

KOTALIPARA BOMB PLOT

HC close to verdict

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The sensational case filed for attempting to kill Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina by planting a 76kg bomb at Kotalipara in 2000 may finally be disposed of at the High Court soon.

The HC bench concerned is about to conclude hearings on the death reference and appeals filed by the convicted accused. It has already heard arguments from both sides for 16 days -- five days last year and 11 days this year.

The death reference means the case dockets that have to be sent to the HC in seven days after a trial court sentences any person to death.

The bench will now hear arguments from Attorney General Mahbubey Alam on a legal point whether prime accused Mufti Hannan's confessional statement will be accepted or not, Deputy Attorney General KM Zahid Sarwar Kazal said earlier this month.

The question arises as Hannan has already been executed in another case.

The bench comprising Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Riaz Uddin Khan may hear the attorney general's

arguments when the court reopens after the ongoing vacation on June 16.

And then it may deliver the verdict on the appeals and death reference, the deputy attorney general told this correspondent. "Hopefully, the High Court will deliver the verdict within a month of two," he added.

The 76kg bomb was recovered at Sheikh Lutfor Rahman Ideal College of Kotalipara in Gopalganj on July 21, 2000. Hasina was supposed to address a rally there the next day.

The then sub-inspector Nur Hossain of Kotalipara Police Station filed the case under the Explosive Substances Act following the incident.

Criminal Investigation Department submitted the charge sheet against Mufti Hannan and 24 others on April 8, 2001, showing 83 people as prosecution witnesses.

Gopalganj District and Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against the 25 accused on July 2 the same year.

The Gopalganj court recorded statements of 40 prosecution witnesses, including complainant of the case. The case was then shifted to the Speedy Trial Tribunal for quick disposal.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Awami League leaders greet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban yesterday on the occasion of 11th anniversary of her release from prison. On this day in 2008, Hasina was released from the special sub-jail set up on the premises of Jatiya Sangsad building, after remaining captive there for nearly 11 months. The Awami League president was arrested from her Sudha Sadan residence in Dhanmondi on July 16, 2007 during the military-backed caretaker government, which assumed power in the political changeover of 1/11 that year.

PHOTO: PID

TORTURED BY HUSBAND

Woman dies from self-inflicted burns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife succumbed to her injuries yesterday, four days after she set herself on fire after being tortured by her husband.

Jesmin Akhter, 38, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit around 8:30am. According to her family and hospital sources, she had 65 percent burns.

According to Jesmin's brother, her husband Sirajul Islam had physically abused her on June 6 as she could not arrange Tk 2 lakh for him, which he had demanded. "She set herself afire with kerosene in front of family members at Salamatia of Munshiganj's Srinagar upazila the next day," the victim's brother said.

Jesmin was married off to Singapore expatriate Sirajul Islam in 1996 at the age of 15. Sirajul returned to Bangladesh two years after the wedding. Since then he remained unemployed and frequently demanded money from Jesmin's family, the victim's brother said. "She was often beaten by Sirajul for money," her brother alleged.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Srinagar Police Station Eunus Ali said the victim's brother has filed a case accusing Sirajul, and police are investigating.

Chhatra Dal faction locks BNP central office

Demands no age ceiling in committees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting the age limit in BNP's charter, a faction of Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal (JCD) locked the party's central office in Nayapaltan yesterday.

Around 11am, several hundred leaders and activists of the recently-dissolved JCD central committee gathered in front of the party office and started demonstrating, according to witnesses. At one stage, members of the pro-BNP student organisation locked the main gate and continued their agitation.

Protesters chanted slogans, seeking cancellation of the age cap, and also demanded that the decision to dissolve the committee be annulled.

They said they wanted BNP to form a short-term JCD committee, without any age ceiling.

The JCD faction continued their demonstration till filing of this report at 8pm.

The previous committee of Chhatra Dal was annulled on June 3 through a press

release signed by BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rzivi. The release also added that in order to be included in the Chhatra Dal committee, a candidate must pass SSC or equivalent examination after 2000.

The protesting JCD leaders and activists claimed that such a decision was taken to bring forth "favourite candidates of the syndicate".

Meanwhile, when some former JCD leaders, including Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Amanullah Aman, Fazlul Haq Milon, Shaheeduddin Chowdhury Annie, ABM Mosharraf Hossain and Shaiful Bari Babu went to the spot, protesters locked in an argument with them and barred them from entering.

Rzivi and some other BNP leaders were inside the office.

The JCD committee was formed in 2014 with 153 members, including Rajib Ahsan as president and Akramul Hasan as general secretary. A full-fledged committee was formed later, which also created discontent among JCD activists.

Former MP's son killed in Dhaka accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A second year student of a private university was killed in a road accident in the city early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Akib Ahmed Reza, 23, son of Reza Ahmed Bachchu Mollah.

Akib was a BBA second year student at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh in Dhaka. His father Reza Ahmed is a former lawmaker of Kushtia-1 and also current president of BNP's Daulatpur upazila unit.

The accident happened when a truck hit a motorbike Akib was riding at about 6:30am.

Sohel Reza, uncle of the victim, told this newspaper that Akib came home before Eid. After celebrating Eid with family, he returned to Dhaka early yesterday on a night coach.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Quader urges Oikyafront to play responsible role

BSS, Dhaka

The government, he said, is not under international pressure for the release of Begum Khaleda Zia though BNP "always lobbies with the international community for the release of its convicted leader".

Responding to the remarks of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir over Khaleda Zia's treatment, Quader said although doctors do not have any concern over her health, BNP is now trying to "do politics over the issue".

AL joint general secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak; Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal; Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Atiquil Islam; Dhaka South Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon; AL organising secretaries AFM Bahauddin Nasim, BM Mozammel Haque, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury and Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel; office secretary Dr Abdus Sobhan Golap; and relief and social welfare secretary Sujit Roy Nandi were present at the meeting, among others.

DIG MIZAN-BASIR BRIBERY SCANDAL

TIB demands exemplary punishment for both

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has demanded exemplary punishment for Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) Director Khandaker Enamul Basir and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Mizanur Rahman who have been accused of taking and giving bribe respectively. Demanding speedy trial of the accused, the organisation said in a press release that this is not an isolated incident, rather an institutional responsibility of ACC.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman has termed the involvement of a section of ACC officials in corruption as an "age-old problem," saying that despite multiple initiatives from ACC's current chairman to curb corruption in the organisation, the efforts have gone in vain.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

ANISUR RAHMAN

While the country pins hope on its cricketers to bring glory at the ongoing Cricket World Cup, this broken arm of a statue of cricketers in national colours is a rather ironical eyesore. The photo was taken from Banani intersection of Airport Road yesterday.

MPO INCLUSION Edu minister snubs MP's demand at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the press release, Iftekharuzzaman says, "In light of these allegations, it would be impossible to restore people's trust in ACC unless they conduct rectifying drives and ensure exemplary punishment."

Mizan, who is facing a probe by ACC over amassing wealth illegally, has recently brought an allegation against Basir that the latter took Tk 40 lakh as bribe with the false promise of exonerating him (Mizan) of all charges.

Following the allegation, ACC, on Monday, suspended Basir and began an enquiry into the allegation. Yesterday, Basir denied the allegations against him at a press conference in ACC headquarter at the capital's Segunbagicha area.

TIB Executive Director also said that ACC must finish the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

UDAN

INTRODUCING DAILY DIRECT RETURN FLIGHT FROM DHAKA TO GUWAHATI.

Dhaka-Guwahati-Dhaka flight will operate under the UDAN scheme.

FLIGHT*	DEP.	ARR.	FARE#
Dhaka - Guwahati	14:10	14:35	₹4432
Guwahati - Dhaka	11:55	13:20	₹3355

*Starting from 1st July, 2019.

ENJOY THE ALL-NEW SPICEMAX EXPERIENCE STARTING @ ₹1199**

ERGONOMIC SEAT
WITH EXTRA
LEGROOM

COMPLIMENTARY MEAL
WITH BEVERAGE

PRIORITY SERVICES
(CHECK-IN, BOARDING,
BAGGAGE DELIVERY)

WELCOME
DRINK AND
REFRESHING TOWEL

**Prices are subject to revision.

For bookings, log on to www.spicejet.com or call +91 9871803333.

*Flight schedule is subject to regulatory approvals and changes. *Fares are inclusive of all taxes. **T&C apply.