



**KIBRIA**  
MURDER CASE

## Recording of testimonies resumes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Sylhet court yesterday resumed recording of testimonies of witnesses in the former finance minister SAMS Kibria murder case in the absence of 19 accused including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar.

Yesterday was the 7th day of recording of testimonies. Judge Makbul Ahsan of Sylhet Speedy Trial Tribunal recorded the testimonies, said Kishore Kumar Kar, public prosecutor of the tribunal, adding that the court fixed April 7 as the next hearing date. Thirteen out of 171 witnesses have so far given their depositions before the tribunal.

Five people, including Kibria, were killed and 70 others injured in a grenade attack on a public rally on January 27, 2005.



The martyred intellectuals' graveyard in Sylhet has turned into a dumping zone as the hawkers, occupying the adjacent street and footpath, pile garbage there unabashedly. On top of that, the authorities of the Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar, which is next to the graveyard, show utter disrespect towards the martyrs as they allegedly discard broken wooden structures, inset, on the premises regularly. The photos were taken Wednesday morning.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH NASIR

## DPDC fines electricity thieves

Realises Tk 8.67cr in dues, penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC) during a two-week special taskforce drive realised Tk 8.67 crore in outstanding dues and penalty until March 30, said an official press release.

The taskforce led by the DPDC Secretary Mohammad Munir Chowdhury unearthed one million units of electricity theft during the drive conducted at 15 organisations in the capital and Narayanganj.

The taskforce unearthed 67,000 units of power theft at Moghbazar Cosmos Centre alone, who tampered the meter with forged signature and slowed down the actual reading by implanting a sensor, said the press release.

The Cosmos authorities were fined Tk 16 lakh.

That apart, the taskforce fined 11 business organisations including plastic factories, workshops, Mohammadpur kitchen market owners' association, electric PVC companies in Lalbagh, Motijheel, Shyamoli and Mohammadpur with Tk 69 lakh.



## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kazi Md Ruhul Amin, a former employee of The Daily Star, died at a private hospital in the capital yesterday afternoon. He was 60.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter, says a press release.

Amin was suffering from brain stroke and admitted to Ibne Sina Hospital recently with a broken leg.

He joined the newspaper in 1991 and retired as a personal assistant to the editor of The Daily Star in 2015.

His body was taken to his village home yesterday in Fulgazi of Feni for burial.

## PUNISHING HUMAN TRAFFICKERS

# Law enforcers, prosecutors need capacity building

Nat'l conference told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capacity of law enforcers and prosecutors must be increased to expedite the trial of human trafficking cases, speakers told a national conference yesterday.

They said it was urgent because there were few examples of human traffickers getting punished through the protracted trial proceedings.

The observations came at the end of the two-day national conference on "National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking 2015-17: From Adoption to Implementation."

The home ministry organised it in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre with support from USAID, Winrock International, and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

"The capacity of the criminal justice system is not adequate," said Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem, additional home secretary, while presenting the outcomes of the conference.

The participants said the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012 was not properly enforced, and that there must be a legal system to ensure the victim-witness protection, along with linking legal aid supports provided by government and non-government agencies.

The speakers also called for creation of a joint squad comprising different law enforcement agencies, named Human Trafficking Unit, to combat human trafficking.

Addressing as special guest, US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Bernicat said there were many Bangladeshis -- many men, many women, and many

children who were seeking actions to prevent the crime of human trafficking.

The United States has taken the human trafficking issue very seriously around the world including Bangladesh, she added. "We saw the magnitude of this problem vividly last year during the Andaman Sea crisis... Experience teaches us that we truly need to work together if we are to successfully stop these crimes."

Addressing as chief guest, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the government had been making earnest efforts to combat all forms of trafficking in persons.

He said Bangladesh and India had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for prevention of trafficking, especially trafficking of women and children, and rescue, recovery, repatriation and re-integration of victims.

## Dhaka College student killed as bus hits him

2 die in Mymensingh road crash

CITY DESK

A student of Dhaka College was killed after a bus ran him over in the capital's Motijheel yesterday.

The deceased was Arifur Rahman, an HSC candidate.

Arifur on his motorcycle was heading towards his college from Shapla Chattar area around 10:30am when a Jatrabari-bound bus hit his motorcycle while overtaking at Ittefaq intersection and he fell on the road.

The speeding bus then ran him over, said Sub-inspector of Motijheel Police Station Dulal Chandra Kunda, quoting witnesses.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, he added.

Police seized the bus but the driver fled.

In Mymensingh, two fish traders were killed and another was injured when a fish-laden pick-up van fell into a ditch beside Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Hazir Bazar area of Bhaluka upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Nirob Das, 22, and Boloram Das, 36, of Narsingdi Sadar. Police seized the van and arrested its driver Ruman Miah, 22.

## Interactive discussion held with students in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Educating students about citizens' rights, good governance and democracy, a five-day discussion titled "Citizen Charter: A Tool for Accountability of State Administration" was held in Barisal city.

Change Makers, an NGO, organised the programme which started in Amrita Lal Dey Mahabidhalaya on Sunday and ended in Barisal Women's College yesterday.

Over 1,000 students of five colleges, including the two, participated in the programme supported by the American Center, US Embassy. President and CEO of Change Makers Tanbir Siddiqui was present.



Participants at a discussion titled "Bangabandhu and Bangladesh", organised by Sonali Bank Bangabandhu Parishad, at Rajuk Bhaban in the capital on Tuesday. Dr Moshir Rahman, economic affairs adviser to the prime minister, was present as the chief guest at the event with Mohammad Alauddin, president of Sonali Bank Bangabandhu Parishad, in the chair. Begum Monnujan Sufian, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on labour and employment ministry, Prof ABM Faruque of Dhaka University, and Mahub Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, Dhaka unit president of Bangabandhu Parishad, among others, were present. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Illegal arms in circulation to disrupt ongoing UP election

Says DMP official

UNB, Dhaka

Detectives arrested three alleged gunrunners with six foreign made firearms, 10 magazines and 30 bullets from in front of a market in the capital's Bangshal Wednesday night.

The three -- Md Dabir Uddin alias Tuhin, Md Abdul Hamid and Ifranul Hasan alias Piyash -- were trying to supply those firearms to create instability centring on the ongoing UP elections, said Monirul Islam, additional commissioner of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime of DMP at a briefing yesterday at the DMP media centre.

## Journo arrested over attack on developer co staff

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to Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka, he added. Police said the developer company alleged that the attack was premeditated.

Enam's family, however, claimed that the victim fell on rods while he was trying to run away at one stage of a scuffle with the developer company's men.

"Some people of the developer company started knocking down our building's walls in the morning. We rushed there and protested it. But they started beating us and demolishing our

furniture," Tania Chowdhury Nirjhor, wife of Enam, told The Daily Star.

Beaten by the developer company's people, Nirjhor was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, she claimed.

The incident occurred as Enam's father-in-law and the company signed an agreement in 2011 to erect the building in 30 months which expired in 2014, she said.

But the developer company couldn't complete the job, an allegation by Nirjhor denied by Masuk Reza.

There has been a long standing

dispute over construction of the building between the company and the family, said SI Tajul Islam, also investigation officer of the case, adding that they were probing into the allegation.

Meanwhile, Law Reporters Forum President Ashutosh Sarkar and General Secretary Didarul Alam Didar condemned the attack on the family of Enam, also a senior member of the forum.

They demanded immediate release of Enam and action against the developer company's men.

## Rapes top ASK's human rights violation chart

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violence between January and March while 3,878 were injured. Fourteen died from lynching, and four from Indian

Border Security Force's bullets. The report also elaborates on acid attacks, sexual harassment, violence against domestic help, domestic violence, violence for

dowry, torture due to fatwa and arbitration, attacks on Hindus, enforced disappearances, journalist harassment and imposition of Section-144.

## SC upholds bail for Mirza Abbas

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housing and public works minister of the then BNP-led four-party alliance government, with Shahbagh Police

Station on March 6, 2014 on the charge of causing the state a loss of Tk 16 crore by allocating seven acres of Rajuk's land to a journalists' cooperative

society at a lower rate.

Following a petition filed by Abbas, the HC on March 9 granted him bail in the case.

## Seminar on poverty-free Bangladesh held at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

A seminar titled "Poverty-free Bangladesh within 2021: responsibility of students and teachers community" was held in Chittagong University yesterday.

The seminar was jointly organised by Suchinta Foundation and 'Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar' project at the BBA faculty where CU Vice-Chancellor Iftekhar Uddin was present.

Among others, Ministry of Rural Development and Co-operatives Division Secretary Prashanta Kumar Ray, Suchinta Foundation's Chairman and Suchinta Bangladesh's Convener Muhammad A Arafat, CU Teachers' Association President Abul Manchur, and Pro-VC Shirin Akter were present.

## Air pollution overarching

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chronic diseases reduce people's workability, making them a social liability.

Architect Iqbal Habib, coordinator at the BU urban lab, said the research also found that the levels of particles in Dhaka's air are four times higher than the acceptable limits.

The human sewage, which spills over into the roads and drains during the rainy season and dries up in the dry season, goes directly into the air in the form of suspended particles, later being inhaled into the respiratory system, he said.

Unbearable air pollution was deadly for lungs, liver and pregnancy..., said Brig Gen (ret) Abdul Malik, national professor and founder of National Heart Foundation, adding that it was therefore imperative to contain it through afforesting all the more.

DNCC Mayor Annisul Huq said they were going to plant some 3.25 lakh trees in the next two years in the DNCC area.

The experts urged the authorities concerned to take measures to thwart air pollution caused by innumerable brick kilns, automobiles, tanneries and unmanaged municipal and clinical waste.

## Father-in-law of slain panel

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Seven people, including Narayanganj city corporation panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarkar, were abducted from the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road on April 27, 2014. Their bodies were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river a few days later.

The District and Sessions Judge's Court on February 8 this year, framed charges against 35 people, including Nur Hossain and three sacked Rab officials, in the cases. Of them, 12 are still on the run.

## Laws need

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before NGT. Bangladesh's environment court can only try offences under the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995 (amended 2010), which is complicated, she said.

An environmental inspector can investigate a case after taking permission of the Department of Environment's (DoE) director general, she added.

Advocate Rose Liza Eisma Osorio of the Philippines delivered a speech on "environment justice system in the Philippines".

Joint District Judge Ashikul Kabir of Dhaka's environment court; DoE Director (Law) Jafar Siddique; Rajshahi University law department Chairman Associate Prof ANM Wahid; and Jerome Sayre, team leader, community legal services, UKaid, also spoke.

## HC wants to know whether

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surrender before the trial court in the case and also asked the trial court to grant him bail after his surrender.

But, Tarique did not surrender to the lower court, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

The chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka will inform the HC about reaching the summons notice to

Tarique's address after collecting information through the foreign ministry, he added.

The HC on January 12 this year directed its registrar to issue a notice asking Tarique, now in London, to surrender before the trial court by February 14 as per its January 19, 2014 order. The ACC then prayed to the HC to fix a date for hearing its appeal

against Tarique's acquittal.

The money laundering case is one of the 16 cases, including the August 21 grenade attack cases, filed against Tarique. He was arrested on March 7, 2007 during a crackdown by a military-backed caretaker government.

After securing parole, Tarique went to London in September 2008 for treatment and has been living there since then.

## Khaleda asked to appear

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any gazette notice. ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that he submitted a copy during yesterday's proceedings.

The ACC on August 8, 2011 filed the graft case accusing Khaleda and three others of abusing power in setting up the charity. The other accused are Harris Chowdhury, Khaleda's former

political secretary, Ziaul Islam Munna, assistant private secretary (APS) of Harris, and Monirul Islam Khan, APS of former mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka. Of them, Harris is on the run.

## Solutions lie with politicians

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to be discussed in parliament. "As far as I can remember, no annual report of ACC has been discussed in parliament. Both the government and opposition show indifference in discussing the matter. This indifference needs to be eliminated," he said.

Former chief information commissioner Dr Muhammad Zamir said to reduce corruption, accountability and transparency of all organisations need to be established.

Former information commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim suggested that ACC ensures accountability and transparency of corruption prevention committees as there were allegations of harassment against these committees.

Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder said corruption was prevailing in society due to a sense of impunity. "This should be eliminated," he added.

Former secretary Inam Ahmed Chowdhury said if measures had been

taken, looting of thousands of crores of taka would not have taken place.

Former minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibn Yousuf said politicians were at the helm of everything. "To eliminate corruption, they need to be corruption-free," he added.

Sushashoner Jonno Nagarik Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder suggested handing down exemplary punishment to some identified corrupted people to inhibit others from committing the crime.