13, exports to India totaled \$563.97 million, according to the Export Promotion Bureau.

Generally, India exports goods worth more than \$5 billion a year to Bangladesh through formal channels. It is believed products worth another \$5 billion enter Bangladesh through informal channels.

The total trade between the two countries increased from \$3.15 billion in fiscal year 2009-10 to \$6 billion in 2013-14, registering 90 percent growth, said Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, senior secretary to the commerce ministry who headed the Bangladesh side.

"However, this growth was mainly driven by substantial increase of import into Bangladesh from India, which further increased the trade deficit. We need to narrow the gap," he added.

Indian Commerce Secretary Rajeev Kher led his side.

He later told reporters, "We discussed two important issues -- how to strengthen the relationship and how to increase trade between the two countries."

Bounty on 8

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fied eight miscreants who tried to assault women on Pahela Baishakh. But we don't know their whereabouts," he told a press briefing at the police headquarters.

On the evening of April 14, the Bangla New Year, at least 20 women were sexually assaulted for over an hour under the nose of police.

While the police personnel deployed in the area did nothing to catch the culprits during the assaults, one officer released two men caught and handed over to him by public. And despite huge public outcry following the incident, police kept denying that women came under sexual assaults.

On April 18, police for the first time admitted that women were indeed sexually harassed.

A police inquiry team recently recommended action against three police officers -- Inspector Saidul Haque Bhuiyan, Sub-inspector Ashraful Islam and Assistant Commissioner Shahidur Rahman -- for negligence in duty.

But the authorities are yet to take any action against them.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, the IGP said he sat with the investigators in two phases for three to four hours and identified six alleged molesters from one camera.

Other investigators identified two others from the footage.

Liton Nandi, Dhaka University unit president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union who along with some others rescued several women, said that these eight are only a section of the sex offenders.

He added some 25-30 men in several groups preyed on women.

"Those identified are seen in the footage molesting women and you see them again and again," said Nandi, who also sat with the investigators to help them identify the culprits.

The incident sparked a wave of protest across the country, demanding the immediate arrests of the culprits and action for the police failure.

Last week, police used brute force to crash a similar demonstration near the police headquarters in the capital. The attack left 34 people injured.

There, several cops assaulted at least one female protester, Ismat Ara.

Work force dividend

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automatic; it is achieved only if the appropriate policies and development strategies are pursued," reads the report.

New population projections were prepared specifically for this report. The projections cover a period up to 2061 and it says population may potentially reach 265 million by then from 156 million now.

According to the DIS, the most dramatic change to be expected in future is the increase in the elderly population, defined conventionally from the age of 60 and over. It says the number of elderly would increase by five times, from 11.2 million in 2011 to 55.7 million in 2061.

"Given that the labour force will be growing at a much slower rate than the elderly population in future, the number of workers per elderly person will decline. Between 2011 and 2031, the number of working age persons per elderly person will decline from 7.7 to 5.9, and by 2061 between 2 and 3," DIS projects.

It says the period during which the proportion of the working-age population will increase relative to other age groups, provides a one-time "window of opportunity" for investing heavily in human resource development. But after 2031 as the population ages further, the dependency ratio will increase and the "window" will gradually close and the demographic dividend will no longer be available.

The expected changing age structure of population in Bangladesh will increase the pressure on the State to increase the allocation of funds to support the elderly. Currently, around 28 percent of the population aged 60 years and above are living below the national poverty line, while many older people are close to the poverty line and therefore vulnerable.

The country's current dependency

ratio is 58 or in other words, there are 100 working-age people in Bangladesh for every 58 elderly people today. Till 2031 Bangladesh can potentially reap the benefits of demographic dividend as dependency ratio is expected to decline to 43 by then (2031). But afterwards, the dependency ratio would increase again, the report says.

DIS expects that by the time ageing reaches high levels in Bangladesh, those becoming elderly will be better educated and healthier and with a much higher level of economic development than at present, making more resources available.

But the situation will be manageable, the report says, "only if good use has been made of the intervening period, in terms of raising income levels, developing programs of active ageing, introducing appropriate income support programs and modifying health systems to adjust to the altered pattern of both communicable and non-communicable disease and disability resulting from a rising proportion of elderly in the population."

At present, only 10 to 24 percent of the poor receive Social Safety Net Program (SSNP) benefits, and "these schemes also suffer from misallocation, fraud and corruption. Ways need to be found of improving targeting and increasing coverage of the poor, within the fiscal capabilities of the Bangladesh government."

The GED and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) will jointly launch the DIS report today on the concluding day of the two-day meeting on "South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Financing for Development in the South and Technology Transfer."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the meeting at a city hotel on Sunday.

Clintons earn over

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and husband Bill earned over \$25 million delivering public speeches in the past year -- while the Obamas have just \$1,000 in a single savings account.

New financial disclosure reports put the Clintons comfortably within the top 0.1 per cent of US earners -- and critics said their millions from the speaker circuit "raise ethical questions" and show they can't represent the American middle class.

Hillary Clinton, the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, has charged \$250,000 per public address since she stood down as Secretary of State in 2013.

Ms Clinton also made more than \$5 million from her memoirs, *Hard Choices*, published last year, and sparked controversy while touring her book when she claimed her family was "dead broke" after they left the White House in 2001.

Meanwhile, similar disclosures for the Obama family revealed that they have just \$1,001 in a single JP Morgan account filed under savings.

While their net worth is nothing like the Clintons' reported \$55 million, the Obama family is far from poor.

Much of their wealth appears to be tied up in Treasury bills, one of the safest forms of investment. Their disclosure revealed Barack and Michelle's largest joint asset was government-issue notes for between \$1 million and \$5 million (public figures are allowed to report their finances within a broad range).

They have also tied up as much as

\$400,000 in college funds for their two daughters, while Mr Obama's retirement pot holds an estimated \$350,000 -- bringing the Obamas' total assets up to between \$2 million and \$7 million.

Rab arrests

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Babar and Oliullah in the early hours yesterday.

Three of them -- Rezaul, Nazrul and Jahir -- are employees of TNZ Group of Companies.

The Rab official said they had learned names of 14 people involved in the abduction. Rezaul and Mizan had planned it four months ago and rented a house at Pallabi to execute the plan, he added.

After collecting necessary information, the 14 criminals on May 2 split in three groups.

Mizan followed the private car carrying Abeer from his madrasa in Uttara to their Banani house. They stopped the vehicle under Banani flyover around 8:30pm. Posing as law enforcers, they took the driver and another person to their car and dropped them at a distant place.

They boarded Abeer in another car and took him to the rented house and demanded Tk 10 crore from his father for his release. They later agreed to release the boy for Tk 2 crore after some bargaining.

In the evening of May 6 they handed Abeer over to his father in front of Hotel Radisson Blu, the elite force said.

Polls officials

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On May 5, the Election Commission formed two committees to probe the assaults during the polling day on April 28.

Headed by additional divisional commissioners of Dhaka and Chittagong, each of the three-member committees was asked to submit their reports to the EC within a month. The other members of the committees are senior officials of police and the EC secretary.

As part of investigation, the EC around a week ago directed the presiding officers of the 30 centres to attend yesterday's hearing at the office of additional divisional commissioner.

Of the 30 polling centres, 22 were in Dhaka South City Corporation and the rest in Dhaka North City Corporation.

Kamal Uddin Ahmed, presiding officer of Hazrat Shah Ali Girls School and College polling centre, said, "I have explained my findings there [office of additional divisional commissioner]. I can not say anything to the media."

Talking to The Daily Star, Mahbubur Rahman, presiding officer of Jamia Mohammadia Islamia Karail

T&T Colony Madrasa, said, "I was busy with my work during the voting. I did not see any journalist being assaulted or get any information on the matter."

Mustafizur Rahman, presiding officer of Dhaka Badhir High School in Bijoy Nagar, said, "As far as I know, no incident of assault [on journalists] took place in my centre. Besides, no journalist filed any complaint to me."

Apart from the presiding officers, the EC has asked police authorities to send the policemen, who were on duty at the 30 polling centres, to the office of the additional divisional commissioner on May 20 for making their submission.

Besides, journalists and election observers will also get the opportunity for making their submission, said Abdul Wadud, a deputy secretary of the EC Secretary.

At least 10 journalists were assaulted by ruling Awami League men during the polling hours on April 28. Some reporters were robbed of cash, mobile phones and handbags, according to media reports.

Law enforcers, polling officials and AL men reportedly prevented newsmen from entering polling centres.

EDC ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
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নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী

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In-charge, Administration & HRM Deptt.
Essential Drugs Company Limited
395-397, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.

Salahuddin's wife

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Salahuddin's brother Giasuddin Ahmed earlier told The Daily Star that Hasina along with a relative had left Dhaka on an Air India flight at 9:40pm.

Before leaving her Gulshan residence, she told reporters that they would fly to Shillong this morning.

Meanwhile, Salahuddin's party colleague Abdul Latif Jony, who went to Shillong on Friday, claimed that the ailing BNP joint secretary general seems to be suffering memory loss.

"While meeting him at the hospital [yesterday], I noticed he was failing to recall the incidents he had talked about some time ago and was saying same things repeatedly. He was also fumbling for words," Jony, assistant office secretary of the BNP, told this newspaper over the phone yesterday.

He said he had talked to the authorities of Shillong Civil Hospital and requested them to form a high-level medical board with specialist physicians and ensure proper treatment for him.

Jony also said he found the BNP leader's two legs swelling.

He added Salahuddin burst into tears when Abdul Karim, a son of his cousin, met him yesterday.

Meghalaya police arrested the BNP leader on May 11 as he was "hanging around aimlessly" in Golf Links area of Shillong after nearly two months of his disappearance from a residence at the capital's Uttara on March 10.

Since he had no valid papers, identity proof or travel permit with him, Shillong police arrested and booked him under the Foreigners Act.

The BNP and Salahuddin's family members had been claiming that law enforcers picked him up, an allegation denied by the government.

Dr DJ Goswami, who is attending the BNP leader, yesterday said they carried out various tests, including the ones on kidneys, to assess his health condition and identify his actual problems.

The doctors will work out the next course of action once they get all those test reports today, Subrata Acharjee, Kolkata correspondent of Somy television, told The Daily Star, quoting Dr Goswami.

Meanwhile, Tabith Awal, son of Khaleda Zia's adviser Abdul Awal Minto and the BNP-backed mayoral candidate in the recent polls to Dhaka North City Corporation, yesterday reached Shillong to meet Salahuddin.

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A leading and fast growing Pharmaceutical Industry of the Country engaged in manufacturing of high quality Pharmaceutical Products maintaining excellent growth record and has future plans for expansion and diversification of product portfolio. The Company has 05 (five) operating factories at different locations of Bangladesh.

The Company is looking for a dynamic and hard working person of the position of Finance Director for their Head Office at Dhaka, directly reporting to the Managing Director. The candidate should be a FCA/FCMA/MBA (Major in Finance or Accounts) or equivalent with good academic professional track record. He must have at least 17 (seventeen) years experience in the relevant field of which 05 (five) years experience as a senior level management position.

Candidate should be able to take up full responsibility of the Company's Financial Management including financial forecast, planning, product costing and preparation of financial results for the management, should possess leadership quality to meet challenging situation and be competent to achieve organizational goals. Knowledge and experience of use of computer system will be preferred. Minimum age limit 45 years.

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