

PHOTO OF THE DAY

ANISUR RAHMAN



Youths saunter on a rail track, even though trains pass through here at regular intervals. This photo was taken recently at Tongi.

BARGUNA MURDER CASE  
Minor among two accused refused bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to two accused, including a minor, in the Rifat Sharif murder case in Barguna.

Rafiul Islam Rabbi and the 14-year-old accused are now in jail in connection with the case.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice SM Mozibur Rahman also dropped their bail petitions from its hearing list.

The bench passed the order as Deputy Attorney General Dr Md Bashir Ullah vehemently opposed their bail petitions saying that the accused have given confessional statements to the magistrate and therefore, they cannot be granted bail in such a sensational murder case.

Advocate Jahangir Kabir and Advocate Md Sagir Hossain appeared for the accused. The duo submitted two separate bail petitions to the HC through their lawyers last week.

On August 29, the HC granted bail to Rifat's wife Ayesha Siddika Minni in the case on conditions that she cannot talk to the media and will remain in her father's custody.

If Minni breaches the conditions, her bail will be

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EC starts enlisting Bangladeshi expatriates in voter list

Online registration begins in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday started the process of registration of expatriate Bangladeshis to enlist them into voter list and provide them with National Identity Cards.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda inaugurated online registration process for expatriates in Malaysia through a video conference from Nirbachon Bhaban.

"Please be careful while applying. We will not accept applications with mistakes," KM Nurul Huda said at the programme.

He also urged Bangladeshi expatriates not to take any help from brokers while filing the applications.

Process of enlisting expatriates into the voters' list cannot begin in

absence of certain facilities, Election Commissioner Mahub Talukdar said. He said, the relation between expatriates and the country will be stronger after their enlistment to voters list.

Election commissioners Rafiqul Islam, Kabita Khanam and Brigadier General Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury; EC senior secretary Md Alamgir; NID Wing director general Brigadier General Mohammad Sidul Islam and other top officials attended the programme.

Commissioners said the eligible expatriates would be able to register their information through an online web portal. Then the commission would assess the information before taking photos and fingerprints to enlist

them into the list.

The EC's technical team would go there to collect the biometric information from the eligible expatriates, according to sources.

NID Wing sources said they have taken the steps keeping in mind some problems faced by expatriate Bangladeshis.

They face trouble buying land and property, opening bank accounts, and obtaining driving licence after returning to Bangladesh.

EC will expand the process to other countries including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and United Kingdom later.

There are about 1.16 crore Bangladeshi expatriates in different countries.

10 doctors for 87,000 prisoners: IG prisons

16 of 20 govt-appointed doctors did not join duty, says report to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The office of Inspector General of Prisons yesterday submitted a report to the High Court, saying there are only 10 physicians for providing treatment to around 87,000 prisoners at 68 prisons across the country.

The report also said 131 posts of doctors are now vacant. The prisons have capacity to accommodate 40,664 prisoners, whereas the number was 86,998 till August 27.

The government last year appointed 20 doctors on deputation for the prisons, but only four of them have joined, said IG Prisons Brig Gen AKM Mostafa Kamal Pasha in the report, which was submitted through Deputy Attorney General Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashar in line with the High Court's June 23 order.

The HC issued the order following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Advocate Md JR Khan Robin on February 18, seeking necessary order for recruiting physicians.

During yesterday's hearing, the HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader asked the deputy attorney general to inform the court on Monday why 16 doctors, out of 20, have not joined the post.

The bench also set Monday for further hearing on the petition. Barrister KM Mahbubuddin Khokon and Advocate Shammi Akhter appeared for the petitioner.

While hearing the same petition, the HC on June 23 had asked the IG prisons to submit a report before this court, containing the number of prisoners, doctors as well as the vacant posts of physicians at jail hospitals.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why their inaction in ensuring living and treatment facilities for prisoners in jails should not be declared illegal.

DB arrests 'arms smuggler' from Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective branch (DB) of police yesterday claimed to have arrested a member of an organised syndicate that is involved in selling firearms in the grey market, after smuggling those from India.

The transnational syndicate have at least four members in Bangladesh -- including a local public representative of a bordering district -- and two members in Indian part, Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner of DB (north) told The Daily Star.

The arrestee was identified as Hafizur Rahman. Police arrested him in front of Korea Technical Training Centre in the capital's Mirpur, and seized four firearms and 17 rounds of bullets from his possession, said the DC.

Hafizur was supposed to deliver the arms to a person in Dhaka but law enforcers arrested him before the deal was completed, said police.

In primary interrogation, Hafizur admitted to his involvement in arms trade

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DHAKA TODAY

REPORT LAUNCHING

Choked by Coal: The Carbon Catastrophe in Bangladesh  
Organiser: Transparency International Bangladesh  
Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Segunbagicha  
Time: 11am

DISCUSSION

2019 Nobel in Economics  
Organiser: Department of Economics and Social Sciences, Brac  
Venue: Brac University, Mohakhali  
Time: 2pm

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

On Violence Against Children  
Organiser: Amrao Pari  
Venue: University of Dhaka  
Time: 10am

FESTIVAL

Science Film Festival  
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh  
Time: 5pm

MUSIC

Make Some Noise  
Venue: EMK Center  
Time: 6:30pm

TALK

Future in the Bay of Bengal  
Organiser: US Embassy  
Venue: The American Center, Baridhara  
Time: 2pm



Academics, alumni protest Chhatra League attack at JU



Former students of Jahangirnagar University yesterday protested BCL attack at the university's campus and demanded the VC's resignation. The photo was taken in front of National Museum in Shahbagh. PHOTO: COLLECTED

DU CORRESPONDENT

Protest and condemnations poured in to the streets of Dhaka University yesterday, over the BCL attack on protesting students, teachers and journalists at Jahangirnagar University.

At a protest rally in front of National Museum in the capital, teachers, former JU students, journalists and activists of different left-leaning student organisations demanded punishment of culpable BCL men and removal of JU Vice-Chancellor Professor Farzana Islam.

Addressing the rally, Prof Anu Muhammad of JU economics department, alleged that vice-chancellors and Chhatra League together in different university campuses established a corrupted, anti-education environment.

Prof Anu Muhammad, also the member secretary of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports said, "General students spontaneously

joined the protest as they know that BCL, who are now protecting the vice-chancellor, established torture cells at the dormitories. So if the VC is protected, the torture cells will become more powerful."

The JU teacher urged people to stand by JU protesters.

Associate Professor of international relations at Dhaka University, Tanzimuddin Khan said teachers who performed their duties properly and stood against corruption fell victims to frequent attacks.

If teachers do not stand against such attacks and raise their voices against wrongdoings, they would be attacked again, Tanzimuddin Khan added.

Former JU student and eminent journalist Faruk Wasif said that teachers like Prof Sayeed Ferdous of anthropology and Raihan Rhyne of philosophy department -- who have remarkable academic records in their own fields -- also became victims of

the attack, which was unfortunate.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra Union brought out a protest rally at DU campus yesterday protesting the attack, while Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Socialist Students Front and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal's student wing in separate statements demanded punishment of the attackers.

A group of DU students led by DU Central Students' Union's Vice President Nurul Huq Nur also brought out a protest rally on campus.

POLICE FOIL DEMO AT RU

Meanwhile, police in Rajshahi yesterday evening dispersed students at Rajshahi University, when they tried to block the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway protesting BCL's attack on students and teachers at JU, reports our RU correspondent.

Four students, who were injured in a scuffle that broke out with police, took primary treatment at the university's medical centre.

INCREASING EFFICIENCY  
ACC seeks US support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has sought cooperation from the US to increase efficiency of its investigation officers.

"Skilled officials of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) could train our officials," said ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday at a meeting with a three-member delegation of the US Justice and State departments.

Resident Legal Advisor of US Department of Justice Eric Opanga accompanied by two representatives from US Department of State met the ACC chairman at the latter's office in Dhaka's Segunbagicha, said an ACC press release.

The delegates asked the ACC chairman whether accused are getting acquittal in 30 percent graft cases due to weak prosecution.

In reply, Mahmood said

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Dhaka Lit Fest opens Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ninth edition of Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF) will be held at Bangla Academy in the capital from November 7 to 9, organisers announced at a press conference yesterday.

Over 200 local and international literary figures, performers and intellectuals from five continents will attend the three-day literary festival with over 100 sessions, Sadaf Saaz, a director of Dhaka Lit Fest, told the press briefing at Jatiya Press Club.

All the events are open to public.

Supported by the cultural affairs ministry, the festival puts a focus on bringing together western and South Asian writers and intellectuals.

This year's line-up features award-

winning author and Booker prize finalist Monica Ali, iconic author of Bangla literature Sankar, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Jeffrey Gittleman, historian William Dalrymple, writer Shashi Tharoor and DSC Prize-winning writer HM Nagvi.

Other big names at this year's DLF include poet Tishani Doshi, author Swapnamoy Chakraborty, poet and journalist Mridul Dasgupta, Syed Manzoorul Islam, Imdadul Haq Milan, Kaiser Haq and Shaheen Akhtar, among others.

One of the highlights of this year will be a screening of "Hasina: A Daughter's Tale".

Like previous years, the festival will feature a number of panel sessions dedicated to freedom of expression and

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Organisers at yesterday's press conference.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Four 'Neo JMB' members arrested from Ramna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit yesterday claimed to have arrested four members of the militant group "Neo-JMB" from the capital's Ramna area.

The arrestees were identified as Arif Mollah (28), Ilias Hossain alias Mithu (28), Md Forhad Ali alias Fuad (31) and Muntasim Billah alias Sabbir (21).

On information, a CTTC team arrested the four in front of Matsya Bhaban around 5:45pm on Sunday with cell phones and books on extremist ideology, Saiful Islam, deputy commissioner of CTTC unit, told The Daily Star yesterday.

During interrogation, the arrestees admitted that they were active members of the banned militant group. In July last year, the arrestees recorded a video on the bank of Nagor river in Sanjaypur village under Bogura district to post in so-called Islamic State (IS) media, said Saiful Islam.

Rakibul Islam Ruhul alias Artagrul, the outfit's commander in Narsingdi and Narayanganj districts, allegedly led the arrestees in recording the video, he said.

Rakibul was arrested by CTTC unit on November 11 last year from the capital's Jatrabari.

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WORKERS PARTY OF BANGLADESH  
Menon, Badsha elected president, general secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amidst a boycott by six dissident central leaders and two politburo members, the four-day 10th national congress of Workers Party of Bangladesh concluded yesterday. Rashed Khan Menon and Fazle Hossain Badsha were once again elected the party's president and general secretary respectively.

The proposal for a new 91-member committee, including the president and



Menon Badsha

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