

# Court now rejects Nur's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday rejected the bail petition of businessman Nur Mohammad, the prime accused in a case filed over the seizure of liquid cocaine at the Chittagong port last year.

The cocaine was found in a container carrying, purportedly, sunflower oil. Nur is the chairman of Khatunganj-based firm Khan Jahan Ali Ltd, and the container was sent to his firm from Bolivia.

Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge Shahenur passed the order after hearing the petition filed by the defence lawyers, said Additional Assistant Commissioner (prosecution) Kazi Muttaki Ibnu Minan. The bail petition was moved as the case is now under investigation, said defence lawyer Ibrahim Hossain Babul.

Mentionable, on May 8 last year, a container carrying 107 barrels of sunflower oil arrived at Chittagong port from Bolivia via Uruguay, and later liquid cocaine was found in some of the barrels.

## DEFAMATION SUIT

### Janakantha editor summoned to court March 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Janakantha Editor Atiqullah Khan Masud, Advisory Editor Toab Khan and Executive Editor Swadesh Roy yesterday were summoned to appear at a Dhaka court on March 21 to face defamation charges.

Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Rani Chakroborty summoned them hours after advocate Arfan Uddin Khan, former president of Dhaka Metropolitan Bar Association, filed the case over an article published in the daily on February 4.

Titled "Oboshorer Pore Raie Lekha: Agenda Khaledar, Bastobayoner Dae Ekhon Notun Kadhe" (writing verdicts after retirement: agenda is of Khaleda's, execution onus falls on new shoulder), the article tarnished the judiciary's image and defamed the plaintiff, for he was an officer of the court, says the case statement.



Joy of reading is for everyone, which became true yesterday for these visually impaired children holding copies of books in Braille, published by Sporsho Braille Prokashona, which they received as gifts at a ceremony at the Bangla Academy's Nazrul Mancha at the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2016.

PHOTO: STAR

# Braille books bring joy to visually impaired children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rupom is a visually impaired child with a passion for books. Even though he can not see, he is much eager to read poems, stories and novels like everyone else. But there are not many books in Braille available for visually impaired people.

To help the visually impaired children take delight in the joy of reading, Sporsho Braille Prokashona has brought out six books in Braille at the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2016 yesterday. These books were formally launched through a ceremony at the Bangla Academy's Nazrul Mancha. Sporsho has been publishing books in Braille since 2009. Since its invention in 1824, Braille, a tactile writing system for the visually impaired, has been a gift to millions.

At the ceremony, a delighted Rupom read out a poem for the audience from a book. The other children, who accompanied him during the occasion, were eager to start reading as well.

The books are Bangabandhu Bir Gantha by Syed Shamsul Haque, Ekattorer Lorai by Mustafa Jabbar, Lily Puter Chhoto Bhai by Lutfar Rahman Riton, Koni Boni Moni by Nazia Zabeen, Kishore Kishorider Shasthakatha and Amader Priyo Nobi.

Nazia Zabeen, founder of Sporsho, urged Bangla



Academy to dedicate a day for the visually impaired and compel big publication houses to publish at least one book in Braille and audio version.

"The visually impaired have the same rights...We will ask publishers to publish a book every year in Braille version," said Aktari Mamta, secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs. "It is not possible to bring an all out progress by keeping a group behind," Shamsuzzaman

Khan, director general of Bangla Academy said, promising to allot 40 minutes this year during the Granthamela for the visually impaired and one day from next year.

Rubaba Dowla, chief service officer, Airtel Bangladesh said if people take the initiative to publish more books in Braille then the scope for the development of the visually impaired will widen.

Luva Nahid Choudhury, editor of Jal Pore Pata Nore, a monthly magazine which publishes a Braille version for visually impaired, said they are able to offer news in Braille because of Sporsho. "We need to bring a change in our mindset about the visually impaired," she stressed.

Later, copies of the books were distributed among some visually impaired people for free. Sporsho so far has published 35 books in Braille.

A total of 64 new books hit the fair yesterday.

## Suffocating situation created in country

Fakhrul tells BNP's Ekushey discussion; AL leader Khalid Mahmud calls him 'fake' freedom fighter in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the government had created a suffocating situation in the country by snatching people's all rights including freedom of expression.

"Now our voices are gagged, and we're not allowed to hold any rally and use a venue for our council," he told a party discussion at the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, marking International Mother Language Day.

The BNP acting secretary general noted that the observance of February 21st had now become full of hypocrisies, as the nation was losing emotion and forgetting the traditional way to pay homage to the martyrs.

He said Bangla was used wrongly in every sphere of society. "It's pity... Our students can't speak Bangla properly," he added.

"We must overcome this situation and there's no alternative to having democracy."

Fakhrul said, "Let's take a vow at this discussion on Ekushey February to restore people's rights and democracy at the cost of any sacrifice."

BNP leaders Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Moudud Ahmed and Dhaka University's former vice chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, among others, spoke at the programme.

Meanwhile, Awami League lawmaker Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday claimed in parliament that Mirza Fakhrul was a "fake" freedom fighter and his father was a "notorious war criminal."

The AL organising secretary demanded that the Liberation War affairs minister investigate Fakhrul's "false" claim as a freedom fighter and take necessary action.

"Mirza Fakhrul's father Mirza Ruhul Amin was a notorious war criminal, as his name was placed at serial number 710 on the list of war criminals of Dinajpur," he said, speaking on a thanksgiving motion on the president's speech.

Fakhrul was not available for comments.



Agitating students of Government Titumir College in the capital bring out processions and chant slogans on the campus yesterday protesting "excessive charges" imposed for the registration of honours final year exams..

PHOTO: STAR

## Titumir College students protest exam fee hike

Demand refund of excess money realised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agitating students of Government Titumir College in the capital formed a human chain and brought out processions on the campus yesterday noon protesting "excessive charges" imposed for the registration of honours final year exams.

They also demanded a refund and removal of the college principal. "As per the National University notification, the total cost of filling up forms for the examinations is Tk 5,545 but the college authorities are charging Tk 7,482 from us showing various expenses," Arif Raihan, an agitated student, said.

"We will go on protest again tomorrow if the authorities do not give us refunds," the final year student of management told The Daily Star.

Abu Haider Ahmad Nasir, principal of the college, said, "The students are not being charged extra. We have huge expenses...salaries of staff employed in various activities...so the money is being taken to cover the expenses, abiding by the circular of National University." Registrations started on February 6 and will continue till tomorrow, the principal said.

## Smart energy

FROM PAGE 4 Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain also attended.

## Police probes find two addl SPs, 11 other personnel guilty

FROM PAGE 3

On that day to protest an assault of a mother and her son. A clash broke out when police stopped the demonstrators.

On September 15, Rafiqul Islam Roma of Satura village in Kalihati beat the woman and her teenage son because the boy was "having an affair" with his wife.

Roma also "sexually harassed" the woman, from neighbouring Atharodana village.

Police rescued the two and arrested Roma, while locals protested the torture three days later.

The two probe committees, led by additional deputy inspector generals Mohammad Ali Miah (crimes) and Mohammad Alamgir Alam (discipline) of Dhaka range, had submitted the reports to the inspector general of police on December 15 last year.

Accepting the reports yesterday, Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton asked the IGP to submit a report before it by March 7 on what steps have been taken against the police personnel concerned, as per the recommendations.

The court also fixed March 9 for further hearing this issue, DAG Sazu said. The Ali Miah-led committee said in the report that Additional SP of Tangail Mohammad Sharifur Rahman did not take proper steps personally to prevent the unexpected incident, as he did not take its dreadfulness into consideration.

The official also did not run a mass campaign to pacify the aggrieved locals even after knowing about the incident, it said, adding Sharifur failed to prevent the deterioration of law and order situation centring on the assault of the mother and son.

He showed carelessness and incompetence in discharging his duties, the reports said.

The report continued that another additional SP, Sanjoy Sarkar, did not run a mass campaign or exchange views with local people to prevent the deterioration of law and order situation and did not take proper steps to prevent the incident.

Sanjoy, then SP of Tangail, failed to discharge his duties, the report said.

The other police personnel are sub-

inspectors of Ghatail Police Station Omar Faruk, Munsup Ali and its assistant sub-inspector Harun-or-Rashid, its former officer-in-charge Mokhlesur Rahman, Kalihati Police Station's SIs Abul Bashar and Salimuddin, constables Aminul Islam, Ziaul Haque and Tomal Chandra Deb, its former OC Shahidul Islam, and its watcher Mahatab Uddin, according to the probe report.

Following the writ petition filed by Executive Director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) Salma Ali, the HC on September 30 last year directed the government to submit the inquiry reports on the police firing in 60 days.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain whether police had followed the relevant legal provisions in opening fire on the agitators.

Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu, who placed the police probe reports before the court, said police followed all relevant legal provisions in the firing to pacify the demonstrators and bring the situation under control.

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## Ctg tanker-lorry strike called off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Tanker and lorry owners and workers of Chittagong district yesterday called off their indefinite strike after the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) authority assured building a tanker terminal immediately.

The decision was taken after a meeting between leaders of Chattagram Zila Tank-lorry Malik-Sramik Oikko Parishad, a platform of owners and workers of tankers and lorries that carry fuel, and BPC officials at the latter's office on Sunday said Rabiul Mowla, president of the parishad. Mir Al Reza, director (marketing) of BPC, corroborated this claim.

On February 20, tanker and lorry owners and workers called the strike from yesterday demanding the terminal, as per an assurance of BPC in 2011, since they have to park their vehicles on roads which often created gridlocks.

According to the organisation, there are around 1,000 tankers and lorries that carry fuel in the district. Of those, around 400 carry fuel from BPC's three depots in Patenga area.

## STABBING OF COP Five including two 'militants' remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five people including two suspects of Islamist outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team who were arrested in a Badda house in the capital on Friday were taken on remand yesterday.

A Dhaka court sent Kamal alias Shaheen, 26, and Shah Alam alias Salauddin, 28, on a 10-day remand each in two cases, one filed under the anti-terrorism act and another for assault on police, said Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station.

The court also granted a one-day remand for Hanif, owner of the house, while a two-day remand each for his son Mushfiqur and son-in-law Gazi Mahamudullah.

Detectives arrested the five raiding the house during which a detective was stabbed.

Following their confessional statement, "powerful" explosives and bomb-making materials were recovered from a top-floor flat of a five-storey building in Nobodoy Housing area of Mohammadpur, said police earlier.

## Eight DB police

FROM PAGE 4 wielding the homemade weapons, used to intercept vehicles on different roads in the city and adjacent areas, and snatch away money, ornaments and other valuables from passers, the release added.