

4 BNP leaders get interim bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted six-month interim bail to four BNP leaders, including the chairman's adviser Kabir Murad, in a case filed over plotting subversive activities.

Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar passed the order after hearing a bail petition. The petition said the case was politically motivated and filed to harass them.

The three others who got bail are Anindya Islam Amit, Md Sajjadur Rahman and Iskandar Ali.

On April 20, police arrested 56 BNP leaders and activists including Kabir Murad and Anindya Islam when they were holding a meeting at the Kashishal village home of Sajjad Hossain Shuja, vice-president of the Narail district BNP.

The police then filed a case with Kalia Police Station against them under the Special Powers Act, 1974 for plotting subversive acts.

DEATH OF EX-JUBO LEAGUE LEADER It was murder

Say police after detaining suspect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The former Rangunia Jubo League leader, found dead on Friday in his bedroom, was murdered by his wife's paternal aunt, who had an illicit affair with him, said police yesterday.

The accused, Jifu Begum, 35, gave a statement to the police admitting the premeditated murder after Rangunia police detained her on Saturday. She was detained based on information they gathered from primary investigation, Imtiaz Uddin Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Rangunia Police Station told The Daily Star.

Police on Friday recovered the charred body of the victim -- Abul Hashem Bacha, 50, a former assistant secretary of Jubo League's Rangunia upazila unit -- from his house in Rangunia of the port city.

Jifu decided to kill Bacha as he had been threatening to post their intimate photos on the social media unless she married him. She however wanted to keep the relationship discreet, OC Imtiaz said quoting her.

As a means to save her family and herself from the embarrassment of the extramarital affair, "Jifu decided to finish off Bacha," Imtiaz said.

According to the plan, when Bacha was home alone, she spent the night with him and at one stage, she rendered him unconscious by doping his food with sleeping pills.

Jifu then gathered Bacha's clothes, placed those on his unconscious body and lit up a fire, Jifu said in her statement.

In order to make it appear as an accidental gas fire, she brought an LP (liquefied petroleum) gas cylinder into the bedroom from the kitchen and left the house after locking the door from outside, OC Imtiaz quoted her as saying.

Victim's wife Razia Sultana filed a case yesterday, accusing unknown persons for the killing of her husband.



An on-duty police official stops a gate-locked bus and forces its staff to take in passengers in the capital's Malibagh Chowdhury Para during busy office hours in the morning yesterday. When the city faces an acute shortage of public transport, bus staffs occasionally introduce so-called "special", "seating" and "gate-lock" services, depriving passengers of public transport. Though this time a police official stepped up, plights of city dwellers -- many of who travel in buses daily -- usually go unheeded.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A step forward for menstrual hygiene

Sokhipad delivers affordable sanitary napkins for low-income women

SHADMA MALIK

Mansura Akhter Panna, 30, often recalls her dreadful days of menstruation when she entered puberty.

She recollects memories of cutting old rags into pieces, using and later washing them for reuse. The rags would be left to dry under her bunk so that nobody could see them.

"We were taught by older women to use the rags. Sanitary pads were available in the market, but we could not afford them," Panna said.

A few years later, at the age of 20, Panna was diagnosed with a cyst in her urinary tract. Since then, she had wanted to stop using the unhygienic rags but poverty always came in the way. "Sanitary napkins are too pricey for many women with limited money," she said.

Sokhipad, a social business venture with a vision to facilitate affordable and quality sanitary napkins among schoolgirls and working women at the lower tier in the society, is giving hope to the likes of Panna.

Some six months ago, Panna came across Sokhipad through two of her neighbours who worked for its factory in the capital's Ibrahimpur area. Panna joined Sokhipad as a worker, and soon started raising awareness of the importance of using sanitary napkins simultaneously with her work.

Following its commercial production in October last year, five schools in Dhaka's Rayerbazar and Hazaribagh areas have been buying

and using the pads. Sokhipad also launched its operation in 14 districts outside Dhaka, where its agents, called "Sokhi Apa", sell sanitary napkins door-to-door.

Sokhipad are sold door-to-door and in schools to save women and girls from the embarrassment of buying sanitary napkins from pharmacies or open shops, Panna said.

Many women in our society think menstruation is a taboo, and asking a male shopkeeper for pads is embarrassing to them. To save themselves from this, women often use rags at homes which are unhealthy. If I deliver it to their doorstep, it would save them from the embarrassment and also encourage them to use it," Panna told The Daily Star recently.

Each pack of Sokhipad costs Tk 65. In comparison, most of the popular sanitary napkins available in the market are priced at around Tk 120-150 per pack.

Some 700 volunteers of the organisation also encourage schoolgirls in impoverished areas to use sanitary products.

To keep women from the age-old practices and encourage them to use hygienic sanitary napkins, an awareness campaign is essential, said Ariful Forquzan, chief operating officer and initiator of Sokhipad.

When the thought of affordable sanitary napkins for lower-income women first struck Ariful, he bought a pack of lower-end sanitary napkins for

Tk 40, only to find it ineffective. A few months later, at a conference held by the Department for International Development (DFID), he spoke about the matter. The agency immediately took interest in his plan and gave him a grant to buy machinery for producing low-cost sanitary napkins.

In February last year, Ariful and his partner Kalam Ahmed began the pilot phase of the production.

Sokhipad uses super-absorbent polymer, so that the napkins can be used for long hours, Ariful said, adding that the pads are treated with ultra-violet ray to make them germ-free.

The primary target markets for the pads are schoolgirls of rural areas and garment workers, who do not use sanitary napkins.

Sharmin Akhter, an assistant teacher of Haji Abdul Awal Adarsha High School at Hazaribagh, said teachers were reluctant to talk about menstruation health to their students, though it is in the curriculum.

But after agents of Sokhipad came to the school in mid-April and spoke about its importance, students and teachers paid attention to it, and the school has been buying the pads for female students since then, she said.

The education ministry in 2015 instructed all schools to keep sanitary napkins for students at the schools. The circular also instructed female teachers to talk about menstrual

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Women packing sanitary napkins in a factory at the capital's Kafrul area. The low-cost Sokhipads are sold door-to-door to schoolgirls and working women.

Stipends offered for students of greater Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram Samity-Dhaka has sought applications from the poor meritorious students of greater Chittagong to give them stipends.

The stipend will be given to first-year undergraduate students for their full course, says a press release.

Interested candidates, who scored GPA-5 from science group both in SSC and HSC examinations, GPA-4.5 from business studies and GPA-4 from humanity groups can apply.

Applications can be collected from the Samity office at Chittagong Bhaban, 32 Topkhana Road, Dhaka or United Commercial Bank Ltd, Chawki Bazar Branch, Kapashgola, Chittagong on payment of Tk 100. It can also be downloaded from the Samity website www.ctgsamitydhaka.org.

The forms have to be submitted to the general secretary at the Chattogram Bhaban office by June 7.

CEC assures of fair KCC election

STAR REPORT

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday assured that the upcoming Khulna City Corporation election will be more free and fair in comparison with the election to the Rangpur City Corporation.

"The election atmosphere and reports of different government agencies have so far made us hopeful that the election to the Khulna City Corporation will be more peaceful than the recently held election to the Rangpur City Corporation," the CEC said at a views-exchange meeting in Khulna city.

The Election Commission organised the meeting to obtain recommendations and views on the election atmosphere from mayoral and councillor candidates.

Earlier at the programme, councillor and mayoral candidates -- mostly BNP-backed and BNP-nominated ones -- raised complaints to the CEC that they have been facing various obstacles during electioneering, caused by Awami League-supported councillors and mayoral candidates.

"Is the electoral code of conduct applicable only to us? Isn't it applicable to the candidates backed by the ruling party [as well]?" asked Mohammad Ali, an independent councillor candidate in Ward 5.

"Their supporters and they [AI backed

councillor candidates] don't care about abiding by the electoral code of conduct. They are intimidating us all the time," he added.

Ruma Khatun, BNP-backed councillor candidate in reserved seat of Ward 9, said, "I submitted several complaints to the Election [Commission] office and the police. But neither the election officials nor the local police took any measure. I didn't get any co-operation from them."

Anisur Rahman Biswas, another independent councillor candidate from ward 13, said his election agents refused to attend a training on election duties after being intimidated by AL supporters.

BNP-nominated mayoral candidate Nazrul Islam Monju alleged that despite repeated complaints to the Election Commission, they are doing nothing to ensure a level-playing field in the election.

AL mayoral candidate Talukder Abdul Khalque said BNP's allegation is only aimed at raising questions on the credibility of the election.

He urged the EC to be cautious while paying heed to BNP's allegations.

The CEC later assured the councillor and mayoral aspirants that the presence of necessary number of law enforcement agencies will be ensured at polling centres for a peaceful and fair election.

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3 BCL leaders killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Three leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were killed and one injured in a road accident in Kasba upazila on Saturday.

The accident took place when a motorcycle hit a truck in Shahpur area. The deceased are Enamul Hoque Faysol, 19, publicity secretary of Kutu union unit; Nurul Amin Hossain Bijoy, 21, general secretary at ward 5 of same unit; and Sajol Mia, 20, vice-president of ward 8 in Kaimpur union.

The injured is BCL activist Chhuton Mia.

Abdul Karim, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Kasba circle, said the four were on a motorbike on their way to Kasba when the vehicle lost control and hit the truck coming from the opposite direction.

Nurul Amin died on the spot and three others were rescued and taken to a local hospital with serious injuries, he added.

Faysol and Sajal succumbed to their injuries at Comilla Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Chhuton is under treatment. Police said the truck was seized but the driver and helper fled.

Meghna Petroleum Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)

58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong

Tender Notice

1	Name of the procuring entity	Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong.		
2	Invitation of tender for	Tender No.	Description	Cost of tender documents
		Lot-01: PUR-096 Date: 06/05/2018	Construction of boundary wall and other related works at company owned land Maheshwar Pasha, Khulna	Tk 5,000/- (non-refundable)
3	Procurement method	Lot-02: PUR-097 Date: 06/05/2018		
		Land development, construction of drainage system and improvement of walkway at company owned land Maheshwar Pasha, Khulna	Tk 5,000/- (non-refundable)	Tk 3,00,000/-
4	Last selling date of tender document	Single Stage Double Envelope Method. Tender to be submitted in two separate envelopes, one for Technical Offer and the other for Commercial/Financial Offer. EACH ENVELOPE MUST BE SEALED PROPERLY.		
		May 27, 2018	15.00 hrs.	
5	Tender closing time & date	May 28, 2018	12.00 hrs.	
6	Tender opening time & date	May 28, 2018	12.15 hrs.	
7	Name & address of the offices for:	1. Purchase Section, Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. 2. Cash Section, Meghna Petroleum Limited, 131, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.		
		DGM (Operations), Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong.		
8	Qualification of tenderer	Opening of tender documents		
		DGM (Operations), Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong.		
9	Special instruction	a. The bidder must be 1st Class Civil/Construction Contractor enlisted with govt/semi-government/autonomous bodies. b. The tenderer must have minimum 5 (five) years of general experience in Civil Construction Works as Prime Contractor. c. Interested contractor must have successfully completed construction/civil works of minimum Tk 90.00 (ninety) lac for Lot-01 & Tk 70.00 (seventy) lac for Lot-02 in a single order as a Prime Contractor in any government/semi-government/autonomous bodies including supply of all necessary men and materials within last 05 (five) years i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. d. Average annual construction turnover of Tk 200.00 (two hundred) lac for Lot-01 & Tk 150.00 (one hundred fifty) lac for Lot-02 during the period of last 03 (three) financial year. e. The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of the tenderer shall be Tk 100.00 (one hundred) lac for Lot-01 & Tk 70.00 (seventy) lac for Lot-02.		
		Offer must comprise the following documents, failing which the tender may be rejected as being incomplete:		
10	Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or part of any tender without showing any reason whatsoever.	i. The following documents must be submitted in the Technical Offer:		
		a. Letter of Technical Bid. b. Attested copy of work order along with satisfactory completion certificate of construction/civil works of minimum Tk 90.00 (ninety) lac for Lot-01 & Tk 70.00 (seventy) lac for Lot-02 in a single order as a Prime Contractor in any government/semi-government/autonomous bodies including supply of all necessary men and materials within last 05 (five) years i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. c. Enlistment certificate of 1st Class Civil/Construction Contractor from any govt/semi-government/autonomous bodies. d. Attested copy of up-to-date bank solvency certificate or credit facilities as specified in the tender schedule. e. Attested copy of Income Tax/TIN Certificate, up-to-date Trade License & VAT Registration Certificate. f. Original tender schedule duly sealed & signed by the person duly authorized to sign on behalf of the tenderer. g. Original copy of money receipt against purchase of tender documents. h. Earnest money as mentioned above & any other information/documents as specified in the tender schedule.		
Note				