



**KIBRIA MURDER CASE**  
**Testimony recording deferred again**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Sylhet court yesterday again deferred the recording of testimonies of witnesses till today in the former finance minister SAMS Kibria murder case as only one accused out of 14 appeared before it.

Kishore Kumar Kar, the public prosecutor, said only Ariful Haque, suspended Sylhet City Corporation mayor, appeared while the others did not.

On March 16 this year, the court fixed yesterday as the 7th day of recording testimonies, said the PP.

Five people including Kibria were killed and 70 others injured in a grenade attack on a public rally of local Awami League at Baiddar Bazar in Sylhet Sadar upazila on January 27, 2005. AL leader Abdul Mazid Khan filed two cases -- one for the killings and the other under the Explosives Substances Act.



Eleven valiant women honoured for their unforgettable contribution to the Liberation War with guests at a reception hosted by 71 Foundation at the capital's Bangladesh Shishu Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**RADICAL IDEOLOGIES, EXTREMISM, VIOLENCE**  
**Waning human rights, political space, detentions may be causes**

**US State Department Under Secretary Dr Sarah Sewall tells public lecture organised by Dhaka University**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Undermining human rights, restricting political space and arbitrary detention can give rise to radical ideologies, extremism and violence, said US State Department Under Secretary Dr Sarah Sewall yesterday.

She avoided a direct reply to a journalist's query on whether she sees Bangladesh as a breeding ground for extremism as the US did not find the last national election inclusive while the then opposition alleged their activists were detained arbitrarily.

However, addressing a public lecture organised by the Dhaka University's (DU) Department of International Relations at its auditorium, she said, "In many countries around the globe we find the state behaviour, particularly in security sector, can see the extremist violent narratives."

She said Islamic State activities were spreading and that violent attacks on secular thinkers, including Avijit Roy, and on Hindus, Christians and Shias went against Bangladesh's tradition of peaceful co-existence and tolerance.

Extremism is not linked to any religion, but to bad governance, abuses and restrictions on free speech, said the under secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights who arrived on a three-day visit on March 29.

She said extremist ideologies were not very new but the way these were spreading now was a new global challenge, demanding stronger preventive state policies and inter-state collaboration.

She pointed out that apart from army or police deployment, policies were required which engaged youths and women in promoting tolerance and respect towards others' opinions, cultures and traditions.

On whether poverty is linked to violent extremism, the former teacher of national security and human rights at the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University said there were many low income communities that were law-abiding citizens.

However, sociological research and analyses are required to understand the link, said the teacher who joined the state department on February 20, 2014.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, the department Chairman Prof Ehsanul Haque and US Ambassador Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat also spoke.

Dr Sewall also visited Dhakeswari Temple and met minority groups. "One of the interesting elements we discussed with them is the need for equal protection under the law," she told journalists afterwards.

The laws themselves do not cause concern but unequal enforcement, she said, stressing the need for very strong statement from political leaders and community leaders on ensuring equal rights for all.

The state has to have stronger efforts to ensure there is equal protection of all under the law and there is no culture of impunity for those who are perpetrating communal violence, Dr Sewall said.

**'71 Foundation honours 11 women for Liberation War contributions**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eleven valiant women were given reception yesterday for their unforgettable contribution to the Liberation War and implementing its spirit afterwards.

They are Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib (posthumous); Prof Panna Kaisar; founder of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), Valerie Ann Taylor; and freedom fighters Ferdousi Priyabhashini; Momtaz Begum; Rokeya Kabir; Lubna Mariam; Shila Momen; Sultana Kamal; Hannana Begum; and Ayesha Khanam, also president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

"Many of them died while many lost their dignity. We are indebted to them forever," said Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed after handing over memorial tokens to them at Bangladesh Shishu Academy. He also said Bangladesh has made much progress in all sectors and women have contributed to it.

Ayesha Khanam said thousands of women put their lives in jeopardy during the Liberation War and two lakh women lost their dignity. But their pain and sacrifice are not highlighted in the history, she said while expressing gratitude to 71 Foundation, organiser of the event. Among others, former deputy speaker of the parliament and freedom fighter Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, eminent journalist Abed Khan and 71 Foundation Chairman Khaled Shawkat Ali spoke at the event. Earlier, a one-minute's silence was observed to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War.

**NEWS IN brief**

**Submit probe report on 3 Netrakona war crime suspects May 26: Court**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked the prosecution to submit an investigation report, if there were any, on May 26 in a case filed against three Netrakona men over war crimes in 1971.

It fixed the date after prosecutor Mukhlesur Rahman Badal sought time for the submission. The accused are Hedayet Ullah Anju and his brother Enayet Ullah Manju and Sohrab Fakir of Atpara upazila. Sohrab is now in jail while the brothers are on the run.

**10th session of JS from April 24**

UNB, Dhaka

The 10th parliament will go into 10th session on April 24, after a 54-day recess. The session will start at 5:00pm, said a parliament secretariat handout yesterday. The 9th session of the 10th parliament was prorogued on February 29 this year after passing nine bills during its 27 sittings.

**Dhaka Ahsania Mission wins AGFUND int'l award**

CITY DESK

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been awarded the 2015 Arab Gulf Programme for Development prize for its contribution to alleviating unemployment among youths in Bangladesh, said a press release yesterday.

The award was allocated for projects implemented by NGOs. DAM is awarded for its technical and vocational education and training project. With its prize money of US \$150,000, the award was announced on Tuesday in Abu Dhabi.

**8 BCL men denied bail in Sylhet university student murder case**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Sylhet court yesterday rejected bail petition of eight BCL men in a case filed over the murder of a Sylhet International University student, and sent them to jail, said court sources.

On January 20, Kazi Habib, a BBA 4th year student and a Bangladesh Chhatra League activist, was stabbed to death on the campus.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Discussion**  
 Communications and Research (CORE) will hold a discussion on recent child killings and social instability. Venue: Dhaka University, Time: 3:30pm.

**Discussion**  
 The Dhaka North City Corporation and Bangladesh University will hold a discussion on "Impact of air pollution on public health" Venue: Krishibid Institute of Bangladesh KIB Dhaka, Time: 10:30am.



US Under-Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Dr Sarah Sewall visits Dhakeswari Temple in the capital yesterday. During her three-day visit the under-secretary delivered a public lecture on "Our Shared Struggle against Violent Extremism" at Dhaka University.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

**COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
**Disjoint among agencies, probe, trial affects efforts**

**Nat'l confce told suggesting implementation of action plan; increasing capacity of law enforcers, legal practitioners; setting up special tribunals; keeping CTCs functional; compensation, protection for victims**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lack of coordination among law enforcement agencies and sluggish pace of investigations and trials of human trafficking cases have slowed the government's initiatives to combat trafficking offences.

Besides, the delay in setting up special tribunals and the non-functional state of counter trafficking committees (CTC) in district, upazila and union levels still remains as major setbacks.

The observations came at the first day of a national conference on "National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking 2015-17: From Adoption to Implementation", organised by the home ministry in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre with technical support from USAID, Winrock International and International Organization for Migration. The programme will end today with outcomes and recommendations to implement the action plan.

AKM Masud Ali, executive director of Integrated Community & Industrial Development Initiative in (Incidin) Bangladesh, said the human traffickers are continuously changing tricks to exploit people and it's urgent to take strong measures.

The government has decided to try the human traffickers under special tribunals, which are yet to be set up, Masud said. "Victims are hardly getting any remedies and protections," he said, suggesting that it is a must to increase capacities of the law enforcers and legal practitioners to deal with the issue.

Commending the government's recent initiatives including adoption of national action plan and formation of laws against



**Death anniversary**

CITY DESK

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Noorunnahar Fyzzenessa, a professor of Institute of Education and Research (IER) of Dhaka University.

An active proponent of women's rights, she held a number of pioneering roles in her life including provost of Rokeya Hall, first elected female member of DU syndicate, first female member of Pay Commission and President of Dhaka City Mahila Parishad.

A discussion on her life and achievements will be held at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct on Saturday at 4:30pm.

**Daylong youth festival held in Mymensingh**

CITY DESK

A daylong youth festival styled "Tarunner Jagorone Shamajer Agajatra" (social development through youth renaissance) was held amid immense enthusiasm at the Mymensingh Gymnasium's auditorium on Tuesday, says a press release.

The Asia Foundation organised the festival which included discussion, rally, short films directed by youths, quiz competition, prize giving ceremony, etc.

Attended by some 400 youths, the festival concluded with a cultural event.

**RU expels 3 BCL men**

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) expelled three master's students, two current and one former Bangladesh Chhatra League's RU unit leaders on Tuesday over the beating up of an acting chief engineer, Sirajum Munir, and two staff who had refuse to pay money as extortion on August 28, 2014.

SM Touhid-Al-Hossain Tuhin was a general secretary while Tanmoy Ananda Ovi is a vice president and Mamunur Rashid Mamun president of the Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall unit. Tuhin is from finance and banking and the rest from fisheries.

**Five students held**

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 The BCL leaders also threatened to hold rallies and observe strike in educational institutions in the city on April 3 and 5 respectively, organise a sit-in programme before the CMP office on April 6 and besiege the VC's office on April 7.

About the demand of his resignation, Dr Anupam said, "I think a quarter is trying to paint the matter with political colour for political motivation."

The faction of city unit BCL, loyal to ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, yesterday brought out a protest procession demanding punishment for the killers.

**UN invites Saima**

FROM PAGE 4

Saima, also a member of World Health Organization's (WHO) expert advisory panel on mental health and the daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, would act as a moderator of an event titled "Elimination of Disparity" as well the same day. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Cristina Gallach, UN General Assembly President Mogens Lykketof as well as representatives of the member states and executives of different UN bodies will join the daylong function.

Bangladesh, India, Qatar, South Korea and "Autism Speaks" will jointly arrange the event which would be broadcast live by the UN Web TV.



Students of Eden Women's College in the capital yesterday bring out a protest march, demanding arrest and trial of the killers of Sohagi Jahan Tonu, a student of Comilla Victoria College, who was found dead in Comilla Cantonment on March 20.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN