

N'ganj teacher Shyamal Kanti gets bail in bribery case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nainyanangj

A court yesterday granted permanent bail to Shyamal Kanti Bhakta of Panyasatari, Lalit High School in a case filed allegedly for taking bribe from a colleague.

Senior Judicial Magistrate of Nainyanangj Akhtaruzzaman granted him bail after hearing and fixed the next hearing on September 27.

Defence lawyer Sakhawat Hossain said, "The false case against my client Shyamal Kanti was a pre-planned move to get him out of the school. We hope to receive fair trial for him."

"He [Shyamal] is better now. But, he is tensed and cannot sleep at night," said Shyamal's wife Sabita Rani Halder.

A case filed by Morsheha Begum, an English teacher of the same school, on July 14 last year accused Shyamal of taking Tk 1.35 lakh as bribe for helping her to enlist her name in the monthly pay order (MPO).

An enquiry team was formed and police also pressed charges on April 17, following which the court issued an arrest warrant against him on May 2.

Shyamal surrendered before the court and got interim bail till July 20.

According to the case statement, Shyamal on December 24, 2014 allegedly received Tk 35,000 from Morsheha. Later, he allegedly took Tk 1 lakh as per his demand but did not forward any application for the MPO.

When Morsheha asked him to return the money, he denied taking the sum from her, says the case statement.

Shyamal was physically assaulted by a mob on May 13, 2016 over allegations that he had made derogatory comments about religion, while meeting out corporal punishment to a student.



President Abdul Hamid talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

PM meets president

FROM PAGE 1 Emerging from the meeting, Quader also general secretary of the Awami League, told journalists. "We conveyed to the president the government and the party's stance on the verdict."

Asked whether any decision was made in the meeting, Quader said, "No... There will be more discussions."

He, however, said he would talk about the issues later.

Talking to this newspaper, Mahbubey said the meeting was a routine one. He declined to speak further.

Earlier, the PM reached the Bangabhaban around 7:30pm, and the president received her, reports BSS.

Passed in 2014, the 16th amendment to the constitution restored parliament's powers to remove SC judges for misconduct or incapacity.

Last year, the High Court in a

verdict declared the 16th amendment illegal and the SC upheld it on July 3 this year. The apex court released the full judgment on August 1.

Since then, the AL has been criticising some observations made by the CJ in the verdict. Food Minister Qamrul Islam even demanded his removal.

The law minister said the government would file a review petition. On Monday, Qader went to the

Bangabhaban and conveyed to the president the party's stance on the verdict.

Shortly before his arrival, the CJ had left the Bangabhaban after exchanging Jamnashahi greetings with the president.

Earlier on Saturday, Quader held talks with the CJ at the latter's official residence on Hare Road. From there, he went to the Gono Bhaban to meet the PM.

Rice import gets boost

FROM PAGE 1 Dhaka and elsewhere in the country. The government took note of the situation and finally decided to act.

This is the second duty cut for rice imported this year. Earlier in June, the government slashed it to 10 percent from 28 percent.

After the latest duty cut, importers would be required to pay Tk 1.56 crore only instead of Tk 7.82 crore in tariff for releasing the 24,000 tonnes of rice stuck at various ports.

The meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee, attended

by several ministers and secretaries, made the duty-cut decision to encourage import and tackle any probable food crisis.

While announcing the decision before journalists, Food Minister Qamrul Islam, however, clarified that despite the duty cut, rice price would not decrease by Tk 8 or Tk 10 a kg. He did not say though how much the consumers would have to pay.

"Rice price is within the people's purchasing capacity," claimed Qamrul. Prices of largely consumed coarse rice marked a 47 percent increase, from

Tk 30-32 a kg a year back to Tk 42-45 a kg now in Dhaka markets.

The meeting, also attended by Finance Minister AMA Muhiht, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, took stock of the country's current food situation and also the low food reserve.

Muhiht said there was no food crisis, but imports were required to offset the stock shortfall.

"This decision of the government to import food grains does not indicate that there is a food crisis in the coun-

try," said Food Minister Qamrul, claiming, "In fact, there is no food shortage in the country."

The government is importing 2.5 lakh tonnes of rice from Vietnam, while private importers brought in over 8 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat from India. The government has also recently signed a deal with Cambodia to import up to 10 lakh tonnes of rice in the next five years. Around 2.5 lakh tonnes of the staple will reach Bangladesh by October this year, the minister said while speaking of the government's initiatives.

The attorney general prayed to the SC for adjourning the hearing on the petitions saying that he needed time to take preparations for placing arguments.

The SC then adjourned the hearing and extended its earlier stay order on the HC verdict till October 10, clearing the way for the executive magistrates to run mobile courts till that day.

During the proceedings of the day, the attorney general told the SC that mobile courts should be run to stop different types of crimes, including fishing by gill nets.

Justice Sinha said the SC had earlier directed the authorities concerned to ban the use of gill nets in fishing.

Attorney General Mahubey Alam said his home district (Munshiganj) was near the bank of the Padma and gill nets were being used there to catch fish. That is why mobile courts should be operated to stop such activities.

The CJ said what the court could do if law enforcers were not sincere in stopping such activities.

"We [the judges] don't get to smell blood," he told the attorney general.

"I have heard that you [Mahubey Alam] are going to catch the next national election and you are now visiting the area. You are compromising [with the local administration]. Remember, it will be better for the government if the hearings on the petitions [leave to appeal petitions] are

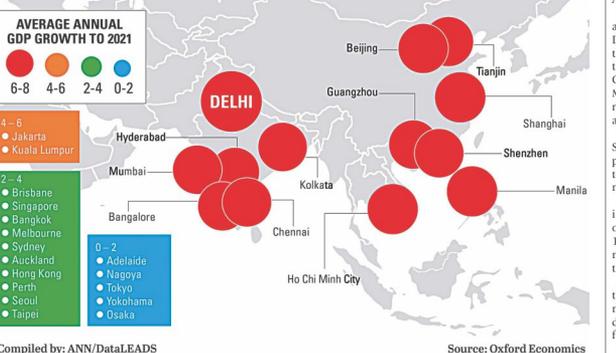
Delhi set to be fastest growing city in Asia: study

DATALEADS, New Delhi/ANN

GDP growth forecast for 30 Asian cities predicts Indian cities are set to grow the most across the region, with Delhi being the fastest growing city in Asia over the next five years.

Asia's Fastest-growing cities

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Compiled by ANN/DataLEADS Source: Oxford Economics

Out of jail, into terrorism again

FROM PAGE 1 and they are not certain if they will be able to do that.

An official of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Unit said since the formation of the unit last year, they have made a list of around 50 people to be kept under surveillance.

The list appears to be really short since 523 mobile suspects of different countries would get out of jail after their jail terms, according to what was said at the quarterly crime conference held last month at the Police Headquarters.

Counterterrorism officials said militants would get out of jail after a certain period and the authorities need to introduce programmes in prisons to de-radicalise them and ensure vocational training so that they could reintegrate into society.

Some militants of different outfits are kept separately but members of the same organisation, both dehardened and radicalised, are kept together, which leaves room for highly radicalised militants to motivate others and strengthen their networks.

Moniral Islam, chief of the CTTC, told The Daily Star, "Most of the militants who are released from jail get

involved in militancy again. What will they do? Some try to earn a living. Nobody believes them... no one gives them jobs, so they join militancy again."

He said they would try to keep such militants under surveillance. "I cannot say for sure that we will be able to keep the militants coming out of jail under surveillance."

International security expert Prof Rohan Gunaratna in an interview with The Daily Star in March said Bangladesh now has to move beyond the operational counter terrorism response and create a more strategic process to handle the issue.

"If you don't rehabilitate and de-radicalise them, they will pose a security threat after leaving the prisons and infect others with their ideology," Prof Gunaratna, head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore, warned.

So, to prevent this from happening, the government should immediately launch a programme inside the prisons. As part of the programme, religious clerics can visit jail and use the Quran and the Hadith to counter the misinterpretation of religion by the terrorists to de-radicalise the inmates,

he said.

Teachers should also be engaged to educate the inmates and re-establish their social and family connections.

They would need psychological rehabilitation to deal with their anxieties, depressions and hatred, he added. He also underscored the need for vocational trainings of the de-radicalised ones so that they could get jobs.

Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftikhar Uddin recently told The Daily Star, "Our apprehension is that we are keeping all militants of a certain organisation together in group." Talking to them it was assumed that only two or three out of around 50 militants were dehardened. So they are being motivated inside the jail by the hardcore ones, he said.

"We need to identify the less radicalised and separate them from the dehardened ones. But how can I do this as I don't have enough space inside jails," the IG prisons added.

He said for a de-radicalisation programme, steps from the government with proper resources were needed. "It needs a coordinated effort..." he said.

Asked if he had sent any proposal for such an effort, he said he often

shares his views with agencies like the DCGI but none have yet come up with ways to go forward with this.

According to jail sources around 750 militants are in 68 jails across the country and 41 of them are on death rows.

Today is the 12th anniversary of the series bomb blast. Banned JMB on this day in 2005 carried out an orchestrated attack and exploded 459 bombs in 63 districts in just half an hour.

Following the attack, 159 cases were filed and investigators pressed charges in 149 of them accusing 1,106 militants. Final reports were placed in the rest 10 cases, said Assistant Inspector General (intelligence and special affairs) Md Moniruzzaman of Police Headquarters.

Verdicts in 93 cases have been delivered in which 334 JMB leaders and activists were convicted and 349 acquitted.

Many of the 349 acquitted were arrested later on and kept with the JMB militants in jails, said an official wishing not to be named.

Tariqul Islam Tareq on August 8 was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment by a Tangail court in another case filed for the series bomb blast in Tangail town.

India, China

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border troops are always committed to maintaining peace on the India-China border".

"We always patrol along the Chinese line of control. And we urge the Indian side to abide by the line of control and relevant conventions between the two sides," Hua said.

Police in the north Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, where Ladakh is located, said clashes were relatively common along the de facto border known as the Line of Actual Control (LAC), reported AFP.

"These things happen every summer but this one was slightly prolonged and more serious but no weapons were used," a police source in Srinagar told AFP.

The Pangong lake area lies over 4,000 metres (13,000 feet) high on the Tibetan plateau.

The latest incident comes amid an ongoing dispute between the two sides over a strategic Himalayan plateau hundreds of kilometres away where thousands of Indian and Chinese soldiers have been facing off against each other for more than two months.

The border trouble began in June when Chinese soldiers started to extend a road through the Doklam territory — known as "Donglang" in Chinese. The area is disputed between China and Bhutan.

India, a close ally of Bhutan, then deployed troops to stop the construction project, prompting Beijing to accuse India of trespassing on Chinese soil.

China has said India must withdraw its troops before any proper negotiation takes place. India said both sides should withdraw their forces together.

The plateau is strategically significant as it gives China access to the so-called "chicken's neck" — a thin strip of land connecting India's northeastern states with the rest of the country.

Indian media said the Chinese army had this year declined to participate in ceremonial meetings usually held to mark Independence Day on Tuesday. It was the first time since 2005 that the meetings were not held.

The two nuclear-armed neighbours have been in a cold war in 1962 in India's border state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Tensions along the LAC rose in 2015 when Chinese soldiers moved into territory claimed by India, sparking a two-week military stand-off that overshadowed a visit by China's President Xi Jinping.

Mobile court act

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told Attorney General Mahubey Alam.

The chief justice was presiding over a six-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC while dealing with three leave to appeal petitions filed by the government challenging a High Court verdict. The HC in the verdict in May declared unconstitutional the rules under which the mobile courts are run by executive magistrates.

The attorney general prayed to the SC for adjourning the hearing on the petitions saying that he needed time to take preparations for placing arguments.

The SC then adjourned the hearing and extended its earlier stay order on the HC verdict till October 10, clearing the way for the executive magistrates to run mobile courts till that day.

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held promptly," the CJ added.

SC ORDERS TESTING SPIRULINA

The SC yesterday ordered the director general of the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) to form a three-member expert committee, led by a professor from Dhaka University's food and nutrition department, to examine Spirulina, a food supplement, imported from Malaysia nearly two years ago.

During hearing an appeal on the matter, the SC also asked the director general of DGDA to submit the probate report of the committee to its chamber judge within next two weeks.

The appeal was filed by the government challenging a HC order that had directed the government to release 7,33,900 pieces of Spirulina which were seized by a DGDA mobile court in February last year.

The Spirulina was imported by Daehsan (Bangladesh) Private Limited, an importing firm, from Malaysia on September 10, 2015, advocate Zaman Akhter Bulbul, lawyer for the importer, told The Daily Star.

He said the mobile court had seized the Spirulina on February 4 last year claiming that it was a drug, although his client imported it as a food supplement.

The mobile court also filed the complaint Tk 10 lakh and jailed the managing Director Fair Bin Hias for three months in default of payment of the fine.

Following a writ petition filed by Daehsan (Bangladesh) Private Limited, the apex court on May 18 last year seized the mobile court verdict and ordered the government to release the seized Spirulina to the importer.

The SC stayed the HC order after the government had filed the appeal with the apex court.

Adding that his client filed a petition with the SC seeking its order for releasing the seized Spirulina.

Mayor Annisul

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Dhaka. He had been experiencing occasional spells of dizziness for the last two months.

"This is because his brain blood vessels were inflamed," she said, adding that the mayor is currently in Intensive Care Unit.

29 and was admitted to the hospital on August 13.

Rubana sought people's blessings for Annisul's early recovery.

Bangladesh Juba Urjaban Parishad and Dhaka Mahanagar Sadjabanjini Parishad Committee yesterday offered a special prayer for the mayor's quick recovery, seeking the mayor's quick recovery.

Annisul took oath as mayor of DNCC on May 6, 2015.