

COMMENTS ON MARTYRS Court summons Gayeshwar

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned BNP senior leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy to appear before it on March 16 in the case filed for his derogatory comments on the Liberation War martyrs.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Nuru Miah passed the order after Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Shahbagh Police Station, submitted a probe report yesterday, saying the comments about the Liberation War martyrs were found to be true.

Kalam, also investigation officer of the case, appealed to the court to take a legal action against Gayeshwar on receiving the probe report.

Earlier on January 21, Monindra Kumar Nath, the son of martyr Dinesh Chandra Nath, lodged the case. Dinesh was killed by local collaborators at Noakhali's Maizdi in mid-September of 1971.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Aminul Haque directed officer-in-charge (investigation) of Shahbagh Police Station to submit the probe report to the court on February 18.

At a programme on December 25 last year, Gayeshwar said the 1971 martyred intellectuals were "anti-liberation elements" who "died like fools" and drew salaries and allowances from Pakistan till the end of the war.

Different newspapers published his comments, which are disparaging to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for liberating the country, said the complainant.



Members of Greater Parbatya Chattagram Pahari Chhatra Parishad engage in an altercation with police in front of the High Court's mazar gate as they tried to cordon off the education ministry to protest against the shutdown of three government school hostels in the three hill districts. Earlier they also made a five-point demand, which includes introducing primary education to the ethnic community in their own mother tongue, taking steps to boost educational development in the hill tracts, stopping indiscriminate in the educational system and implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, at the base of Aparajeya Bangla in Dhaka University yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Abducted Bangladeshi-born US citizen still traceless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over two days have passed with a Bangladeshi-born US citizen remaining traceless on being allegedly abducted by some seven to eight miscreants from the capital's Mohakhali flyover.

Mofizul Islam, 55, chairman of Trans Link International, a New York-based money transfer firm, was reportedly abducted on Tuesday afternoon, police said.

Relatives said he arrived in Bangladesh on January 22 and was bringing together Bangladeshi bankers for a "South Asian Entrepreneur Alliance", scheduled to be held in New York within a few days.

"We have not yet traced his whereabouts...we are trying hard to rescue him," Kafur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shikdar Md Shamim told The Daily Star.

Detectives and Rapid Action Battalion are separately working on the abduction case, he said.

Blocking Mofizul's car with a microbus and a motorcycle around 4:30pm, miscreants asked him to come with them, said a relative, Tanvir Ahmad, quoting Mofizul's driver Imran Ali as saying.

When he denied, they beat him and the driver, forced him into the microbus and fled toward Banani, he said, adding that Mofizul was returning to his residence in Baridhara Park Road from the Motijheel commercial area.

"We came to know about the abduction around 8:30pm from the driver, whose cellphone was also taken away," Tanvir said.

There has been no ransom claims, he said, unable to ascertain whether Mofizul had any previous enmity or was threatened earlier.

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ASK worried at arrest of Ba-Dwip publisher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday strongly protested the arrest of publisher and author of Ba-Dwip Prakashani, Shamsuzzoha Manik.

In a statement, ASK said from various media sources it was learnt that publications of Ba-Dwip were seized and its stall closed at the Amar Ekushey Granthamela on Monday. ASK is deeply concerned at the closing of the stall and the arrest of Manik along with an official and an author of the publication house that day, it added.

The organisation said it came to know from media reports that police had sought to remand the arrestees under Section 57(2) of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act. ASK has long feared the abuse of Section 57 and the incident reinforced that, the statement said.

Article 39 of the constitution guarantees the freedom of thinking, conscience, and expression of opinions, but the rules in existing laws which give police power to make arrests on suspicion or apprehension do not defend the freedom of

Fair offers books for travellers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While visiting new areas, people often find themselves at a loss due to their lack of knowledge about things like where to stay and how to go to the local tourist spots.

This is also true for Bangladeshis visiting a district for the first time. For avid travellers, "64 Zela Bhraman" (travelling around 64 districts) is there in the Ekushey book fair to help.

The book briefly and nicely describes major attractions of each district, worth a stranger's attention.

There are few people in the country who have visited all 64 districts. The writer, Liakat Hossain Khokon, is one of them.

According to the writer, Jhenidah is dotted with historical establishments. Harinakunda, Shaikupa, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Maheshpur upazilas are full of attractive places and it takes less than an hour to visit those from Jhenidah town, he said.

At Mallikpur, there is an over 100-year old banyan tree, spreading its branches over 15 bighas of land. The ruins of ancient city

Tarik new envoy to Pakistan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to appoint Tarik Ahsan as the high commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan.

Currently serving as the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka, Tarik would replace Suhrab Hossain, whose contractual appointment would expire in April.

The outgoing high commissioner underwent a tough time in Pakistan as he was summoned several times by the Pakistan foreign ministry. He was even summoned twice in one day recently.

Tarik Ahsan served in Bangladesh missions in New York, Riyadh, Jakarta, and Berlin in different capacities, according to a foreign ministry press release.

The appointment of a new envoy in Pakistan took place amid escalation of diplomatic tension between Dhaka and Islamabad following withdrawal and counter withdrawal of diplomats, detaining of high commissions officials by law



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