

Six get death, two life term for killing AL leader

COurt COrespondent

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced six people to death and two others to life-term imprisonment for killing an Awami League leader and his driver in the capital's Kadamtoli in February 2011.

The convicts with death are: Raihan Khokon, Zakir Hossain, Mohammad Zaved, Mohammad Arif Hossain, Md Jummun and Md Hira while Shariful Islam and Amir Hossain were given life in jail.

Of them, Raihan and Hira are still at large. The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender.

The court acquitted Shah Alam, Shariful Alam, Imon and Milon as the charges brought against them were not proved.

Judge Zahidul Kabir of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka handed down the sentence.

Mohammad Ullah, 60, a senior vice-president of Shyampur-Kadamtoli thana unit of AL and also the managing director of Duldul Paribahan, a transport company, and his chauffeur Harun ur Rashid, 42, were killed by armed assailants in Kadamtoli on February 23 of 2011.

The victims came under attack on their way back home after distributing invitation cards for Mohammad Ullah's daughter's post-wedding reception scheduled for March 5 the same year.

Following the incident, Kohinur Begum, wife of Mohammad Ullah, filed a case with Kadamtoli Police Station accusing unknown people.

Police pressed charges against 12 people on October 31 of 2011 and the court framed charges against the accused on September 17 of 2012.



Sand being piled up on a bank of the Bongshi river, after lifting from the river. According to locals, influential traders keep on extracting sand from the riverbed while the authorities concerned continue to turn a blind eye to it. The photo was taken on Sunday near Nayarhat Bridge at Dhamrai on the outskirts of the capital. PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Study on Gender Dev in Eight S Asian Nations Bangladesh ranks third

STaff COrespondent

Bangladesh ranks third in gender development among eight South Asian countries.

Ahead of India and Pakistan, Sri Lanka ranked first while Maldives ranked second according to a study -- based on Gender Development Index (GDI) -- conducted by Mahbul ul Haq Research Centre of Pakistan.

GDI measures gender disparities under Human Development Index (HDI) of the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). The closer the GDI figure to 1, the smaller the disparity is between men and women in terms of life expectancy, education and income.

According to the research, Sri Lanka's GDI is 0.948 while it is 0.937 for Maldives and 0.917 for Bangladesh.

BRAC Institute of Governance and

Development (BIGD) of BRAC University unveiled the study report titled "Human Development in South Asia 2016: Empowering Women in South Asia" at a programme at BRAC Inn Centre in the capital yesterday.

GDI scored by the fourth country in the ranking, Nepal, is 0.908, fifth Bhutan 0.897 and sixth India 0.795.

Pakistan ranked seventh with 0.726 and Afghanistan is at the bottom of the list with 0.600 GDI.

In their analysis of data collected from year 2000, Mahbul ul Haq Research Centre found significant improvement in South Asia region in the fields of women's access to education, health and employment opportunities

"However, the progress has been slow -- especially for the most vulnerable women living in rural areas, urban slums and belonging to ethnic minorities," the report states.

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Court asks complainant to explain implication of toddler, dead man

COurt COrespondent

The complainant of the case, filed accusing an 11-month-old toddler and a dead man of vandalising a house and theft, was summoned by a Dhaka court yesterday and asked to explain why he implicated a toddler and a dead man.

Habibur Rahman, the complainant, was asked to appear before the court within next seven days.

The order came after Rashedul Islam Khokon, lawyer for the infant and the dead man, submitted a petition seeking an exemplary punishment for the complainant.

Meanwhile, the investigation officer, Sub-Inspector Maruful Islam of Mirpur Model Police Station, now under suspension and who was supposed to appear before the court yesterday, sought another 10 days for being absent on sickness ground.

The court granted his petition and asked him to appear before it for explanation within 10 days.

Rubel, now 11 months old, and Arifur Rahman, a man who died in 2013, were implicated with charges of vandalising Habibur's house in the capital's Mirpur and stealing Tk 25,000, two gold chains and a mobile phone in June last year.

But on February 27 this year, Maruful, after an eight-month-long probe, pressed charges against Rubel, Arifur and 21 others.

Foreign diplomats happy over post-July 1 security measures

Danish envoy tells DCAB Talk

Diplomatic COrespondent

Foreign diplomats stationed in Dhaka are happy over the security measures taken by the government in the wake of July 1 Gulshan attack, but still they feel the risk of terrorist attacks, said Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Mikael Hemniti Winther.



Winther

"In terms of risk assessment, we still feel the risk. We still have lot of restrictions on our movements...we still have a feeling that foreigners are exposed to that risk," he said during a talk with the Dhaka-based diplomatic correspondents yesterday.

The Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) organised its flagship "DCABtalk" with the Danish envoy at Jatiya Press Club.

Twenty two people, including 17 foreigners were brutally killed in a terror attack at Holey Artisan Bakery on July 1, 2016, which had created a serious panic among the diplomats and foreign nationals living in Bangladesh. Several foreign missions even asked their diplomats to send back their families, volunteers to home,

and restricted their movement.

Winther, who joined Dhaka mission in September 2016 from Bangkok, said the foreigners are "very happy" with what the Bangladesh government is doing in terms of security arrangements since the July 1 attack, but he said, "the feeling is that foreigners still face risks from terrorist threats."

The Danish envoy, however, generalised the risk concerns by saying that he can name 140 countries where there are risks at different level, except some countries where there are "good intelligence".

Lauding Bangladesh for achieving remarkable progress in terms of poverty reduction and socio-economic development, the envoy said Bangladesh is slowly turning into a trading partner rather than an aid partner.

In reply to a question on investment, Ambassador Winther said he finds "quite a lower" level of foreign

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HC questions class XI admission on GPA

STaff COrespondent

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of class XI admission policy which allows institutions to enroll students on the basis of grade point average (GPA).

The court issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain why the admission policy should not be declared illegal.

In response to a writ petition, the HC also ordered the authorities concerned of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College in Dhaka to admit its students to class XI as per the previous rules.

The HC order means that the institution's students, who have passed SSC examinations, can get admitted to the same institution without any serial determined by the education board, Supreme Court lawyer Eunos Ali Akond, the writ petitioner, told The Daily Star.

He also said education secretary and chairman of Dhaka education board have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Choudhury and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque came up with the rule and order after hearing the writ petition challenging the legality of the admission policy issued on May 7 this year.

In the petition, he said the education system has been running under the Secondary and Higher Secondary Ordinance 1961, where there is no rule that the education board will determine the serial of the admission seekers on the basis of GPA.



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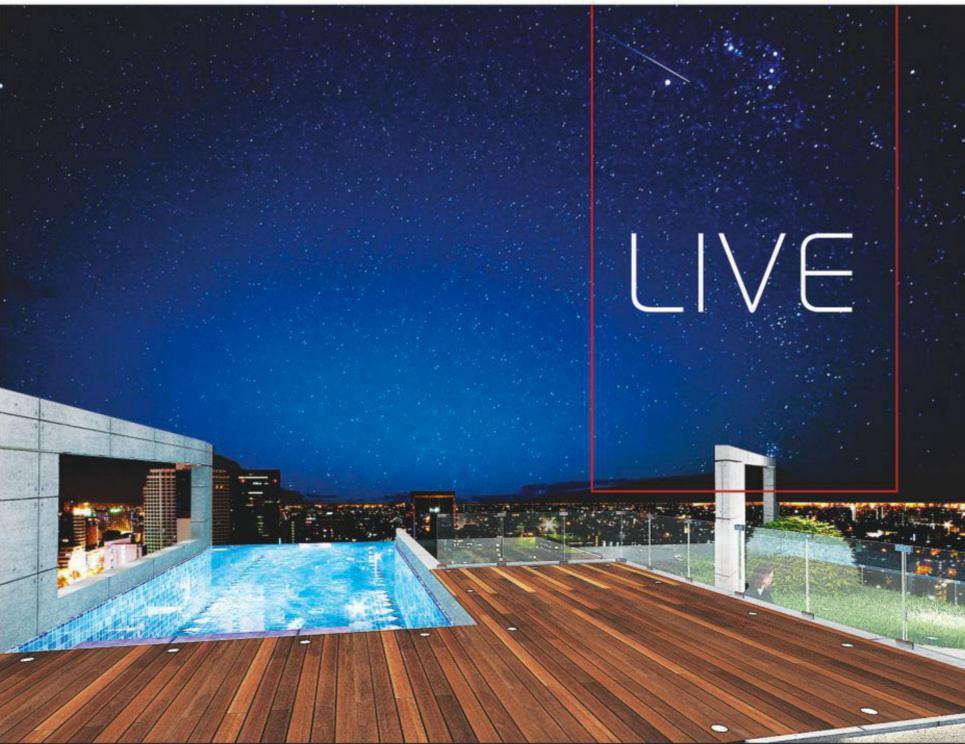
in other news...

In this week's issue of the *Star Weekend*, we ask if the curriculum of Bangladesh's Qawmi Madrasa education system needs reformation. We also have a piece on Professor Abdur Razzaq-his thoughts on the issue of Hindu-Muslim relations in the subcontinent and his influence on the writers and thinkers who would come after him. Don't forget to grab a copy!



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