



PROF AFTAB MURDER CASE Court rejects ex-BNP lawmaker's bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court rejected a bail petition filed by former BNP lawmaker Mofiqul Hasan Tripti in a case filed over the murder of Prof Aftab Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of National University.

The former lawyer was arrested by CID from his Banani residence on August 8. The next day, he was produced before a court with a 10-day remand prayer.

Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Fahd Bin Amin Chowdhury yesterday held a short hearing and kept a remand prayer in the file, but did not pass any order in this regard as a writ petition on the matter is pending with the High Court.

On May 29 last year HC granted an ad-interim bail to Mofiqul in this case and also directed law enforcement agencies not to arrest him without a warrant in this regard, his lawyer Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder said.

Yesterday he also produced the HC bail document to the court in support of his arguments.

The arrest of the former lawmaker on August 8 by CID was a violation of the HC order, the lawyer also argued demanding immediate release of the BNP leader.

On September 23, 2006, three unidentified youths shot Prof Aftab, a senior professor of political science at Dhaka University (DU), entering his Fuller Road residence on DU campus.

He was rushed to Samorita Hospital with two bullet wounds and later transferred to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), where he succumbed to his injuries four days later.

'Picked up' man found dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was found shot in Rangunia upazila of Chittagong yesterday, a day after he had allegedly been picked up.

Locals noticed the body of Altaf alias Kana Altaf, 40, in a bush beside a road, said his brother Sumayun Kabir Suman, a Jubo League leader.

Altaf was found riddled with three bullets, said Rangunia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Imtiaz Bhuiyan.

He was an accused in at least 11 criminal cases, said the OC.

Suman, president of Mariam Nagar union of Jubo League, claimed his brother was vice president of the local unit of Awami League.

Altaf was killed either by law enforcers or his rivals, he claimed.

OC Imtiaz, however, denied the allegations.

Samsul Alam Talukdar, acting general secretary of Rangunia upazila AL, said, 'Altaf claimed to be a Jubo League leader. But he was not holding any post in the union committee.'

Private university students hold a rally in front of Bangladesh National Museum yesterday, under the banner of "Students Against Repression", demanding release of 22 private university students and others who have been arrested during the recent movement demanding safe roads.

Multi-dimensional approach needed to counter terrorism

Experts say at conference

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for extensive research and effective peace-building measures to identify the root causes of terrorism in the country and take preventive actions.

They made the recommendation on the concluding day of a two-day long international conference, titled "Bangladesh in International Peace-building: Experience from Japan", held the Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BISS) in Dhaka.

They said Bangladesh needs to use the knowledge and experiences of other countries to effectively deal with the issue and suggested multi-dimensional approach to counter terrorism and extremism.

"Zero tolerance approach" has often been proven futile while multi-dimensional approach could be effective in countering terrorism at home and abroad, experts said, adding that involvement of civilians as well as armed forces is crucial in this process.

Taking part in the discussion, former Chief of General Staff (CGS) of Bangladesh Army Lt Gen Md Mainul Islam said that research is most important in eliminating extremism.

"It will be very difficult to solve the problem if we don't know why young people become demotivated and radicalised," he said, stressing the need for promoting researchers to carry out extensive studies on extremism and help policymakers.

He also suggested proper education, transparency of law enforcement

agencies and rehabilitation of radicalised youths to check extremism.

"Peace-building depends on honesty and commitment to the cause," said Director General of BISS Major General AKM Abdur Rahman.

Mentioning the remarkable success of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Sierra Leone and other parts of the world, he made three recommendations: Bangladesh should follow the Japan model of peace-building, train civilians to be involved in this process, and concentrate on job opportunities in the UN missions for civilians.

In the first session, Additional Police Commissioner and Chief of Counterterrorism and Transnational Crimes unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Md Monirul Islam, presented a

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require the formulation of rules under the act. Parents marry off their girl without registration and wait till she becomes 18 for registering the marriage. The girl in this case remains vulnerable without legal protection until her marriage is registered, Jina said.

Transparency should be ensured in birth registration, said Gita Rani Adhikary, senior programme officer of Oxfam. "If every childbirth is registered within 45 days [as per law], we will see the outcome after 18 years," said Saiful Alam, advocacy coordinator of Oxfam.

The government has to make separate arrangements like "safe homes" to shelter girls who face pressure from their families to get married early against their will. They often surrender to the pressure because they live with the families, Gita added.

NGOs and rights organisations have to work at the grassroots level to raise awareness, build community monitoring mechanism engaging youth groups and forge equal relationships between girls and boys, in parallel with working at the policy level to change the scenario, speakers observed.

Child marriage will not be eradicated overnight, but the civil society and rights activists should focus on rules formulation to lay the ground for implementation of the 2017 act, said Shaheen Anam, concluding the discussion.

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Accommodation for destitute

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Birangana Dulejannesa of Kushtia said she has been enduring hardship without a home to call her own and with no means to afford proper medical treatment, as the allowance from the government is insufficient.

"If the government provides us a home and ensures jobs for my sons, our lives would be easier," she said.

Biranganas Momeena Khatun, Masuda Khatoon and Elejannessa who gave testimonies before people's court that held a symbolic trial of Ghulam Azam in 1992, attended the programme. They narrated similar living conditions.

The guideline for recording testimonies was prepared on the basis of Dr Nayanika Mookherjee's book "The Spectral Wound: Sexual Violence, Public Memories, and the Bangladesh War of 1971". Mookherjee said in

Bangladesh no formal guidelines exist as a template for documenters to record the testimonies of Biranganas.

Given the Bangladeshi government's bold and novel initiative of giving pensions to all Biranganas, whose names are in the public realm and are part of the public gaze, it is important for the government to develop a national ethical guideline for those (researchers, human rights activists, filmmakers, photographers and journalists) documenting their testimonies, she added.

She requested the minister to bring the guideline under consideration of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and keep it on their website so that people can follow the guideline while documenting their testimonies.

Dr Meghna Guhathakurta, executive director of Research Initiatives Bangladesh, moderated the programme.

BMP taking steps to improve traffic management

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP) will ensure road safety and improve traffic management ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, the new Commissioner of BMP, Md. Moshrar Hossain told journalists yesterday.

"No transport on road or water will be allowed to move without proper documents, including fitness certificate, and without licensed drivers," he said.

"The recent movement for road safety has revealed our flaws and we will try to address those issues," the BMP commissioner added.

BMP police will also evict hawkers from footpaths to this end, he said.

"We also need cooperation of everyone, including journalists, for improved traffic management system," he added.

The BMP commissioner presided over the meeting and Additional Police Commissioner Md. Mahbubur Rahman spoke at the meeting at BMP conference room.

Nawshaba

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they added.

Nawshaba was detained from Uttara on August 4 for allegedly spreading rumours on social media about the student movement. Police said she did so to create anarchy and confuse people.

The next day she was placed on a four-day remand after police produced her before the court with a seven-day remand prayer. On August 10, she was again granted a fresh two-day remand for quizzing.

Won't allow unfit

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the vehicles.

The markets, selling sacrificial animals, will be provided with machines to detect fake bank notes and police will remain vigilant to prevent smuggling of animal raw hides, the IGP said.

Police chiefs in all districts have been put on alert to avert any disorderly situation during Eid congregations in their respective districts.

Regarding their preparations for National Mourning Day programmes on August 15, the IGP said there is no impending threat, but police have taken all precautionary measures anyway.

Last year, a suicide bomber was killed in an operation by law enforcers at a hotel on Panthapath near Bangabandhu Memorial on Road 32 in Dhanmondi. The militant had holed up in the hotel to launch an attack on the people gathered at the memorial to pay homage to Bangabandhu on the National Mourning Day, according to police.

IGP Javed said the areas surrounding the memorial will be under the vigilance of law enforcers this year as well.

Responding to a query about the current status of repatriating Bangabandhu's killers who fled the country, he said one of the fugitives is in Canada and another is in the US. The others, however, are constantly changing locations.

Interpol has been requested to help Bangladesh repatriate the killers of Bangabandhu, he added.

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