

BNP's Aslam shown held in 2 arson cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Aslam Chowdhury, who is now in jail over an alleged plot with Israel to topple the government, was shown arrested in two arson cases yesterday.

Both the cases are linked with the BNP-led anti-government movement in January last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate in Dhaka Maruf Hossain granted a prayer of Anwar Hossain, a sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of police, to show Aslam arrested in an arson case filed with Motijheel Police Station last year.

The court also fixed May 30 for hearing a seven-day remand prayer filed by Anwar, also investigation officer of the case.

Meanwhile, the BNP leader was shown arrested in another case filed over torching of a vehicle in the capital's Lalbagh on January 4 last year after another Dhaka court accepted a petition filed by DB Inspector Emamul Islam, the IO of the case.

However, the court is yet to fix any date for hearing a 10-day remand prayer filed by the IO.

Earlier in the day, Aslam was produced before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Loshkar Shohel Rana on completion of his seven-day remand over the allegation of toppling the government.

The court rejected his bail petition and sent him to jail. In the forwarding report submitted yesterday, IO Rana claimed that Aslam had admitted to plotting with Israel against the government. So, he needs to be detained in jail until the investigation completes, the IO told the court.

Aslam has become the centre of a controversy after he met an Israeli political leader in India early this month and was arrested by detectives in Dhaka on May 15.



The Shalutikor bridge over Chenger Khal River in Sylhet is under a severe threat due to the volume and the frequency of the trucks loaded with sands and stones which far exceeds its capacity. On top of that, ships are often anchored using the pillars of the bridge for loading. The photo was taken on Monday afternoon.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Govt making law to muzzle NGOs

Alleges BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has moved to formulate the foreign donations regulation act to muzzle NGOs so that they cannot speak against its misrule, BNP alleged yesterday.

"The aim of the bill is no organisation overseeing constitutional bodies can criticise the government," BNP senior joint secretary general Rizvi Ahmed told a briefing at the party's central office.

A parliamentary body on May 18 recommended inclusion of a provision in the bill aimed at taking actions against any NGO for "insulting or derogatory remarks" on constitutional bodies.

Actions will include stopping operations of the NGO.

The parliamentary committee on law made the recommendation while scrutinising the draft "Foreign Donations Regulation (Amendment) Act".

If the bill is passed in parliament with this provision, the government will be able to stop the operation of any NGO if it humiliates parliament or a constitutional body.

At the briefing, Rizvi said after controlling media, the government had moved to control NGOs. The government is enacting such a "black law" because it has understood that its fall is inevitable, he added.

May 27 HSC exams deferred to June 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday deferred the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and diploma-in-business studies examinations scheduled for May 27 for Union Parishad elections.

The Election Commission is scheduled to hold the elections in 56 UPs in the fifth phase on May 28.

"The Election Commission has requested us not to hold examinations the day before the polling day," Mahabubur Rahman, chairman of Education Board, Dhaka, told The Daily Star.

Now the deferred exams will be held from 10:00am to 1:00pm and the second one from 2:00pm to 5:00pm on June 12, said an official order.

The exams were earlier scheduled to be held on May 22 and were deferred to May 27 due to cyclone Roanu.

Zero tolerance against extortion during Ramadan, Eid

Declares top cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday directed cops to remain vigilant to stop all kinds of extortion centring upcoming Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr.

Police will show "zero tolerance" against extortion, the IGP told a meeting on law and order and traffic management held at the police headquarters, says a press release.

Police will take special security measures to stop extortion, mugging and criminal activities, it adds.

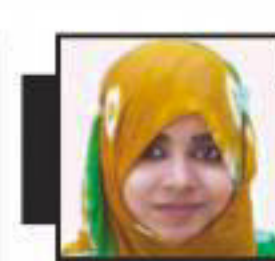
Cops will remain vigilant at different points including railway stations and bus and launch terminals.

Emphasising drive against food adulteration, the police chief added they needed to conduct mobile court against such malpractice.

He further directed cops not to stop vehicles on highways without specific allegation and also urged to create a social movement against drug abuse.

At the meeting, police also took decisions to monitor activities of banned militant outfits and take required steps in this regard.

Top officials from different law enforcement and intelligence agencies attended the meeting.



TONU MURDER CASE

2nd autopsy chief gets threat letter

Files GD; college to consult lawyer over CID's refusal to hand over rape confirming DNA test report; BNWLA serves legal notices on principal, two docs asking why confusing report made public after first autopsy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The head of a medical board which conducted the second autopsy on Sohagi Jahan Tonu yesterday said he received a letter threatening to terminate him and his family, accusing him of "creating confusion" centring the case.

He received the one-page handwritten postal letter around 10:00am bearing a seal of Comilla Post Office and the receiver's address, said Dr Kamoda Prosad Saha, also the head of Comilla Medical College's Forensic Medicine Department.

Dr Kamoda sought security filing a general diary with Kotwali Police Station. Officer-in-charge Abdur Rouf said they were investigating it and

would provide security accordingly.

However talking to The Daily Star, Tonu's father Yaar Hossain accused Dr Kamoda of "cooking up a story" to delay the autopsy report's preparation. "I do not know anything. I want the report to be prepared immediately," he said.

The Victoria College student and theatre activist was found murdered in a bush in Comilla Cantonment on March 20.

The next day the first autopsy was conducted. It found no evidence of rape and could not determine the cause of her death. The body was exhumed on March 30 and the second autopsy was conducted.

On May 16, Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

said DNA tests results revealed she was raped before being murdered.

Meanwhile, holding a meeting in the department where Dr Sharmin Sultana, who conducted the first autopsy, was present, the medical board decided to inform the college's principal about "CID's refusal to hand over the DNA test report", reports a correspondent from Comilla.

Dr Kamoda said they would consult a lawyer for the next course of action.

Moreover, Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) on Thursday served legal notices on Dr Sharmin, Dr Kamoda and the principal, asking to reply in seven days why a confusing report was published following the first autopsy.

Bangladesh gets 2 IORA projects

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh was awarded two projects by Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for inland and coastal aquaculture, and exploration of marine flora.

The two were among six approved from a special fund during IORA's 6th biannual Meeting of Committee of Senior Officials from 20 of its 21 member countries on May 22-23 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

"Small scale inland and/or coastal aquaculture project in the Indian Ocean Region" has a fund of US\$ 50,000 while "Exploration of economically important marine flora from the Bay of Bengal: a pilot study" US\$ 20,000.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary (Maritime Affairs Unit) Rear Admiral (ret'd) Md Khurshed Alam led the Bangladesh delegation.

A leading inland fisheries producer with extensive and highly diversified resources, Bangladesh's aquaculture production grew 28 percent and it accounts for 39 percent of the country's fish production, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

The meeting also understood that many of Indian Ocean's resources were unexplored and application of biotechnology to marine biodiversity was not at the required pace.

It said information about the marine flora would help best utilise resources and accelerate sustainable blue economic growth.



Pedestrians painstakingly make their way through garbage and rows of vehicles on the capital's Nawabpur Road, almost the entire one side of which is taken over by garbage, thrown by vendors who are illegally occupying the adjacent footpath, and even a portion of the road too. The photo was taken in front of Kaptan Bazar Complex yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

WAR CRIMES TRIAL OF 8 MYMENSINGH MEN

Probe report allowed to be submitted by July 12 now

Cross-quizzing of last PW in another case of 8 from Jamalpur continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prosecutors for the fourth instance were granted time to submit the investigation report in a case centring crimes allegedly committed by eight Mymensingh men including Jatiya Party lawmaker MA Hannan during the 1971 Liberation War.

Yesterday was fixed for the submission. Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon sought three months and International Crimes Tribunal-1 asked to submit it on July 12.

Hannan, the alleged general secretary of Mymensingh district Peace Committee, his son Rafique Sajjad, Khandakar Golam Sabbir Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman Mintu and Hormuj Ali are now in jail.

Mohammad Abdus Sattar, Mohammad Fakruzzaman and Khandakar Golam Rabbani are on the run.

Meanwhile, International Crimes Tribunal-1 recorded for the second day the cross-examination of the last prosecution witness in a case against eight "Jamalpur Al-Badr men" facing five charges of crimes committed in 1971.

The tribunal adjourned proceedings until today when Motiur Rahman, also the case's investigation officer, will face further cross-examination.

Shamsul Haque and SM Yusuf Ali are in jail and plead not guilty. Ashraf Hossain, Prof Sharif Ahammed, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Bari, Farun and Abul Hashem are absconding.

ROOPPUR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Dhaka, Moscow end negotiations for \$11.385b Russian credit

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka and Moscow have concluded negotiations for \$11.385 billion Russian credit for Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP).

A high-powered delegation, headed by Science and Technology Minister Yaefesh Osman which visited Moscow last week, held the negotiations during a two-day talks on May 18-19.

Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman, chairman of the Board of Investment SA Samad, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad and top officials of economic relations division (ERD) were also in the delegation.

"We've successfully concluded the negotiation for the credit agreement and we hope the final credit deal will be

signed within two months after necessary vetting from different ministries," Additional Secretary to the Science and Technology Ministry M Anwar Hossain told the news agency yesterday.

Anwar, who was also a member of the delegation, informed that after conclusion of the negotiation, the both sides initiated a draft agreement on the proposed credit. "Now, the draft agreement will be sent to different ministries for vetting in both the countries," he added.

Officials said the proposed credit amount of \$11.385 billion is 90 percent of the \$12.65 billion (equivalent to Tk 101,200 crore) construction cost of RNPP, which Russian Federation will provide as state credit to implement the project. It will also be the single largest foreign loan in the history of Bangladesh.

Official sources said the general agreement that Dhaka signed with Moscow on December 25 last year to build a 2,400MW nuclear power plant (having two units each with 1,200MW capacity) in Rooppur in northern district of Pabna will be effective soon after signing of the credit agreement.

Russian state nuclear agency Rosatom will build the plant of which first unit will come into operation in 2022 and the second one in 2023.

During the general agreement, it was agreed by both Dhaka and Moscow that Russia will provide the loan with an interest rate of six months London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) plus 1.75 percent per annum, but it will never cross over 4 percent.

Bangladesh will pay off the loan within 28 years with a 10-year grace period.

Non-MPO

FROM PAGE 4

"Interestingly six teachers of these subjects in six colleges are now getting MPO," she alleged.

There is an allegation that they have got the MPO through their "connection with the higher authorities", she added.

The teachers announced continuing their sit-in for the next two days.

India trying

FROM PAGE 4

We will bring Sonu to India without delay."

Sonu had reportedly gone missing from Delhi in 2010 and a man from Jessore recently contacted his family and gave details about his whereabouts.

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QUIZ - 04
The Angry Bird movie is produced by?

Winners of Quiz 03

1. Yasir Alamin, New Bailey Road
2. Uzayr Jameel, Lalmatia
3. Tahmim Hassan, Bakshi Bazar
4. Md Sharifuzzaman, Uttara
5. Mukul Rahman, Mirpur
6. Fazle Kabir Robin, Uttara
7. Afsana Arafin, Narayanganj
8. Neaz Mahmud, Baridhara
9. Alif Hossain Ridoy, Elephant Road
10. Md. Muddasir, Dhanmondi