

MAJ GEN MANZUR MURDER Probe report due on March 28

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday gave Criminal Investigation Department time till March 28 to complete further probe and submit its report in connection with the Maj Gen Abul Manzur murder case.

Judge Prodig Kumar Roy of First Additional Sessions Judge's court of Dhaka passed the order following a petition filed by CID Special Superintendent Abdul Kahar Akond. With the latest petition, CID has sought time extension in the case for the 20th time.

Maj Gen Abul Manzur, commander of sector-8 during the Liberation War, was killed in Chattogram Cantonment on June 1, 1981, two days after the assassination of the then president Ziaur Rahman.

A case was filed by Abul Manzur's elder brother Abul Mansur Ahmed on February 28, 1995.

According to the charge-sheet, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, the then chief of army staff, has been named as the prime accused.

Boy found dead in abandoned house

*Police think he may have been
strangled after rape; prime
suspect on the run*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A schoolboy was found dead in Shiddhirganj area of Narayanganj yesterday, with law enforcers suspecting that the seven-year-old was strangled after rape.

Police recovered the body of 7-year old Tanjil Ahmed from an abandoned house, a day after he had reportedly gone missing.

A kindergarten student of Rasulbag Model School, Tanjil used to live with his parents in a rented house in Rasulbag area of Shiddhirganj, said police.

His father is a day labourer and mother garment worker. The couple used to leave their son with one Raju, 30, a caretaker of their landlord, Shiddhirganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shahin Parvez quoted the victim's father Anwar Hossain as saying.

His parents did the same while going to their workplaces on Wednesday morning, said the OC.

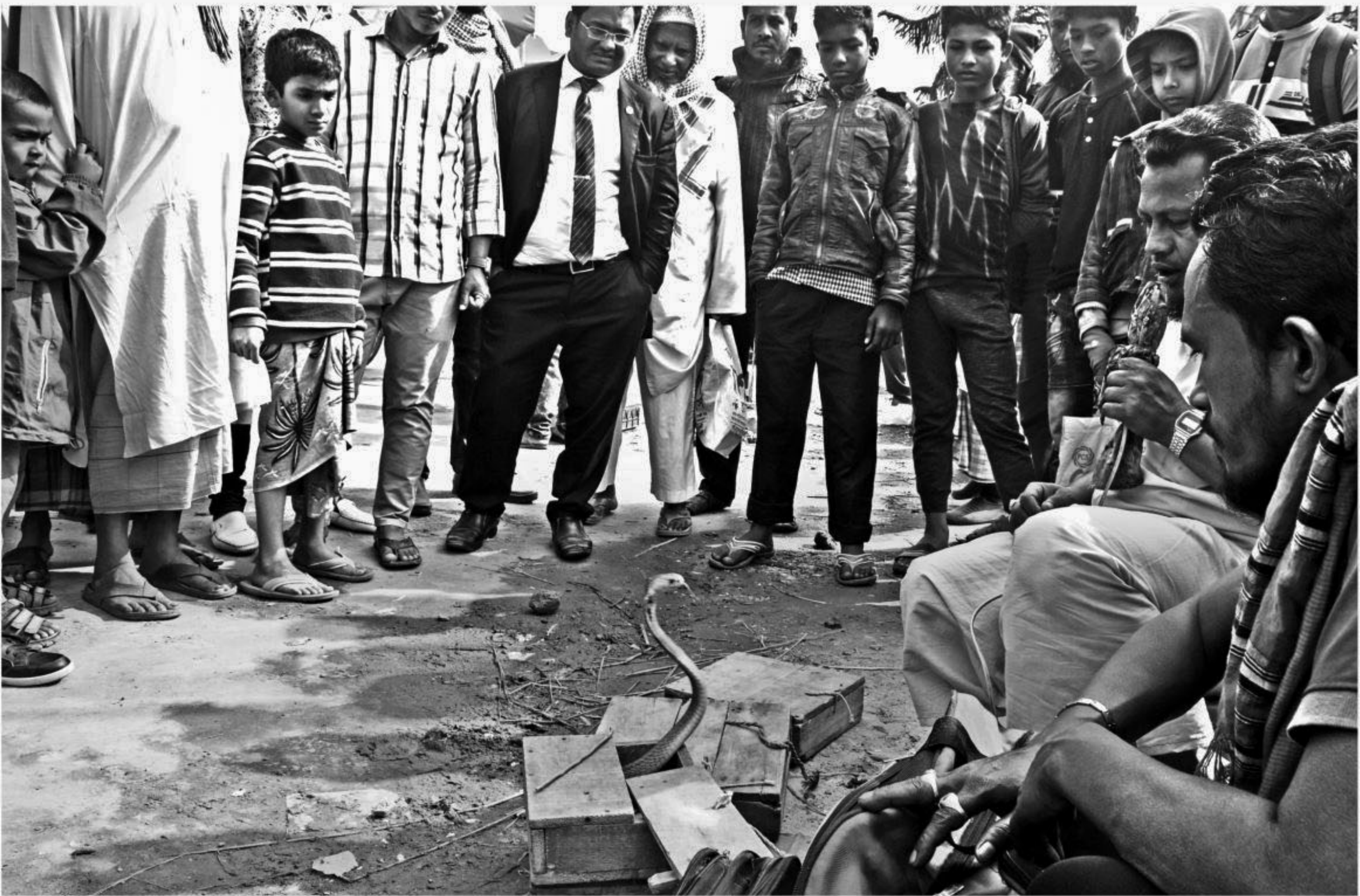
On return, the couple did not find their son or Raju, said the police officer.

Police rushed to the spot yesterday after Tanjil's father went to the police station to file a general diary (GD).

The law enforcers found the body in an abandoned house, near the victim's residence. Raju could not be found in the area, the OC said, adding that they suspect he might be responsible for the death, and are trying to arrest him.

The body was sent for autopsy. Reasons behind the death will be known after the post mortem, he said.

Filing of a case was underway until filing of this report.



Though the Bede (gypsy) community's snake charming acts are still considered a part of rural traditions, the Cruelty to Animals Act lists the possession of an animal being subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering as an offence. Snake charmers often mutilate the animals by extracting their fangs. The photo was taken at Fazlul Haque Avenue in Barishal city.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Over half of Rajshahi brick kilns illegal

ACC finds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 1,144 out of the 2,000 brick kilns in Rajshahi division are running without environmental approval, anti-graft officials found yesterday.

A three-member team of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) led by local deputy director Md Anwarul Haq conducted a drive at Rajshahi divisional office of the Department of Environment (DoE) in Bogura, and found 11 out of total 20 environment officials absent from work.

The anti-graft officials conducted the drive after local businessman including brick kiln owners complained of bribery and harassment by DoE officials while obtaining environmental clearances.

"Corruption related to environmental clearance undermines environmental governance and it would be prevented firmly," said Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, ACC director general and lead coordinator of the enforcement drive.

3 accused remanded

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took over the cases from Moglabazar Police Station and started investigation from May 13.

Additional SP Saroar Zahan said, "So far there is no visible progress of the cases but we are hopeful to get something during the remand of the trio."

Arrested Jahurul Haque is brother of killed militant Monjiara Begum Alias Morjina Begum, he said.

Jahurul and his wife Arjina were arrested in a case filed for Sitakunda anti-militant drive while Hasan in an accused arrestee of Chandina and Mirsarai anti-militant drive cases, said the additional SP.

Traffic guidelines

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They will park their buses in Gulistan area.

The road from Shahbagh to Matsya Bhaban will be off-limits to general people and traffic will be regulated around Suhrawardy Udyan.

Diversions may be implemented for the movement of prime minister and other dignitaries from the morning till the end of the programme at various intersections like Banglamotor, Shahbagh, Katabon, Nilkhet, Palashi, and some others.

Judiciary has seen

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the "irregularities and graft" in the judiciary.

"The media can find out if there is any," he said while talking to journalists after the High Court rejected a writ filed challenging the oath-taking of the newly elected lawmakers.

He also said most judges of the High Court and lower court are honest, sincere and loyal to the law. "However, there is an opposite situation also."

On February 4 last year, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam had said that the "judiciary has seen degradation" over the years with large number of staffers becoming involved in corruption.

EVICTING HAWKERS FROM FOOTPATHS

No probe report, a year after attack on N'ganj Mayor Ivy

SANAD SAHA, N'ganj

One year has passed since the attack on Narayanganj city Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy over evicting illegal hawkers from footpaths, but the committee formed to investigate it yet to submit its report.

Moreover, there is no certainty when it might be completed as a member of the committee has been transferred.

A three-member probe body, which was formed on January 17, 2018, a day after the attack, was supposed to submit a report within seven working days. The deadline has been deferred four times.

The committee's chief, Narayanganj Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Jasim Uddin Haider said it is uncertain when they would be able to submit the probe report.

Other committee members were: then additional superintendent of police of the district Mostafizur Rahman, and Rab-11 assistant director (ASP) Babul Akhter.

"When we were at the final stage of the investigation, Mustafizur Rahman was promoted to SP and transferred to another district. It has slowed down our investigation process," said Jasim Uddin.

"Nothing can be said about submission of the probe report until the committee is reconstituted," he told The Daily Star.

Replying to a question, he said the deputy commissioner (DC) of the district has the jurisdiction to reform the probe committee.

However, this correspondent could not

reach DC Rabbi Miah despite repeated attempts. He did not even respond to an SMS sent by the reporter.

On December 25, 2017, the city corporation launched a drive to clear the footpaths.

Soon afterwards, the hawkers started a continuous movement to persuade the city corporation to reconsider the decision. But, Ivy said she would not bow down to the demand as "footpaths belong to people".

But Lawmaker Shamim Osman took a stance against the mayor's decision. Things took a violent turn on January 16 during Ivy's procession to free the footpaths. Osman's supporters attacked Ivy and her followers, leading to a clash on Bangabandhu Road in the city's Chashara area.

The entire area turned into a battlefield. During the skirmish, Ivy and around 50 others were injured.

After the clash, the footpaths remained free from hawkers due to vigorous drives by law enforcers for the next couple of months. But later, hawkers started sitting on footpaths due to relaxation of action.

Contacted, Superintendent of Police in Narayanganj Harun-ur-Rashid said, "The Chashara intersection has already been freed from hawkers. Other footpaths will also be cleared in phases. People will walk on the pavements. These cannot be occupied by hawkers. We will maintain zero tolerance policy on this matter."

When contacted, Mayor Ivy refused to comment over the issue.

Citizens' dialogue

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Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir -- in the meeting, he said, "I talked to Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir. He couldn't turn up as he is ill... Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan and Gayeshwar Chandra Roy were supposed to attend the meeting. But they got stuck elsewhere. We'll be together in the next meeting."

Asked about joining dialogue with PM Sheikh Hasina, Gono Forum leader Mostafa Mohsin Montu said, "Which prime minister? We do not acknowledge the election."

Asked whether there is any difference in the coalition over the Jamaat issue, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said Jamaat is not an issue. "Vote robbery on December 29 in the December 30 election is now a big issue to us. Jamaat was never with us and isn't now."

GonoForum's Executive President Subrata Chowdhury and Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury were, present at the meeting, among others, with Oikyafront Convener Dr Kamal Hossain in the chair.

SC decision stuck

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He said it was the Appellate Division of the SC that had the sole authority to include the appeals in its cause list for hearing and disposal. "It cannot be specifically said when the Appellate Division will include the appeals in the cause list," DAG Sazu said, adding that executive magistrates could run mobile courts until the appeals were disposed of.

He further said the attorney general's office had already prepared the concise statements (points on which lawyers place arguments before court) for the government, and would place them before the SC after declaration of a date.

The office would take steps to prompt the Appellate Division to fix a date soon, he added.

68 Ctg female AL leaders

FROM PAGE 5

Wasika said it would be a great opportunity for her if she could work with the prime minister. "As a lawmaker, I have worked for the people in the last five years," she said, adding, "I hope that the honourable prime minister would give me nomination once again considering my contribution."



Fire service personnel in operation to rescue injured persons from an overturned bus that skidded off Tangail-Mymensingh road in Kalihati area yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Seven killed, 44 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least seven persons were killed and 44 others injured in separate road accidents in the last two days.

In Manikganj, a child was killed as brick-laden truck ran him over in Madhurchar area in Singair upazila yesterday, police said.

The deceased was identified as Md Rabbi Mia, 10, son of Md Sirajul Islam of Wajinagar-Chawkbari village, said Officer-in-Charge of Singair Police Station Khandakar Imam Hossain.

The accident took place around 4:00pm when the truck ran over Rabbi killing him on the spot, OC said, quoting eyewitnesses.

The driver of the truck was detained and the vehicle was seized, the OC said, adding filing of a case is underway.

In Cumilla, two persons were killed and four others injured when a bus and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided

head-on in Laksham upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Idrish Mia, 50, and Md Alam, 32, said Mustafa Kamal, sub-inspector of Laksham Highway Police outpost.

The accident occurred when the vehicles collided head-on at Chandona Bazar area of the upazila, leaving two dead and four injured.

The injured were taken to a local hospital. No further details were known.

In Tangail, two unidentified persons were killed and 25 others injured as a bus fell into a ditch on Tangail-Mymensingh road in Kalihati upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The accident took place around 12:30pm when the driver of the Mymensingh-bound bus of Prantik Paribahan lost control over the vehicle while overtaking another vehicle, said Mosharaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of

Kalihati Police Station.

On information, Fire Service and Civil Defence personnel rushed to the spot, rescued the injured and sent them to local hospitals. Of them, conditions of seven people are critical, he added.

Meanwhile in Noakhali, two unidentified persons were killed and 15 others injured as a bus plunged into a ditch on Choumuhoni-Feni road in Begumganj upazila on Wednesday night, UNB reports.

The accident took place around 10:00pm when one of the tyres of a Feni-bound bus of Sugandha Paribahan got punctured and the vehicle plunged into a roadside ditch, leaving two dead on the spot and 15 others injured, said Firoz Alam Molla, officer-in-charge of Begumganj Police Station.

The injured were taken to a local hospital. No further details were known immediately.

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