

ICT sends 5 war crimes suspects of Patuakhali to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sent five war crimes suspects from Patuakhali to jail, showing them arrested in a war crimes case. The three-member tribunal passed the order after the prosecution filed a petition to show them arrested in the case. The court also asked the prosecution to submit a progress report on December 1 on the investigation into the allegations against the five that they were involved in war crimes.

The suspects are: Esahaq Shikder of Gilabunai, Abdul Goni Hawlader and Md Awal alias Awal Moulavi of Galachipa, Abdus Sattar Pyada and Solaiman Mridha of Ballav village under Patuakhali Sadar Upazila.

The five have been in jail since September 7 in connection with another criminal case. The prosecution on September 23 filed a petition to show them arrested in the war crimes case and on the same day, the tribunal asked the Patuakhali jail authorities to produce the five yesterday.

Prosecutor Tureen Afroz yesterday told the tribunal that the investigation officer already found evidence of their involvement in war-time crimes and the accused need to be kept in jail for a "fair and proper investigation".

According to the tribunal's investigation agency, Esahaq was a member of local Peace Committee, an anti-liberation organisation, while the rest were members of local Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, during the Liberation War.

Govt shuffles

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Departments extend support for its speedy execution," he said. The divisional commissioner and the deputy commissioner will respectively head the divisional and district committees.



Baghoir Khal used to be a rowing channel for race boats only a few years ago and draw enthusiasts from far-off places. But it is barely recognisable in its past shape now because locally influential people and sand traders have occupied it with barges. In a few more years, the canal beside the Dhaka-Mawa highway in Keraniganj might dry out and become an easy prey of land grabbers like others. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Teenage girl 'commits suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A teenage girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan of her house following a family feud at Mohara in Chittagong city yesterday. The deceased was Mukta Deb, 18, daughter of Late Ajit Deb, hailing from Raozan upazila of the district, said police.

Cabinet okays

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The sources said the total investment of these firms would be between \$280 and \$300 million. The private investors will arrange the required land for their respective projects. The move for allowing IPP solar plants has been part of the government's plan to generate 24,000MW of electricity by 2021, the sources added. Special emphasis was laid on power production from non-conventional sources. It aims to increase the total solar power production by 5 percent by 2015 (meaning 800MW), and 10 percent by 2020 (2,000MW). The total solar power production in Bangladesh has not crossed 200MW yet.

CURBING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Law should incorporate preventive measures too

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad discussion on proposed anti-harassment act told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A law stating both preventive and punitive measures is required to check the recent rise in violence against women and children, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

Citing incidents of molestation of children by family members and close relatives including father, grandfather, and uncles, senior police official Farida Yesmin said, "These are sadistic behaviours, and they cannot be prevented by punishment."

The deputy commissioner of the women support and investigation division at Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) made the observation during the

discussion on the draft "Sexual Harassment and Repression Prevention Act, 2010".

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) organised the discussion at the Jatiya Press Club.

Yesmin praised the correctional measures recommended in the proposed law, after Maksuda Akhter, director of central legal aid sub-committee of BMP, presented highlights of the draft.

"We need legal action against sexual harassment," said Ayesha Khanam, president of BMP, explaining the need for the proposed law.

However, the High Court issued a

directive in 2009 ordering formation of anti-sexual harassment committees at all workplaces and educational institutions.

"If there is a law, a person has the option to even file a case, besides making complaints to the anti-sexual harassment committee," she said.

Dr Bilkis Begum, coordinator of the One-Stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, stressed the need for creating awareness about sexual harassment by enacting this law.

"Adolescent boys often tend to think of sexual harassment as a game because they do not even know what constitutes the crime," she said.

The proposed legislation recommends creation of anti-sexual harass-

Road crashes kill 10, injure 20

CITY DESK

Ten people were killed and 20 others injured in road accidents in six districts yesterday and Wednesday.

In Sirajganj, two people were killed and 15 others injured a bus hit human-hauler on Bogra-Nagarbari highway in Raiganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased could not be identified immediately.

Meanwhile, Abu Bakkar Siddique, 65, of Amdanga village was crushed under a bus in Panchliya Bazar area under Salanga Police Station of the district yesterday.

In Gazipur, two unidentified people were killed as a covered-van and a bus collided head-on at Bhogra bypass intersection yesterday.

In Sherpur, two people were killed and two others injured when a bus and a CNG-

run auto-rickshaw collided head-on on Sherpur-Jhinaigati road near Bogadubi Bridge.

The deceased were Monda Begum, 45, of Bondobhatpara village and her granddaughter Urmi Bagum, 5.

In Mymensingh, Johor Uddin, 57, of Durbar Char village was killed when a bus ran him over while he was crossing the road at Kaltapara in Gouripur upazila on Wednesday night.

In Thakurgaon, Darul Islam, 38, of Islamnagar village was killed when a three-wheeler hit him while he was crossing Thakurgaon Sadar-Thakurgaon Railway Station road near Shuk Bridge yesterday.

In Bogra, Rini Begum, 40, of Hatibandha was killed and three people were injured when a three-wheeler skidded off the Bogra-Shariakandi road in Amtoli area of Shariakandi upazila yesterday.



A woman waits to sell used two litre bottles filled with water to passengers travelling on the Dhaka-Patuakhali route on launches. Traders take advantage of lack of drinking water for passengers, mostly belonging to the lower income tier. With no way of testing how safe the water is, desperate people buy each bottle for only Tk 10. The photo was taken yesterday at a launch ghat in Patuakhali.

PHOTO: STAR

WATER RESOURCE

Preserve hydro-geological data

Experts urge govt

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh urgently needs an effective hydro-geological database to manage and preserve its water resources, experts told a workshop in the capital yesterday.

"Preservation of these valuable data is very essential. WARPO has developed a National Water Resources Database. Still there are more hydro-geological data available in different organisations," said SM Shah-Newaz, an official of the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM).

The director of IWM's Irrigation Management Division said collection, preservation and analysis of these data were needed for judicious use of valuable water resources.

IWM in collaboration with Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Water Resources Planning

Organization (WARPO) and Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) organised the research workshop on Determination of Hydro-geological Parameters for different regions of Bangladesh at a hotel.

The agencies mainly responsible for collection of hydro-geological data in Bangladesh are BWDB, DPHE, Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) and the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) but the data are not properly maintained, while some data have already been lost.

Shah-Newaz said it needed to be understood that unplanned withdrawal of groundwater would cause depletion of groundwater and enhance the likelihood of salt water intrusion in coastal regions.

"For sustainable groundwater

development and management plans, hydro-geological information such as hydraulic conductivity, specific yield, depth and extent of geological layers has profound importance," he said.

He said IWM undertook a collaborative research project to collect hydro-geological data from different organisations and determine hydro-geological parameters for helping decision-making for the country's future groundwater development.

Speaking as chief guest, Water Resources Secretary Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan said there was no alternative to research in taking development projects in Bangladesh's water sector, as it was one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

BWDB Director General M Ismail Hossain also spoke.

Nahid requests them to go back to classes

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September 7. They complained that the post of selection grade professors (senior teachers) has been abolished in the new pay scale, although bureaucrats have got a special grade for themselves.

The FBUTA leaders said they will announce their next programmes on October 6.

COORDINATION MEETING

The four-hour meeting discussed the progress of the ongoing development projects under the ministry.

Officials of the ministry's planning division informed that 17 out of 52 new projects of the ministry were sent to the Planning Commission for

approval. The projects include building new educational institutes, constructing school buildings, expanding technical education, and modernising madrasa education.

PRIMARY TEACHERS' DEMO

Assistant teachers of government primary schools yesterday observed work stoppage for two hours to press home their demands, including upgrading their salaries to the 11th grade and reinstating the selection grade.

The teachers, under the banner of Bangladesh Prathamik Shahokari Shikkhak Oikya Jote, a platform of five teachers' organisations, would observe full-day work abstention tomorrow.

"We did not give classes during

this period," Ataur Rahman, chief coordinator of the platform, told The Daily Star. He said they would observe a token hunger strike on October 15 and boycott the primary terminal examination if their demands were not met.

Meanwhile, leaders of Primary Assistant Teachers Federation, another platform of four organisations of assistant teachers, announced four-hour work abstention every day from October 4 to 8, and full-day work stoppage every day from October 10 to 15 at all government primary schools, pressing for the same demands.

Currently, the salary of the teachers is of the 13th grade.



War crimes suspects of Mymensingh Khandakar Golam Sabbir Ahmed, 69, right, and Mizanur Rahman Mintu, 63, at the district's Kotwali Police Station after their arrest yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Court starts recording witnesses' testimonies

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end, said Sylhet Metropolitan Police Commissioner Kamrul Ahsan.

The other accused are Muhit Alam, Ali Haider, Nurul Amin, Dulal Ahmed, Nur Mia, Ayaz Ali, Tajuddin

Ahmed alias Badal, Firoz Ali, Shamim, Ruhul Amin alias Moyna, Pavel and Asmat Ali. Shamim and Badal are also on the run.

On July 8, a group of brutes bludgeoned Rajon to death in

Kumargaon Bus Stand area of Sylhet Sadar upazila as a punishment allegedly for his crime of stealing a rickshaw-van. One of the culprits even filmed the horrendous scene to share it on Facebook.