

ARREST WARRANT AGAINST 3 ICT rebukes Mymensingh SP for not placing report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday rebuked the superintendent of police in Mymensingh for not submitting the execution report in last 16 months over the arrest warrant it had issued against three Mymensingh men in a war crimes case.

The two-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam with Justice Md Shohrwardi directed the SP to submit a report on February 16 "stating causes of delay and failure in effecting arrest of those three accused..."

The tribunal asked its registrar to send the copy of the order to both the inspector general of police (IGP) and SP immediately.

The tribunal also criticised the prosecution for showing the three accused absconding in their formal charges "without having any specific information or report in execution of WA [warrant of arrest] issued against them."

The tribunal on October 1, 2015 issued arrest warrant against eight Mymensingh men, including Jatiya Party lawmaker MA Hannan, and police arrested Hannan and four others on that day.

On October 30 last year, the prosecution pressed charges against the eight mentioning three -- Mohammad Abdus Sattar, Mohammad Fakruzzaman and Khandakar Golam Rabbani -- absconding.

Earlier in July 2016, the investigation agency handed over probe report of the case to the prosecution showing the three fugitives.

Rezia Sultana Chaman, one of the prosecutors of the case, said the tribunal on December 11 last year took charges into cognisance and asked the IGP to submit a report within two weeks about the fugitives.

Following the order, Tejgaon police of Dhaka sent a report to the tribunal recently mentioning the three as absconding, Rezia said.

But, the prosecutor said, SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A female worker busy processing dried fish, called shutki in Bangla, at Naziratek in Cox's Bazar. Though the wholesale market has proved its business potential, allegations run rife that female workers often do not get due wages. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Huge potential, problems untouched

Trading of dried fish in Cox's Bazar is expected to hit Tk 250 crore this season

MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT with ENAMUL HUQ

The largest wholesale market of dried fish, called shutki in Bangla, at Naziratek in Cox's Bazar is buzzing with activity as traders, workers and wholesalers have joined forces to make a good profit this time around.

Starting 18 years ago on a small scale, the trading of dried fish is expected to hit around Tk 250 crore in the ongoing season, people in the industry said.

Buyers from Anwara, Banshkhali, Patiya in Chittagong, and Pekua, Chakoria, Maheshkhali and Kutubdia in Cox's Bazar have been visiting the market for the dried fish.

During a recent visit to the market on the beach at the confluence of the Bay of Bengal, Maheshkhali channel and the Bakkhali river, traders were seen buying raw fish from fishing trawlers and boats and hanging those on the bamboo platforms to let those dry. Different species of fish -- Chhuri, Laitta, Faisshya, Rupchanda, Matia, Poa, Chingri, Lakkhya, Kamila, Korati, Rupsha and Surma -- are usually processed for making shutkis.

Leaders of the Naziratek Shutki Traders Multipurpose Cooperative Society said the number of their members has already reached 903.

A trader usually invests from Tk 10 lakh to Tk 5 crore, they added.

Every season, at least 20,000 labourers work in different Shutki mahals -- bamboo-fenced territories of the traders. Production of dried fish starts at the end of August when workers from remote areas of



Sea fish being dried under the sun.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Cox's Bazar and Chittagong visit the mahals in search of work. The production continues for the next eight to nine months.

Despite having huge potential and employment opportunities, the business environment is plagued by allegations of discriminatory wages, and the use of harmful ingredients.

Allegations run rife that traders employ a good number of women and children. At present, there are around 500 Shutki mahals, where 90 percent of the workers are women.

Lutfia Begum, 40, a worker, said her shift at a Shutki mahal starts at 6:00am and continues till 5:00pm. She earns Tk 200-300 for 11 hours of work a day.

Her male colleagues, however, get Tk 400-500 for the same work, Lutfia said, demanding fair wages for both sexes.

On the other hand, child labour is common and children get maximum Tk 150 per day.

In this regard, Atique Uddin (Company), president of Naziratek Shutki Traders Multipurpose Cooperative Society, said female labour force is very cheap, making the traders interested to hire them.

During the visit, it was also found that workers were spraying water mixed with DDT powder, which is harmful to health, on dried fish. On condition of anonymity, a trader said they use DDT to some extent to save their produce from insect attacks.

On the other hand, traders also expressed their frustration over some outstanding issues.

A small trader, who chose to be

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Dhaka court warns Khaleda of arrest warrant if fails to face it

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday warned BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia of arrest warrant if she fails to appear before it on February 27 in connection with 10 cases, including a sedition one.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Sanaullah Miah submitted 10 petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing.

In the petitions, the lawyer said Khaleda could not appear before it due to her physical illness while Taposh Kumar Paul opposed the petitions saying that Khaleda appeared before the court on August 10 last year in connection with the cases. Later, she did not appear before the court again.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will be indicted in absentia in 10 cases filed against her if she fails to appear before court yesterday, the same judge said on January 9.

Woman sues Sunny again over 'repression'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Another case was filed against Bangladesh spinner Arafat Sunny and his mother under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act yesterday by a 23-year-old woman, Nasrin Sultana, who claimed to be Sunny's wife. After the hearing, a Dhaka court directed the officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur police to submit a probe report before it.

In her yesterday's complaint, Nasrin alleged Sunny as per direction of his mother demanded money six months after Nasrin and Sunny got married on December 4, 2014. On Nasrin's refusal, Sunny and his mother Nargis Akhter verbally abused her and left her, she alleged.

Earlier, Nasrin filed two cases against Sunny --one over threatening her online and another over dowry. Sunny was arrested on January 22.



Khadiza Begum Nargis with her family members at her home in Sylhet yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Khadiza returns her home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

She had to sit for an exam at Sylhet MC College on October 3 last year.

As she was running late, she promised her mother she would return home as soon as the exam was over and complete her meal.

That afternoon, Khadiza Begum Nargis, a student of Sylhet Government Women's College, was brutally hacked by Badrul Alam, a Chhatra League leader of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, with a machete on the MC College campus.

After four months of rigorous treatment, Khadiza was finally able to

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Mass people alienated from governance system: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is presently facing a grave legitimacy crisis in the governance process from the grassroots to the top, said local government expert Dr Tofail Ahmed at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

Though there is a formal legitimisation in it, it severely lacks in effect, he said, adding, the mass people are not getting representatives of their choice and are alienated from the governance system.

The legitimacy of governance depends on whether the people who are affected by its

decision and policies have participation in it, said Dr Zillur Rahman Khan, Rosebush Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin, USA.

Moral legitimacy and accountability to people are central to governance, said Dr Ali Riaz, a professor of Politics and Government at Illinois State University, USA, while making a keynote presentation.

Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) organised the seminar titled "Governance: a critical examination" at Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

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STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

This week's spotlight talks about the 'behind the scene' moments and preparations of the 9th Chhobi Mela -- a two-week long international photography festival, which is going to begin tomorrow at the Shilpokala Academy. We also have an opinion piece on the recent incident of police brutality on 26th January, along with many more exciting reads. Don't forget to grab your copy of the Star Weekend, tomorrow, Friday!

CHOBIMELA IX BEGINS TODAY

The best thing about any festival is the frenzy of activities that comes along with it. The 9th Chhobi Mela, an international festival of photography, is set to begin tomorrow at the Shilpokala Academy. It is an event that every art lover with great experience, not only do we get to witness thought and ideas in the form of photographs from all over the world, the audience also has the opportunity to visit parts of Old Dhaka, since the exhibition is spread out all over the city. The 9th Chhobi Mela -- an international festival of photography begins today. Check out the spotlight story on page 7-8, to read the 'behind the scene' moments, preparations and what the festival is all about!

PHOTO: MAZIN AHMED APPIRO

LAND GRABBING CASE Verdict on Ragib Ali today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court will deliver verdict in a case filed against industrialist Ragib Ali and his son over forging legal papers and grabbing the endowed land of Tarapur Tea Estate in Sylhet.

After hearing the closing argument both from the prosecution and the defence, a Sylhet court fixed the date yesterday, said additional public prosecutor Mahfuzur Rahman.

Ragib was sent to jail on November 24 last year after he was arrested by Indian immigration police.

In 1990, Ragib started "grabbing" the land of the estate after forcing its legal Shabayet (caretaker) Pankaj Kumar Gupta to leave the country, alleged Pankaj.

Ragib built a hospital and also sold 337 plots and established some other structures on 422.96 acres of the estate land.

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Download the application form on our website: www.isdbd.org or email admissions@isdbd.org for more information. Deadline for application submission is 14th February 2017 at 3:00pm. Assessment tests will take place on 26th to 28th February 2017. Interested candidates are invited together with parents to an interactive information session at ISD on the 2nd February 2017 by 4:30pm. Please email us at admissions@isdbd.org to reserve your space