



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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20 PAGES PLUS SHOUT PRICE : TK 12.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXVI No. 152 | ASHAR 2, 1423 BS | RAMADAN 10, 1437 HJRI



PISTORIUS'S PLEA

The blade-runner walks on his stumps in court to plead for leniency

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HILLARY VISITS SANDERS

Democratic rivals meet after her final primary win

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AHSANULLAH MASTER KILLING Death sentence for 6 confirmed

12 years after the killing, HC delivers verdict on appeals, commutes death penalty for 7 convicts to life

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The High Court yesterday confirmed the death penalty of six persons, including a central Jubo Dal leader, for killing Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master, a decade after a trial court sentenced 22 people to death and six others to life term for the 2004 murder.

The HC commuted capital punishment of seven others to life imprisonment, upheld life term of two and acquitted 11 of the charges against them. It disposed of the appeals of two others as they died during the trial of the much-talked-about political killing.

Of the 15 convicts, 10 are now in jail and five on the run. Gunmen killed Ahsanullah, a freedom fighter, and Omar Faruq Ratan, a student, in a staccato burst of fire on a rally of Swachhasebak League, a pro-AL body, at Noagaon near the MP's house in Tongi on May 7, 2004.

Terming the incident mass killing, the HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishna Debnath said it is a manifestation of political criminalisation in the country.



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Relatives and supporters taking Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master to Dhaka Chest Diseases Hospital after he had been shot at a rally in Tongi on May 7, 2004.

PHOTO: FILE

Killed and forgotten

ABU BAKKAR SIDDIQUIE, Gazipur

Salma has yet to get accustomed to the fact that something bad could happen to her son Ratan.

"Every time I hear the name 'Ratan', I get startled; a thought involuntarily passes my mind -- 'Has something happened to Ratan again?'," said Omar Faruq Ratan's mother Salma Begum.

Many remember the assassination of Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master, but a lot of people have forgotten that the 18-year-old boy was shot and killed on May 7, 2004, along with the president of Jatiya Sramik League.

Even no case was filed in connection with his murder.

"I heard that the verdict of Ahsanullah Sir's murder will be announced today. Ratan's father did not go out the whole day. The two of us had been sitting together in front of the TV since morning," she told this correspondent, adding that the High Court judgment could not make the parents happy.

Ratan's family did not file any case. The young man's name as a murder victim came up in the case filed by Ahsanullah Master's brother.

The HC yesterday delivered the appeal verdict in the murder case.

While a Speedy Tribunal on April 16, 2005, handed down death sentences to 22 people and life terms to six others, the HC yesterday upheld the death penalty of six of the accused.



Ratan

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Killing took place on May 7, 2004 at a political rally in Tongi	Ahsanullah Master, the then AL MP, and Omar Faruq Ratan, a student, killed	KEY CONVICTS Nurul Islam Sarkar, Jubo Dal central leader, Nurul Islam Dipu, pro-Jatiya Party Jatiya Chhatra Samaj leader, and his brother Shahidul Islam Shipu
TRIAL COURT VERDICT	HC VERDICT	
● April 16, 2005	● Death sentence 6	
● Death sentence 22	● Life term 9	
● Life term 6	● Acquitted 11	
	● 2 other convicts died	

Get rid of rowdy activists

HC for fair political culture to establish rule of law

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

The political parties of the country tend to not desert their rowdy activists rather they are largely depended on them, which is a major obstacle to the nurturing of a fair political culture, observed the High Court in a verdict yesterday.

"Rule of law would not be established in the country

unless a fair political culture is developed. Democracy will be thwarted," said the court while delivering the verdict on appeals in the case filed for the assassination of Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master over a decade ago.

On May 7, 2004, gunmen shot and killed Ahsanullah, also the president of Jatiya Sramik League, and

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CRITICISM OVER MASS ARRESTS Police now say focus to be on militants

SHARIFUL ISLAM

In the face of heavy criticism over the mass arrests across the country, police now say their weeklong special crackdown will focus on militants only.

Apparently defending the arrests of over 11,000 people since Friday, the police authorities said they were nabbed as part of

another special drive which "coincided with the drive against militants" and that the special drive ended on June 13.

Although the Police Headquarters never informed the media about this "special drive" before, it said in a press release yesterday that the June 6-13 drive was meant to arrest wanted accused and seize narcotics

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Fitra fixed at minimum Tk 65

BSS, Dhaka

This year's minimum Fitra has been fixed at Tk 65 per head while the maximum is Tk 1,650.

The decision was made yesterday in the meeting of "Sadkatul Fitra" committee held at the conference room of the Islamic Foundation's Baitul

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College teacher hacked at home

One of three attackers caught

STAR REPORT

A college teacher was badly hacked inside his home in Madaripur yesterday, amid a countrywide crackdown against militants and criminals.

Three men took part in the attack and one of them was caught by locals while fleeing. They later handed him over to the police. Police identified him as Golam Faizullah, of Chapainawabganj.

Ripon Chakraborty, a lecturer of mathematics department at Government Nazimuddin University College in Madaripur, was taking treatment at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Doctors there operated on him for his head injuries and said he was "out of danger".

He suffered four deep wounds in his head and one in one hand, one

PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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NEWS ANALYSIS

RANA PLAZA DISASTER

Long wait for justice

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The death of more than 1,100 garment workers in Rana Plaza collapse in 2013 had shocked the world's conscience. The man-made disaster tainted the country's image abroad.

One of the easiest ways to regain the image, at least to some extent, was to deliver justice to the families of the deceased and to those who have been battling injuries.

But trials of two sensational cases filed in connection with the disaster didn't begin in the last three years, leaving the victims waiting for justice.

A case was filed against Sohel Rana, owner of Rana Plaza, and 17 others on charges of violating the building code for illegally constructing four additional floors atop the original five-storey building.

Built with substandard materials, the high-rise had structural flaws, according to the case statement.

The investigation officer of the case took around two years to submit the charge sheet in the case. He submitted the charge sheet in a court in June last year. The court issued arrest warrants against the accused fugitives.

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A Bangladeshi vessel carrying Indian goods and with the Bangladesh and Indian flags flying reaches Ashuganj of Brahmanbaria. The photo was taken on the Meghna yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

INDO-BANGLA TRANSSHIPMENT

Maiden consignment ready for delivery

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN, from Ashuganj

The ship floated idly in the sea for four days after being caught in bureaucratic red-tape, survived storms and overcame other obstacles that the crew declined to share.

But no one would complain about these issues as MV Newtek-6 reached Ashuganj from Kolkata in 12 days, considering the positive changes transshipment would bring about on both the sides of the Indo-Bangla border.

The Bangladeshi ship owned by

Zed Shipping Lines Ltd carried a consignment of 1,000 tonnes of corrugated iron sheets in the first-even transshipment of goods from the mainland of India to its northeastern states through Bangladesh.

The facility that the government

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আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত


পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান ও বাংলাদেশ পুলিশের সাবেক মহাপরিদর্শক মরহুম ই. এ. চৌধুরী'র সংঘর্ষিতা এবং পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের বর্তমান পরিচালক মিসেস কমানা শরীফ এর মাতা


কানিজ মোমেনা চৌধুরী

গত ১৫ জুন ২০১৬ বুধবার ভোর ৩.০০ টায় এ্যাপোলো হাসপাতাল, ঢাকায় ইস্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাইহি রাজেউন)। তাঁর মৃত্যুতে পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং সকল স্তরের নির্বাহী, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ গভীরভাবে শোকাহত।

আমরা মহান আল্লাহতায়ালার কাছে মরহুমার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং তাঁর শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবার পরিজনকে প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

মহান আল্লাহতায়ালার যেন তাঁর পরিবার পরিজনকে এই অপূরণীয় ক্ষতি সহ্য করার ক্ষমতা দান করেন।





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