



Pak court rejects blasphemy plea against journo Hamid Mir

STAR REPORT

An Islamabad court has dismissed a plea for including blasphemy charge brought against journalist and author Hamid Mir, said a release yesterday.

Additional Session Judge Raja Asif Mehmood passed the order.

Lawyer Tariq Asad had filed the application on behalf of one Hafiz Ehtasham from Lal Masjid, following a column Mir wrote in Urdu daily Jang on June 16 this year.

His write-up was against honour killing and Mir had given a reference of Hazrat Khadeeja (wife of Prophet Muhammad, PBUH) who was a working woman and sent a proposal of marriage to the Prophet on her own will.

Some religious extremists started a campaign against Hamid Mir in local newspapers as well as on social media and demanded an apology from him.

And then Hafiz Ehtasham moved an application in a police station in Islamabad against Hamid Mir for the registration of blasphemy case. Islamabad police investigated it and concluded that Mir never committed any blasphemy.

Ehtasham then moved an application against police in the Islamabad court to record a case against Mir. Subsequently, the court dismissed the application.

Hamid Mir is an occasional contributor to The Daily Star.



Activists under the banner of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports try to force their way through police at the Malibagh rail crossing in the capital as the former were barred from reaching the Indian high commission and submitting a letter urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap the Rampal power plant project near the Sundarbans. PHOTO: STAR

Cops fire tear gas at Rampal protesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police fired tear gas canisters and sprayed hot water at the Malibagh rail gate yesterday to disperse a procession intending to provide a letter to the Indian high commission urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap the Rampal power plant project near the Sundarbans.

Several among hundreds of green activists and left-leaning political activists arriving from Jatiya Press Club under the banner of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports were injured as the latter briefly retaliated throwing brick chips.

A delegation was allowed to continue with the letter. The committee's Member Secretary Prof Anu Muhammad declared a nationwide protest and a rally before Jatiya Press Club tomorrow afternoon.

Any damage to the Sundarbans will have a spillover effect in India, affecting nearby lives and livelihoods, reads the letter.

The Bangladesh-India Friendship Company selected Indian power company Bhel to construct the 1,320-megawatt coal power plant.

On September 30, police and Bangladesh Chhatra League activists foiled a cycle procession at the Central Shaheed Minar leaving some 25 persons injured. On July 28, the committee's activists were dispersed from Paribagh by cops using teargas. Green activists, academics and the civil society along with Unesco expressed concern of the possible harm to the Sundarbans. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 27 reaffirmed the government's resolve to continue.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, in a statement, came down heavily on the government, saying it had no connection with people and was oppressing opposition parties and controlling peaceful protesters who worked for the welfare of the country.

JMB plans to free its top men thru' bail or ambush

DMP tells press citing probe into two robbery cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trying to regroup under a new leader, the "mainstream" Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) is gathering funds through robbery, abduction and mugging to get top leaders released either on bail using renowned lawyers or through ambushes using firearms and explosives, claimed police yesterday.

Seven JMB men disclosed this upon arrest from a Mohakhali residence in the capital on Monday while 67 tolas of gold, Tk 6 lakh, four pistols, 10 bullets, nine machetes, 10 cellphones and two computers and some other things were seized, they added.

The arrestees are Kashem alias Kawsar, 20, Nazmul Hasan alias Nayan alias Noresh, 23, Rashed, 27, Sentu Hawlader alias Jahid, 26, Abu Bakkar Siddique alias Shubhra, 20, Abdul Based, 22, and Md Jewel Sarker alias Sohrab, 32. Each was taken on a six-day

remand. Made the new acting Ameer nearly three months ago, death row convict Salauddin Ahmed alias Salehin, who escaped following a JMB ambush on a police van in Mymensingh's Trishal on February 23, 2014, is operating JMB from India, claimed police.

His predecessors, Ameer Maulana Saidur Rahman and former acting chief Abdullah Al-Tasnim Nahid, are in jail for several years, added police. The Trishal attack left a policeman dead and injured several others while freeing two top leaders -- Rakib Hasan Russell alias Hafez Mahmud, who was recaptured and killed in a "shootout", and Jahidul Islam alias "Boma" Mizan.

Addressing a press briefing at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) media centre, Monirul Islam, chief of counter terrorism unit, said the plans were unearthed during investigations in two robbery cases.

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Culinary contest launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef is back and it is bigger, better and more competitive this time around.

The fourth season of Bangladesh's biggest culinary competition, jointly organised by Rupchanda and The Daily Star, will start from November 10.

This year's competition will be held in 17 regional districts, four more than the previous year, and 30 episodes will be telecasted in ntv from February 4 next year, compared to last year's 26, said Shoeb Md Asaduzzaman, head of sales and marketing of Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited (BEOL), at a press conference held in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

The districts are -- Dhaka north and south, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Bogra, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Comilla, Faridpur, Kushtia, Dinajpur, Noakhali, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati and Moulvibazar.



"We are trying to expand the show in newer regions. We will be happy if we can hold the competition in all the districts..." Shoeb said.

The judges' panel for the show includes actor Tarik Anam Khan, television personality Sharmin Lucky and chef Daniel Gomes. As per the show's format, participants have to register for the regional rounds by calling 0691277888.

The prize money for the Super Chef champion is Tk 10 lakh. The first run-

ner-up will get Tk 5 lakh and the second -- Tk 3 lakh. The fourth to 10th place-holders will also get attractive prizes and gift hampers.

In the grooming session, the selected contestants will be provided training on cooking and acting for six days. Then, 18 contestants will be selected to go to the Super Chef kitchen.

In his speech, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, highlighted the importance of the discovery of Bangladeshi food. "Thai food has gained huge reputation and popularity in Bangladesh despite many of us does not have idea about the country properly. We want people across the world to become fond of our food," he added. Mahfuz Anam thanked Rupchanda for holding the competition and popularise the show gradually.

Mostafa Kamal Syed, chief of programme of ntv, and Sharmin Lucky also spoke.



Discussants at a roundtable "How Old are You?" organised by The Daily Star and Dove in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Respect women irrespective of age

Star-Dove discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday underscored the need for changing attitudes towards ageing women and urged treating them with respect considering their skills and intellect.

Newborns, toddlers, adolescents, youths, adults and old women have unique beauties depending on their age and respecting them for it will not create

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Shoeb Md Asaduzzaman, head of sales and marketing of Bangladesh Edible Oil Ltd, announcing the Super Chef-2017 at a press conference at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. Sitting from left, Sharmin Lucky, one of the judges of the contest, Mostafa Kamal Syed, chief of programme at ntv, and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

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সম্মানিত করদাতাদের জন্য জরুরি তথ্য: ০৩

আপনি একজন ট্রেড লাইসেন্সধারী ব্যবসায়ী অথবা টেডারে অংশগ্রহণকারী হলে
আপনার জন্য আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল বাধ্যতামূলক

আপনার আয়কর রিটার্ন জমা দিয়েছেন তো?

সম্মানিত করদাতা, দেশের উন্নয়নের জন্য যে রাজস্ব প্রয়োজন তার বড় অংশ আসে আপনার দেয়া আয়কর থেকে। তাই একজন করদাতা হিসেবে আপনি দেশের উন্নয়নের গর্বিত অংশীদার।

আপনি কোন সিটি কর্পোরেশন, পৌরসভা বা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের ট্রেড লাইসেন্সধারী ব্যবসায়ী অথবা কোন সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি বা স্থানীয় সরকারের কোন টেডারে অংশগ্রহণকারী হলে আপনার মোট আয় যা-ই হোক না কেন আপনাকে এ বছর (২০১৬-১৭ কর বছর) আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করতে হবে।

আপনার জন্য এ বছরের আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিলের শেষ দিন ৩০ নভেম্বর ২০১৬। রিটার্ন দাখিলের সময় আর বাড়বে না।

৩০ নভেম্বরের মধ্যে রিটার্ন দাখিল না করলে জরিমানা ও বিলম্ব সুদ আরোপ করা হবে। এছাড়া, রিটার্ন দাখিলে ব্যর্থ হলে কর আইন ভঙ্গ হবে। এতে এক বছর পর্যন্ত জেল অথবা অর্থদণ্ড অথবা উভয় শাস্তির বিধান রয়েছে।

শেষ দিকে রিটার্ন দাখিলে অনেক ভিড় হয়, ফলে করসেবা পেতেও অসুবিধা হয়। তাই আগেভাগেই আপনার রিটার্ন দাখিল করে রিটার্নের প্রাপ্তি স্বীকারপত্র গ্রহণ করুন।

সময় মতো রিটার্ন দেই, দেশ গড়ায় অংশ নেই।

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BNP hails AL's upcoming council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hailing Awami League's upcoming national council, BNP yesterday hoped it will pave the way for the "restoration" of democracy in the country.

"Awami League is the oldest traditional party. We welcome their council and wish its all-out success," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said while talking to reporters at the BNP chief's Gulshan office.

Earlier, a BNP delegation led by Fakhrul went to Thai embassy in the capital and signed the condolence book following the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. "We hope that AL will play their due role in restoration of democracy through this council," he said.

AL is scheduled to hold its two-day national council from Saturday.

Ambulance crisis reduced at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ambulance crisis at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) reduced a little yesterday as private ambulance owners started picking patients from there.

Since Monday, some five ambulances were providing services to patients, said a number of ambulance owners and drivers.

The ambulance crisis started at DMCH after four persons including a pregnant woman were killed when an ambulance ran them over near the emergency gate on Saturday.

About 70 ambulances used to remain parked on both sides of the road in front of the emergency gate. They left the area and stopped parking the vehicles there following Saturday's incident.

Din Islam Din, secretary of private ambulance service association at DMCH, said they were now parking their ambulances near Nursing College, about 300 yards away from the earlier place. They were rushing to patients' demands made in person as well as over the phone.

He further said at present they were hesitant about parking ambulances at earlier place, fearing police harassment. Mohammad Hasan, relative of a patient who came from Narayanganj, said they needed to go to National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital in Agargaon as doctors referred their patient with head injury there.

"We called an ambulance which arrived within five minutes in front of the emergency unit. Then after a little bargaining we could rent the ambulance at a reasonable fare," he said at DMCH.

9th wage board formation for journo soon

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to constitute soon the 9th wage board for the journalists and employees of newspapers and news agencies.

The decision was taken at a meeting at the information ministry yesterday with Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu in the chair, said a PID handout.

Prime Minister's Information Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Information Secretary Martuza Ahmed, its Joint Secretary Mohammad Nurul Islam, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) faction President Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, its Secretary General Omar Faruk, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) faction President Shaban Mahmud and its General Secretary Sohel Haider Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

The meeting discussed in details the formation of the wage board and decided to constitute it soon. It also discussed bringing the journalists of electronic media under the wage board.

