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Two decades gone by, yet no closure

Death reference, appeals in Ramna Batamul attack stuck in legal tangles

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Twenty years on from the 2001 Ramna Batamul bomb blasts which killed ten people at Pahela Baishakh celebrations, justice is yet to be delivered to the family members of the victims as the appeals and death reference in connection with the carnage case are still pending with the High Court.

Legal tangles continue to cause delays in the hearing and disposal of appeals filed by the convicts and the death reference of the case at the HC for nearly seven years, as two separate HC benches have refused to deal with them for different reasons.

Besides, the attorney general's office has not extensively taken any move for their expeditious hearings, considering that an expected judgment may not come from the HC as there are serious weaknesses in the investigation and lack of evidence and documents, say court sources.

The HC bench led by Justice Krishna Debnath and ASM Abdul Mobin is scheduled to hold hearing on the death reference and appeals of the case on May 30.

Contacted recently, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin could not specify how much time will be needed for hearing and disposing of the Ramna Batamul carnage case.

"I cannot say when the High Court can finish hearing and disposal of the [Ramna Batamul carnage] case. The

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Halima, an entrepreneur who sells locally-produced bracelets and bangles in the Dhaka University area, faces financial loss ahead of events like Pahela Baishakh due to the nationwide lockdown that has been imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus. She said she had a loan of Tk 120,000 that could not be returned because her earnings have dropped.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Resume int'l flights, help migrants

Recruiting agencies, travel agents urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saying that around 20,000 to 25,000 expatriate workers will face uncertainty about reaching their workplaces abroad, Baira and Atab yesterday demanded to keep international flight operation out of the purview of weeklong lockdown begins from this morning.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) and Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (Atab) made the demand at separate press conferences at the capital's DRU.

Both the organisations said that the weeklong ban on international flights to and from Bangladesh would cause many workers' visas to expire.

Leaders of Baira and Atab also said that respective employers would also cancel visa permits of many Bangladeshi workers if they fail to reach their workplaces abroad due to suspension of international flights.

Following the government guidance and instruction, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) on April 11 announced to suspend the operation of all international passenger flights to and from Bangladesh from April 14 to April 20 in a bid to contain Covid-19 infection.

However, medevac, humanitarian, relief, cargo, technical landing (for refueling only), and the flights cleared under special consideration will remain

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DNA report identifies a man as female

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Sirajganj police in October 2019 had recovered the decomposed body in Sadar thana area.

After an autopsy, DNA samples from the body that police had identified as being that of a man were sent to the CID forensic lab in Dhaka.

Results of DNA testing showed that the victim was a woman. Police are yet to identify the victim as they cannot make any progress in the investigation of the unnatural death case due to the incorrect test report.

Sirajganj police said they could not complete probes into four unnatural death cases in the last one year due to DNA reports which conflicted with the case statements.

Police blamed flaws in collection of DNA samples from the bodies by Sirajganj Bongamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib General Hospital for the errors in DNA reports.

Dipak Kumar Ghosh, officer-in-charge of Ullapara Police Station, said police recovered a decomposed body from Sarbil area of Ullapara on July 11 last year. Examining the dress of the victim and other evidence, police found that

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh cabinet approves 7-point plan

APRIL 14, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CABINET MEETING HELD
The first cabinet meeting of the provincial government of Bangladesh today laid down a seven-point programme for smooth functioning of the administration as far as practicable under the prevailing situation.

The cabinet meeting was attended by Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, Khondkar Mushtaque Ahmed, Kamarujjaman and Yusuf Ali.

The points laid out in the programme are:
1. Endeavour to keep liberated areas free from any attack.
2. Run the civil administration in the liberated areas in right manner by picking up development work, particularly the productive aspect, both in agricultural and industrial fields.
3. Try to resume normal

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flow of life, run school, offices and other commercial establishments such as bank.

4. Continue the fight with the enemy in the occupied areas with stepped up vigour.

5. Opening foreign trade with some neighbouring friendly countries immediately.

6. In the absence of gold standard, the trade will be run in some sort of barter system.

7. The government is already into negotiations with some neighbouring friendly countries for starting barter system. [Hindustan Standard, April 15, 1971]

REORGANISATION OF LIBERATION FORCES

Top Hefajat leader resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maulana Abdullah Mohammad Hasan, a nayeb-e-ameer of Hefajat-e-Islam, has resigned from the Qawmi madrasa-based organisation, alleging that the Islamist group has turned into a platform that materialises personal agendas of some controversial Hefajat leaders.

He came up with the announcement at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

"As far as I understand, the death of Hefajat Ameer Shah Ahmad Shafi has created a crisis of competent leadership in the organisation," he said.

"People with different opinions and ideologies have intruded into Hefajat and they are tactfully trying to make Hefajat hit the streets to materialise their personal gains.

"They, to a large extent, have become successful in bringing Hefajat under their control, defying

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Camel traffic lights introduced in China



CNN ONLINE

Officials in northern China have inaugurated what they say is the world's first traffic signal for camels.

The signal came into operation on Sunday in an area popular with tourists near Dunhuang City, Gansu province, Chinese state media outlet ECNS reported Monday.

Camel-riding tours are a big attraction for visitors to the area, according to ECNS.

But visitors to the Mingsha Mountain and Crescent Spring will now be safe from camel collisions, thanks to the new traffic signal, which turns green to let the animals cross and red to make them stop.

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 14

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:15 12:45 4:45 6:23 7:45
JAMAAT 4:25 1:15 5:00 6:33 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN APRIL SEHRI IFTAR

1	14	6:23
2	15	4:14 6:24
3	16	4:13 6:24

Shipbreaking yard foreman dies in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A foreman of a shipyard died after a piece of iron sheet fell on him in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila on Monday.

His fellow workers alleged that the shipyard authorities did not take quick steps to hospitalise him, leading to his death.

The victim, Aatur Rahman, joined RA Shipbreaking Yard 10 days ago. Aatur was injured at the yard when an iron plate fell on him around 7:00pm on Monday.

According to a High Court order in 2011, shipbreaking work is prohibited at night.

Aatur and three others were dismantling MT Gagason Johor, a chemical tanker, which used to sail under the flag of Bhutan. This 118-metre long ship, which was built by China in 2009, weighs around 7,600 tonnes.

Other workers told The Daily Star that when Aatur was standing beside the ship to oversee the work

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Mainuddin Talukdar, a 60-year-old Covid-19 patient, holding his son's hand while waiting in an ambulance at the gate of Dhaka Medical College Hospital before he got admitted there yesterday. He had been admitted to a private clinic in the capital with other complications before he tested positive for the virus.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

India fast-tracks approval for foreign vaccines

US to pause J&J jab; study says UK variant not as severe as feared

AGENCIES

India yesterday said it will fast-track emergency approvals for Covid-19 vaccines that have been authorised by Western countries and Japan, paving the way for possible imports of Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and Moderna shots.

Meanwhile, US health authorities yesterday recommended a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine over blood clot fears, as surging coronavirus cases in many parts of the world overshadowed the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The Indian move, which will drop the need for companies to do small, local safety trials for their vaccines before seeking emergency approval, came following the world's biggest surge in cases in the country this month.

Vaccines authorised by the World Health Organization or authorities in the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom and Japan "may be granted emergency use approval in India, mandating the requirement of post-approval parallel bridging clinical trial", the health ministry said in a statement.

"The first 100 beneficiaries of such foreign vaccines shall be assessed for seven days for safety outcomes before they are rolled out," it said.

India, the world's biggest maker of vaccines, has so far administered more than 106 million doses of Covid-19 shots, but many states are now running short of supplies as inoculations expand due to surging cases.

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