

Hunt down six fugitives

War tribunal asks authorities to publish ads in national dailies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to publish advertisements in national dailies asking six fugitive war crimes accused to appear before the court.

The accused are Ashraf Hossain, 64, Prof Sharif Ahammed, 71, Abdul Mannan, 66, Abdul Bari, 62, Harun, 58, and Abul Hashem, 65.

The tribunal ordered its registrar's office to publish advertisements in two national dailies -- one Bangla and one English -- asking the accused to appear before the court within seven days from the publishing date.

The tribunal headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan passed the order as police failed to arrest the six alleged Al-Badr men and submitted a report showing the accused "absconding" last month.

The court also fixed August 10 to pass the next order.

Earlier on April 20, the prosecution pressed five charges against the six and two other "Al-Badr men" of Jamalpur for their alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

The other two are Shamsul Haque, 75, and AKM Yusuf Ali, 83, who are now behind bars.

The charges, which include murder, abduction and torture, were brought for their alleged involvement in nine incidents committed in Jamalpur between April 22 and December 11, 1971.

STATE COUNSEL FOR HABIGANJ "RAZAKAR"

The tribunal yesterday appointed a state counsel to defend Abdur Razzak, an accused from Habiganj who faces four charges of crimes against humanity along with two other from the same locality.

The tribunal on May 31 accepted four charges brought against three Habiganj "Razakars" and yesterday was fixed for hearing the charges.

Abdur Razzak yesterday told the tribunal that he is very poor and not capable of appointing a lawyer.

The tribunal then appointed M Masud Rana, who is also defending Muhibur Rahman Boromian and Muhibur Rahman Angur Mian, two other accused in the case.

The prosecution on May 17 first pressed charges against Muhibur, former chairman of Baniachang upazila's Khagaura Union Parishad, and his younger brother Angur Mian, the incumbent chairman. The court fixed August 9 for next order.

MORE TIME FOR COX'S BAZAR CASE

The tribunal yesterday gave the prosecution one more month to submit formal charges in the case against 19 accused from Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar for their alleged war crimes.

Yesterday was fixed for submitting formal charges or a progress report over investigation into the allegations. But prosecutor Rana Dasgupta submitted a progress report and sought two more months' time.

The court asked the prosecution to submit the formal charges on August 23. In case of failure, they would have to submit another progress report.



BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, left, in front of a Shillong court yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Italy seizes mafia assets worth two billion euros

AFP, Rome

Italian police said Wednesday they had seized assets worth two billion euros (\$2.2 billion) belonging to an organised crime syndicate, in the latest sting against the mafia.

The assets seized from the 'Ndrangheta mafia, which controls much of Europe's cocaine trade, included more than 1,500 betting shops, 82 online gambling sites and almost 60 companies, as well as numerous properties, the police said.

Prosecutors issued arrest warrants for 28 people suspected of running the gambling empire and placed 23 others either under house arrest or ordered them to check in with the police.

The gang "recycled an enormous amount of 'dirty' money through the use of gaming accounts assigned to willing or unwitting people", police said in a statement.

245 municipalities go to polls in Dec

FROM PAGE 1

245 municipalities are likely to end by this time. After preparing the final list, we will place it before the election commissioners for announcing the election schedule," Sirazul added.

The elections are likely to appear as a major challenge for all three parties involved -- the EC, the AL and the BNP.

Holding free and fair elections is a major challenge for the EC. The recent city corporation polls in Dhaka and Chittagong as well as upazila elections last year were tainted by large scale irregularities and ballot box stuffing allegedly by AL men.

Local government expert Dr Tofail Ahmed thinks the EC's "negligence

and inactive role" were the main reasons behind the alleged irregularities.

"As the evil practice has returned to our electoral process, the common people are losing trust in the elections. It is the duty of the Election Commission to regain that trust," he observed.

Speaking anonymously, a top EC official said, "The country's electoral process will not be completely fair until there's a change in the prevailing political culture."

Both the AL and the BNP are likely to take the elections as a tool for gauging their popularity.

The AL would want to win in most of the municipalities so that the party

can claim widespread popularity across the country.

The BNP on its part would like to bag more votes so that it can strengthen its anti-government movement.

Local AL and BNP leaders who have their eyes set on the mayoral posts are gearing up to contest the polls.

"As a politician, I have to keep in touch with party leaders and common people regularly. Now I am doing that more targeting the polls," said Mahbubur Rahman, incumbent mayor of Bogra municipality and adviser of the district unit BNP.

"I am preparing myself to contest the polls. I am visiting different areas daily and talking with different social

organisations in our localities," said Shahidul Islam Shaheen, incumbent mayor of Mirkadim municipality in Munshiganj.

Although Shaheen said he was not directly involved with any political party, he claimed most of the AL leaders in his municipality were working for him.

Besides, elections to more than 500 union parishads are likely to be held by March or April next year, while the rest of around 4,000 lowest tier of local government body might go to polls by next June, said EC officials.

The EC has sought Tk 700 crore from the finance ministry to hold the municipality and Union Parishad polls, said Shajahan Khan, deputy

Water not safe for urban people

FROM PAGE 1

Water samples were collected from 2,543 of the households and were tested for E. coli, said the BBS.

Talking to The Daily Star, Ruhul Amin Miah, professor of microbiology and immunology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said, "Water has to be boiled or filtered for purification. As middle class and upper middle income groups usually do this, they are less likely to be affected."

"But poor and low income people, who don't have the scope for boiling water or the ability to afford filters, are more likely to be affected."

The latest BBS findings come at a time when arsenic contamination of water remains a threat to public health, mainly for people in rural areas where tube wells are the main source of drinking water.

In contrast, E. coli contamination of water emerges as a health risk for urban people who get water mainly from public utility agencies.

The BBS has found that 92 percent water of dug wells is contaminated with E. coli, followed by surface water (84.8 percent), piped water (78.5 percent) and tube well water (37.7 percent).

Analysts say since the number of dug wells is negligible in urban areas, piped water is the main source of E. coli-contaminated water there.

"If water gets contaminated at source, the supplier has to take the responsibility.

ity. E. coli contamination can also take place at households because of poor hygiene," said Khairul Islam, country representative of UK-based WaterAid Bangladesh.

The BBS says 61.7 percent of households consume water that contains risk level of E. coli, indicating contamination also occurs between the points of collection and use.

Khairul said E. coli contamination of piped water might happen for the absence of required pressure in pipelines.

"Contamination may occur through leakages in pipes. Dirt and filth may enter pipes at the time of water logging," said the country chief of WaterAid that campaigns for safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Unclean reservoirs and use of dirty jugs and bottles at households may also lead to such contamination.

The number of child deaths from diarrhoea has dropped but the morbidity rate is yet to come down. "This is mainly because of consumption of unsafe water and also poor hygiene," he said.

Shofiqul Alam, water, sanitation and hygiene specialist at Unicef Bangladesh, said leakage in distribution lines was one of the main reasons for E. coli contamination of piped water in urban areas. It also occurs at the points of water collection and transportation in low-income areas, especially in slums.

The problem can be solved by fixing

leakages and replacing old pipes, he said.

Sirajul Islam, emeritus scientist at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr), said E. coli was considered an indicator bacterium.

The presence of this bacterium in water indicates that other pathogenic bacteria and viruses, responsible for diseases like cholera, typhoid, dysentery and jaundice, may also be found in that contaminated water.

If a person consumes it, he might contract those diseases, said Sirajul.

On E. coli contamination of water, Akram Al Hossain, additional secretary (water supply) at the Local Government Division responsible for supply of safe water, said the LGD asked the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority and the Department of Public Health Engineering to submit reports based on the BBS findings.

He said they would comment on the issue after getting the reports.

"We supply pure drinking water. But there could be problems because of leakage in pipes and also illegal connections."

Akram said Dhaka Wasa was replacing old water pipes with the Asian Development Bank's finance. Once it is done, there will be no scope for having illegal connections.

Residents of the capital would be able to drink water from taps by 2019, he said.

Inaction takes its toll

FROM PAGE 1

Easy Bikes, Nosimon, Karimon, Tempo, and Votvoti, run on all roads in the country, disrupting movement of buses, trucks and cars. They fail to follow traffic rules and cause road accidents that claim hundreds of lives every year.

Drivers of buses and trucks face a lot of trouble on highways because of the slow vehicles.

Bipul Kumar, who drives a bus on Dhaka-Tangail highway, said, "Drivers of these vehicles have no clue about traffic rules. They suddenly stop, come on to the highway from feeder roads, and take turns without signalling that cause accidents."

Although police records claim on an average 3,000 people die every year in road accidents, the World Bank says the number is 12,000 and the WHO counts it 18,000, according to statistics of Accident Research Institute of Buet.

The Roads and Bridges Ministry decided to impose the ban on CNG-run three-wheelers yesterday, a day after five people were killed in a Siraiganj when such a vehicle hit a bus. It did not decide when the ban would be effective.

On enforcing the ban, Roads and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader admitted that he could not execute the decisions for many reasons.

ago but could not be executed for many reasons. I need cooperation from all stakeholders, including police, administration, lawmakers and party leaders ...," he told The Daily Star.

Sources in the ministry and transport operators say that the previous ban could not be enforced mainly because many ruling party men and policemen are involved in transport business.

In many places, vehicle owners pay ruling party men and police for running the vehicles, they add. A senior home ministry official seeking anonymity, said, "We are helpless in this. Let alone stopping the illegal vehicles, we are unable to stop their manufacturing in the country."

Records show, the Road Transport Advisory Council in its 33rd meeting on September 21, 2010, decided to ban the slow, unfit, and illegal vehicles. The matter was also discussed in its next meeting on July 11, 2011.

Two other forums -- National Road Safety Council (NRSC) and Cabinet Committee on Road Safety -- also held meetings and discussed the matter.

Minister Obaidul Quader heads all the three forums.

Checking of overloading and punishing drivers for using fake licences or reckless driving are also largely limited to the discussions.

tor of Accident Research Institute Shamsul Hoque identified the vehicles as major barriers to ensure safety on highways.

"Besides, most of the drivers of these unregistered vehicles do not have driving licences. So, all these factors impose high risk to people's lives," he told The Daily Star, adding that the vehicles were still plying due to negligence and lack of monitoring of the authorities concerned.

The Roads and Bridges Ministry holds a meeting before each Eid to ensure smooth vehicular movement on the highways.

Stopping the slow-moving and unfit and illegal vehicles on highways and removing roadside structures figure prominently at the meetings.

This year's meeting on June 23, where Minister Obaidul Quader, Railway Minister Mojibul Haq, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal were present, decided not to allow rundown and slow vehicles, the same decision as previous years.

The decisions remain only on paper year after year.

A day before Eid, eight old vehicles broke down on Dhaka-Tangail highway, causing an 80km long tail-back and indescribable suffering to thousands of holidaymakers. The gridlock lasted until the morning of Eid day.

FROM PAGE 1

concentration levels seemed to slump a bit once the non-regular bowlers arrived. They ended the day on 179 for 4.

Opener Tamim Iqbal, who played a patient 57 off 129 balls, seemed as resolute as ever. While he did drive Steyn for two consecutive boundaries in as early as the seventh over of the innings, he depended mainly on singles since then. He raced to 12 off his first 15 balls. However, in the next 28 balls that he faced, he scored just two runs. The left-hander would nudge deliveries down the leg-side every now and then and patiently look for an opportunity to go to the other end.

On the whole, he took 35 singles and two twos in his knock, apart from the three fours and reached his half-century off 119 deliveries.

Only after the frontline bowlers were given a break did Tamim try to go for a few drives. He cut Simon Harmer and looked to accelerate a bit after Mominul Haque got bowled in the 22nd over. However, that eventually led to his dismissal as he got bowled on his legs while attempting to sweep Dean Elger in the 54th over. It

was a straight delivery and the left-hander played all round it.

Mahmudullah Riyad played with a similar calm and composure, and it therefore wasn't a surprise that the duo managed to post a crucial 89-run stand for the third wicket -- a stand which also happens to be Bangladesh's second highest against the Proteas.

Unlike Tamim, Riyad depended more on boundaries. He played out his first eight deliveries for no runs and looked to get a good measurement of the pitch at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. Once he did that, he decided to go against Harmer's turners and hit him for two consecutive fours. While he wasn't entirely in control of both the shots, it seemed to give him a sense of relief, because after that, some of the shots he played were quite delightful.

The highlights of his innings were his cover drives off Philander and Steyn. He stood firm at his crease and punched both the bowlers through covers in the 36th and 37th overs.

He scored his half-century in 109 deliveries and reached it with a styl-

ish leg glance off Steyn which went past Quinton de Kock for a four.

A rare occasion saw him miss a flick from the middle of the wicket and he was eventually trapped in front for 67 by Philander.

Four balls later rain stopped play and at that point of time Bangladesh were poised at 178 for 4 after 66.5 overs. After a brief break, the game did restart but only for the rains to interrupt proceedings yet again, after a ball.

There's no doubt that Bangladesh's batting, for most parts, went as per the team plan. However, the hosts could have been in a much better position had it not been for a few slip ups.

Imrul Kayes, for instance, looked good before getting stumped off a delivery that went down the leg-side. Mominul, oddly enough, looked nervous and attempted an unrequired cut off Harmer to get bowled.

Bangladesh may still be ahead in this encounter, however, with three full days to go -- provided the rains stay away -- both sides can still fancy a win.

SOURCE: CDC/CNN (JUNE 11, 2015)

Batting brings hope amid rain

FROM PAGE 1

concentration levels seemed to slump a bit once the non-regular bowlers arrived. They ended the day on 179 for 4.

Opener Tamim Iqbal, who played a patient 57 off 129 balls, seemed as resolute as ever. While he did drive Steyn for two consecutive boundaries in as early as the seventh over of the innings, he depended mainly on singles since then. He raced to 12 off his first 15 balls. However, in the next 28 balls that he faced, he scored just two runs. The left-hander would nudge deliveries down the leg-side every now and then and patiently look for an opportunity to go to the other end.

On the whole, he took 35 singles and two twos in his knock, apart from the three fours and reached his half-century off 119 deliveries.

Only after the frontline bowlers were given a break did Tamim try to go for a few drives. He cut Simon Harmer and looked to accelerate a bit after Mominul Haque got bowled in the 22nd over. However, that eventually led to his dismissal as he got bowled on his legs while attempting to sweep Dean Elger in the 54th over. It

was a straight delivery and the left-hander played all round it.

Mahmudullah Riyad played with a similar calm and composure, and it therefore wasn't a surprise that the duo managed to post a crucial 89-run stand for the third wicket -- a stand which also happens to be Bangladesh's second highest against the Proteas.

Unlike Tamim, Riyad depended more on boundaries. He played out his first eight deliveries for no runs and looked to get a good measurement of the pitch at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. Once he did that, he decided to go against Harmer's turners and hit him for two consecutive fours. While he wasn't entirely in control of both the shots, it seemed to give him a sense of relief, because after that, some of the shots he played were quite delightful.

The highlights of his innings were his cover drives off Philander and Steyn. He stood firm at his crease and punched both the bowlers through covers in the 36th and 37th overs.

He scored his half-century in 109 deliveries and reached it with a styl-

ish leg glance off Steyn which went past Quinton de Kock for a four.

A rare occasion saw him miss a flick from the middle of the wicket and he was eventually trapped in front for 67 by Philander.

Four balls later rain stopped play and at that point of time Bangladesh were poised at 178 for 4 after 66.5 overs. After a brief break, the game did restart but only for the rains to interrupt proceedings yet again, after a ball.

There's no doubt that Bangladesh's batting, for most parts, went as per the team plan. However, the hosts could have been in a much better position had it not been for a few slip ups.

Imrul Kayes, for instance, looked good before getting stumped off a delivery that went down the leg-side. Mominul, oddly enough, looked nervous and attempted an unrequired cut off Harmer to get bowled.

Bangladesh may still be ahead in this encounter, however, with three full days to go -- provided the rains stay away -- both sides can still fancy a win.