



Jasimuddin's birthday today

UNB, Dhaka

The 113th birth anniversary of Polli Kobi Jasimuddin will be observed today. A 15-day fair will be held in the poet's village home Ambikapur in Faridpur town marking the day. Various organisations will place wreaths at his grave in the morning. A discussion and a doa mahfil will also be held. The poet was born today at Tambulkhana village in Kojuri union in Faridpur.



Class V students of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College in the capital celebrate on passing this year's primary education terminal examination, the results of which were published yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

NUMBER OF MARTYRS DU condemns Khaleda's remark

DU CORRESPONDENT

A regulation, condemning the remarks of BNP chief Khaleda Zia and leader Goyeshwar Chandra Roy questioning the number of martyrs and about the martyred intellectuals, was adopted at the winter senate assembly of Dhaka University yesterday.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique chaired the first winter session at DU senate building.

On December 21, Khaleda said, "There are controversies over how many people were martyred in the Liberation War."

Three days later, Goyeshwar described the 1971 martyred intellectuals as "anti-liberation elements" who "died like fools" and drew salaries from Pakistan

Life sentence

FROM PAGE 3

on Bangali nationalism, founded on secular and anti-communal principles.

"His offences, as we can see from the proven evidence, was no less heinous than those others", sentenced to death for committing similar offences against humanity, and hence there exists no reason whatsoever, why a sentence, lesser than death sentence, should be inflicted on him," said Justice Manik who upheld the death sentence.

"In my view his culpability was even worse. Even after liberation he made all contrivances to kill our Bengali nationalistic sentiment and tried to import Paki nationalism and tried, with other anti Liberation elements, to make Bangladesh part of Pakistan..." the judge said.

"Sparing Delawar Hossain Sayedee of the gallows, would, in my view, be affrontive to those three million martyrs who had to shed their lives to emancipate us from Paki colonial yoke..." he added.

Former Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, one of the three judges, who commuted the death sentence, said Sayedee was involved in torching the houses of Hindus at Parerha Bandar in Pirojpur causing huge devastations in 1971.

The two other judges are Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha (now the chief justice) and Justice Hasan Foez Siddique.

"The acts of looting of goods and setting fire on dwelling houses are considered persecutions on religious grounds which are also crimes against humanity," said the part, written by the three.

The judges said Sayedee and his associates accompanied by the Pakistani army, raided the Hindu houses of Umedpur village, burnt 25 houses and at one stage, as per his order, one Razakar shot one Bishabali to death.

So, in one count he actively participated in the looting and torching and in another, he abetted the murder of Bishabali, they said, adding that a sentence of imprisonment for rest of his natural life would be "proportionate to the gravity of the crimes".

Their part of observation says, "Considering the nature of the offences perpetrated by the accused and his culpability in those crimes, the sentence of death awarded to him is not in conformity with subsection (2) of section 20 of the Act."

According to Section 20 (2) of the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act, "Upon conviction of an accused person, the Tribunal shall award sentence of death or such other punishment proportionate to the gravity of the crime as appears to the Tribunal to be just and proper".

Meanwhile, Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, who acquitted Sayedee of the charges, observed that the prosecution failed to prove the charges brought against Sayedee beyond reasonable doubt, and as such, he was entitled to be acquitted of all those charges.

Following the release of the full verdict, both the state and defence can file review petitions within 15 days.

Yesterday, Additional Attorney General Murad Reza, also the acting attorney general, said the decision about seeking a review of the judgment would be taken after consulting the government. Meanwhile, Sayedee's counsel Shishir Manir earlier said his client would file a petition and seek acquittal of Sayedee from all charges.

On February 28, 2013, International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced Sayedee to death for killing Ibrahim Kuti and one Bishabali in Pirojpur in 1971, even though it had found him guilty on eight charges filed against him.

On September 17 last year, the SC delivered a short order based on majority views commuting Sayedee's death sentence to imprisonment until death.

SECURITY CHECKS DURING RAIDS Caab, customs at loggerheads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh (Caab) and Bangladesh Customs are at loggerheads over whether the latter's officials should go through security checks during raids, something proving detrimental to efforts to seize smuggled gold at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The rift surfaced though media reports on Tuesday night when Caab officials asked a customs team to register names and go through a security check before boarding a Singapore Airlines plane and conducting a search.

The team, acting on a tip-off that there was over 100 kilogrammes of smuggled gold inside the plane, then cancelled the raid. The same occurred when another team attempted to search a Malaysia Airlines aircraft on November 3.

"Section 164 of Customs Act 1969 gives us absolute authority to search any aircraft if there is any information of smuggling," Assistant Commissioner of Customs

Shahiduzaman Sarkar told The Daily Star.

He also said by obstructing them, Caab violated the law and assisted in smuggling.

However, the airport's director, Group Captain MK Zakir Hassan, said the security check was a part of maintaining the highest level of security. "But they denied and even threatened our officials of arrests," he added.

He said they could not allow anyone to enter an aircraft without a proper security check up as the prime minister herself directed them to ensure the highest security. "If anything happens then who is going to take the responsibility," he questioned.

A security agency official termed the row "immature behaviour from both sides".

The intended target can slip away even for a short delay in the drive and coordination and assistance from other agencies are very necessary, said Joint Commissioner of Customs SM Sohail Rahman yesterday.

Working with just clues and no details, success comes after several drives, he said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Dipan's son does well in JSC exams, finally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was almost impossible for Ridad Farhan to sit for the Junior School Certificate (JSC) exams because his father, Faisal Arefin Dipan, was brutally hacked to death just the day before it started.

Shocked as he was by the abrupt loss of a father who was more like a friend to him, he went to the exam hall under police protection and took the test in a state of his mind which was never more disturbed.

Yesterday, when the results were out, Ridad was really happy as he passed the exam with GPA 4.8.

"This is a brilliant result given the situation in which he sat for the exam," said Prof Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq, grandfather of Ridad, a student of Udayan Higher Secondary School in the city.

"We are very happy. So is Ridad," Huq said, adding that unlike most other kids who like to spend time in front of computers, Ridad has a habit of reading all sorts of books.

"Ridad wants to be a writer, a great one, like Rabindranath Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay," said Huq, a former Bangla department professor at Dhaka University.

Dipan was survived by his wife Razia, son Ridad and daughter Ridma Adnim, a class-VII student of Udayan School.

Ridad told The Daily Star that he wants to protect and expand Jagriti Prokashoni, which published books of secular writer-blogger Avijit Roy.

Unknown assailants hacked Dipan, owner of Jagriti

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

We have not got justice Rajib's father tells Gonojagoron rally

DU CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Gonojagoron Mancha staged a rally and brought out a torch procession from capital's Shahbagh yesterday, protesting the verdict in the blogger Rajib Haider murder case.

"The self-proclaimed murderers of Rajib were not given the highest punishment," Imran H Sarker, spokesperson of the faction, told the rally.

He alleged that the main culprits are out of justice and did not get proper punishment.

Echoing him, Najim Uddin, father of Rajib, said, "We have not got justice."

Imran said, "Though militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team chief Mufti Jashimuddin Rahmani was the mastermind, he got only five years' imprisonment."

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