

BR staff held for comments 'supporting' war criminal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Detectives arrested a Bangladesh Railway staff in Chittagong city's Segun Bagan area of Khulshi yesterday allegedly for posting "provocative" comments "in support of" executed war criminal Mir Quasem Ali on Facebook.

Shahadat Hossain Khandakar, who hails from Sudharampur in Noakhali, is a loco-master of BR (east zone), said Assistant Commissioner Md Kamruzzaman of the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

A case was filed under Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act against him with Khulshi Police Station in this connection.



STOLEN AND ILLEGAL

Clockwise from left, medicines stolen from government hospitals, where they were meant for free distribution, were seized from shops in the capital's Mitford by a mobile court yesterday. The court also seized illegal cow fattening tablets and injections in Babubazar. After the seizures worth Tk 4 crore in all, the court convicted and penalised 12 drug traders.



PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS



Discussion on Abul Mansur Ahmad today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A discussion titled "Ideals and Aesthetics of Abul Mansur Ahmad" will be held today in the Abdul Karim Shahitto Bisharad auditorium at Bangla Academy in the capital, marking the 118th birth anniversary of the renowned litterateur, journalist and politician Abul Mansur Ahmad.

Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad will organise the programme at 3:00pm, which will be chaired by noted educationist Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman, while Prof Emeritus Rafiqul Islam will grace it with his presence as chief guest.

Among other discussants, Prof Mansur Musa, folklorist Shamsuzzaman Khan and novelist Selina Hossain will also be present there.

A book titled "Jibon Shilpi Abul Mansur Ahmad", edited by Imran Mahfuz, will be published on the occasion.

In the beginning of the programme, a documentary about him will be screened.

All are requested to join it.

Bangla Academy has recently published "Abul Mansur Ahmad Rochona Somogro" in three volumes, while the work for publishing three more volumes is going on.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was born at Dhanikhola village in Trishal Thana of Mymensingh on September 3, 1897.

He made his name as a satirist in Bangla literature. He is also considered as a trailblazer of journalism in

Govt moves to ensure fair deals in rawhide sales

Tofail instructs tanners to fix prices in 48 hours

STAR REPORT

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday instructed tanners to fix within 48 hours reasonable and realistic rawhide prices marking Eid-ul-Azha on September 13 ensuring a fair deal for field level farmers and retailers and discouraging smuggling to neighbouring countries.

Talking to journalists after a meeting with tanners and corresponding traders at his Bangladesh Secretariat office in the capital, he said to have instructed them to spread the word on the prices through print and electronic media.

Tofail said he requested Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu to allow tanning to continue at Hazaribagh this year as there was not enough time to shift the processing facilities to the new Savar leather estate.

He said the supply of sacrificial

cattle was adequate and there was no possibility of a shortage.

India's recent decision to stop sending cows had turned into a blessing as local farmers had taken up the business of cattle fattening while 33 lakh bovines have been raised in this manner this year, he added citing data of the livestock and fisheries ministry.

Over 1.4 crore cattle, goats and buffaloes are expected to be sacrificed this year. Last year, the figure was 96.35 lakh.

Acknowledging that the salt prices are high, he said letters of credit would be opened today for industrial users and traders to import in equal shares 150 lakh tonnes of salt.

"I hope the prices of salt would decline in the local markets very soon. The tanners will get the imported salt to dry the rawhides," he said.

Moreover, the ministry will sit with salt importers, refiners, traders and

wholesalers tomorrow to discuss the supply, process and demand of the daily essential item.

Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA) Chairman Shaheen Ahmed said the shift to Savar has been challenging as many have not been allotted space.

He suggested checking the influence of seasonal rawhide traders who destabilise the market during Eid.

Echoing the allocation absence, Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters Association President Mohiuddin Ahmed Mahin said over 155 tanneries were supposed to be relocated.

He said 30 percent of last year's leather remained unsold for low global demand.

Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants Association President Delwar Hossain urged lowering salt prices.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

WAR CRIMES IN KISHOREGANJ Ex-AL leader, another to stand trial in absentia

Formal charges sought Oct 15 against 5 of Patuakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday decided to try in absentia two persons, a former president of Awami League's Lakhai upazila unit in Habiganj and another a resident of Kishoreganj's Astogram upazila, for allegedly committing crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

The tribunal also heard prosecutor Zead Al Malum's petition seeking time and sought on October 15 formal charges, if there were any, against five Patuakhali sadar men who were allegedly involved in similar crimes.

An earlier police report stated that the Habiganj leader, Liakat Ali, 61, and Aminul Islam alias Rajab Ali, 62, were fugitives. Moreover, the duo did not respond to advertisements in two national dailies seeking their appearance.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque appointed Gazi MH Tamim

as the defence counsel and fixed September 29 for the charge hearing.

Seven charges were pressed on May 3 saying they were "found to have been involved in" over seven criminal incidents of looting and killing of 102 men, including 86 Hindus in Lakhai, one Rangu Mia in Nasirnagar and 15 in Astogram's Sabiyannagar.

Of the Lakhai killings, 43 were in Krishnapur, nine in Chandipur, 26 in Gadainagar and eight in Sadanagar village.

The Patuakhali accused are Esaahq Shikher, Abdul Goni Hawlader and Md Awal alias Awal Moulavi of Galachipa, Abdus Sattar Pyada and Solaiman Mridha.

According to the tribunal's investigation agency, Esaahq was a member of a local Peace Committee, an anti-liberation organisation, while the rest were members of a local Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army.

MILITANTS' BODIES Police assure DMC of steps on getting test results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In response to Dhaka Medical College's (DMC) recent letter to take back bodies of 13 militants from its mortuary, police yesterday said they would take steps on receiving test results of samples collected.

"Besides, the families are yet to apply to police to take the bodies back," said Dhaka Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner (Media) Masudur Rahman.

The bodies of five militants and a suspected chef remains in the Combined Military Hospital since July 2, a day after they were killed in a commando operation in a Gulshan bakery.

Bodies of 13 others -- nine killed in Kalyanpur on July 26, three in Narayanganj on August 27 and one in Rupnagar on September 2 -- remain in the DMC mortuary.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

The lion "Badsha" in Chittagong Zoo after he was brought from Rangpur Zoo yesterday where he was born in 2009. After eight and a half years, Chittagong Zoo has once again got a male lion. Since the death of the lone lion Raja in 2008, the family of big cats in Chittagong Zoo had only two lionesses, Nova and Borsha, left. So, the zoo authorities exchanged Borsha for one of the two lions in Rangpur Zoo, said the authorities.

Identity revelation puts victims at risk

BLAST discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Revealing identities of victims and witnesses of violence in mass media not only puts them further in harm's way but also undermines human dignity, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

In the absence of protective laws, the identities are often published indiscriminately, infringing privacy and safety, they stressed. The Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organised the discussion on "Disclosure of Identities of Victims and Witnesses: Need for Security" in the capital's Liberation War Museum.

Prof Gitara Nasreen of Dhaka University's (DU) mass communication and journalism department suggested media houses arrange frequent training sessions for journalists. She also urged "pressure groups" to work towards developing a culture that protects victims from humiliation.

Mizanur Rahman Khan, associate editor of Prothom Alo, pointed out that names and addresses of victims of rape and other forms of violence against women were often omitted in the media. However, the identities of alleged rapists are published in detail, making it obvious who the victims were, he said.

Ruma Sultana, programme coordinator, Manusher Jonno Foundation, suggested enacting a victim and witness protection act.

The DU department Chairman Mofizur Rahman said suspects often become victims of "media trial" as they were directly termed as "criminals" by newspapers and TV stations.

Bangladeshi dies in Malaysia workplace accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi migrant worker was killed after he was crushed by a compactor at Kahang Dam construction site in Kluang area of Malaysia's Johor Bahru state on Sunday.

The details of the victim could not be known immediately.

"We will look into the matter soon," Musharrat Jebin, first secretary (labour) at the Bangladesh high commission in Kuala Lumpur told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Mohamad Laham, assistant commissioner of the Malaysian police department in Johor Bahru, said the victim succumbed to severe head injuries after he was crushed by the machine, reports Malaysian English daily The Star.

The victim was resting on the machine when the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

No escape for the corrupt

DCC engineer responsible for faulty construction, subsequent collapse of building in 2007 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested a former engineer of the then undivided Dhaka City Corporation in a case filed over a corruption in the construction of a building at Doyaganj Sweeper Colony, which collapsed in May, 2007, just a year after its construction.

Arrested Majibur Rahman is the incumbent chairman of Baufal Upazila Parishad in Patuakhali.

ACC filed the case in June this year bringing a Tk 1.42 crore corruption charge against four persons including Majibur.

The three other accused arrested earlier are: Mesbah-ul Karim, superintendent engineer of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC); Nirmal Chandra Dey, assistant engineer of environment circle of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC); and Abdul Hossain Chowdhury, owner of the construction company -- Abul and Brothers.

The building was constructed without

any feasibility test and its design was faulty, said an ACC investigation officer.

The company had no experience and it used poor quality construction materials which led to the collapse, according to the FIR.

However, on experts' recommendations, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) decided to demolish the building.

Four other buildings in the colony were also demolished for similar reasons, said ACC Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

On October 1, 2012, Ecne decided to construct 13 ten-storey buildings including five at the colony for cleaners at the cost of Tk 1.9 billion.

The project is now underway and supposed to be ended in June of next year.

Five cases, each for a building, were filed.

Meanwhile, ACC arrested Dr Mohammed Amin, deputy secretary to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

SC FINE ON QAMRUL, MOZAMMEL Petition challenges them holding office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the legality of Food Minister Qamrul Islam and Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq holding office, since the Supreme Court in a judgement observed they had violated their oath and the law making derogatory comments about the judiciary.

SC lawyer Eunus Ali Akond filed it seeking directives for the two to explain under which authority they have been holding office.

Under Public Servants (dismissal on conviction) Ordinance, 1985, a government servant will be dismissed if jailed for six months or fined Tk 1,000 and the SC earlier fined the duo Tk 50,000 each for contempt of court, Eunus said in the petition. He told The Daily Star that the petition might be heard today.

Meanwhile at a press conference at BNP's Naya Palton office, Standing Committee Member Moudud Ahmed demanded that the duo resign for the violation, saying a minister cannot retain his post on being punished by a court.

Led by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, the eight-member Appellate Division bench imposed the fine, in default to serve seven days in jail, he said, adding that the duo had also violated the constitution, which was a serious criminal offence.

আবুল মনসুর আহমদের ১১৮ তম জন্মদিন উপলক্ষে

আজ ৬ সেপ্টেম্বর মঙ্গলবার, বিকেল ৩ টায় বাংলা একাডেমির আবদুল করিম সাহিত্যবিহারদ মিলনায়তনে

আবুল মনসুর আহমদের জীবনদর্শন ও শিল্পভাবনা

সভাপতি
এমিরিটাস অধ্যাপক আনিসুজ্জামান

প্রধান অতিথি
এমিরিটাস অধ্যাপক রফিকুল ইসলাম

আলোচক
অধ্যাপক মনসুর মুসা
ফোকলোরবিদ শামসুজ্জামান খান
কথাসাহিত্যিক সেলিনা হোসেন

উত্তরপ্রজন্ম
প্রাবন্ধিক আহমাদ মাহহার
অধ্যাপক শোয়াইব জিবরান
অধ্যাপক সরিফা সােলোয়া ডিনা
কথাসাহিত্যিক স্বকৃত নোমান
সাংবাদিক কাজল রশীদ শাহীন

স্বভেচ্ছা বক্তব্য
মাহফুজ আনাম

সঞ্চালনায়
মো. চেঙ্গী খান ও ইমরান মাহফুজ
আবুল মনসুর আহমদকে নিয়ে নির্মিত তথ্যচিত্র প্রদর্শিত হবে।

সবাই আমন্ত্রিত