



6-MONTH-OLD CASE Tuku, 6 others placed on 4-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Jubo Dal President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku and six others on a four-day remand in a six-month-old case filed over assaulting police in the capital's Paltan area.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shafi Uddin passed the order after police produced them before the court, seeking a seven-day remand for each.

The six others are Jubo Dal Vice-President Nurul Islam Nayan, activist Mokhes Mia, Dhaka City unit BNP Joint Secretary Mosharrar Hossain Khokon, and Lalbagh thana BNP leaders Joj Mia, Farid Uddin Rana and Md Abdullah.

In the case document, police said the seven produced before the court along with 100-150 unidentified people were involved in an assault on police on May 25 this year. Police appealed to the court to remand the seven accused to know more information regarding the case.

After the hearing, the defence lawyers told the media on the court

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Dhaka University students demonstrating on campus for safer roads yesterday, two days after a motorist dragged a woman under his car through the campus, causing her to die.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

DU ROAD SAFETY PROTEST

Tougher action if demands not met by Dec 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University students yesterday gave an ultimatum to the authorities to ensure safe roads on the campus and meet their other demands by December 10.

They threatened to go for a tougher movement if the authorities fail to meet their demands.

Staging a daylong demonstration, several hundred students demanded justice for Rubina Akhter, killed under the wheels of a sedan driven by Azhar Jafar Shah, a former assistant professor of the International Relations department of DU.

They pressed home an eleven-point demand and submitted a memorandum to the University's vice-chancellor in this regard.

Students said the VC accepted their memorandum and assured them of meeting their demands.

The 11-point demand includes restrictions on vehicular movement, reduction of sound pollution and installation of CCTV cameras on the campus.

After submitting the memorandum, students marched to different points on the campus. They also barred heavy vehicles and outsiders from entering the campus.

Protesters said although it was not their duty they did it as the university authorities failed to control the movement of heavy vehicles.

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HC orders probe into 'loan scams' in three banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to probe the alleged loan scams in Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank and First Security Islami Bank.

The Anti-Corruption Commission, the Bangladesh Bank, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit and the Criminal Investigation Department of Police have been asked to submit probe reports to the court by April 5.

Issuing a suo motu (voluntary) rule, the HC also ordered the three banks to submit to the court a list of the officials who dealt with the loans along with their addresses.

If the allegations of loan scams are found to be true in the probes, ACC, BB, BFIU and CID will have to inform the court about the actions taken against the persons involved in the scams.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu gave the orders following news reports last month about the alleged loan scams in the three banks.

The bench asked S Alam Group to come up with explanations on the reports that it took Tk 30,000 crore from Islami Bank and to place relevant documents in this regard before the court.

The court also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why their inaction towards the persons involved in the loan scams should not be declared illegal and why they should not be directed to take action against them.

Secretaries at the ministries of finance, law and home affairs, the BB governor, the ACC chairman and heads of BFIU and the CID have been made respondents to the rule.

On November 24, the Bangla daily Prothom Alo published a report stating that an 'unscrupulous group' had withdrawn Tk 2,460 crore from Islami Bank in November. Islami Bank had sanctioned about Tk 7,000 crore for the eight companies this year.

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The invisible killer

WB report says air pollution claims around 80,000 lives a year, wipes out 4pc of GDP

ILLNESSES CAUSED BY AIR POLLUTION



Allergies	16.6%
Lower respiratory track infection	13.9%
Cough	13.8%
Eye problems	9%
Skin conditions	8%
Diabetes	4%
Breathing difficulties	4%

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Air pollution is killing around 80,000 people every year in Bangladesh by causing respiratory problems as well as depression, and wiping out around 4 percent of the country's GDP, said a World Bank report yesterday.

The report titled "Breathing Heavy: New Evidence on Air Pollution and Health in Bangladesh" assessed the impacts of outdoor air pollution on physical and mental health in Dhaka and Sylhet divisions.

Children under five years and elderly people with comorbidities such as diabetes, heart or respiratory conditions, are most vulnerable, it said.

"In 2019, air pollution was the second largest cause of deaths and

disability in Bangladesh and cost about 3.9 to 4.4 percent of the country's GDP," said Dandan Chen, acting World Bank country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, while launching the report at a Dhaka hotel.

While air pollution levels within the country vary significantly, the report found that the concentration of fine particulate matter PM2.5 in all regions is significantly above the threshold set by the WHO Air Quality Guidelines (AQG).

PM 2.5, which is basically dust and other matters generally smaller than 2.5 micrometres, is considered most hazardous to health. Being that small, the particles penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream.

According to the report, Dhaka is

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HSC examinee stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An HSC examinee was stabbed to death in the capital's Merul Badda last night.

Two of his friends also suffered injuries when they tried to help him.

Deceased Ashfaqur Rahman Chowdhury Satil, 18, was an HSC examinee from Bangladesh Navy College.

Injured Shoayeb Hossain, 18, and Rupom Datta, 18, of Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the DMCH Police Outpost, said there was a stab wound on the deceased's left leg and Shoayeb suffered stab wounds in his chest and other parts of his body.

The incident happened around 7:00pm on Road-13 of Merul Badda. "We rushed there after hearing screams and found the three lying in a pool of blood beside the road," a local who took them to the hospital told reporters at the DMCH.

Rupom at the hospital said a teen named Rocky beat them up and stabbed them for, according to Rocky, disrespecting him.

The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Scientists discover new duck-like dinosaur



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have discovered a new dinosaur species with a duck-like, streamlined body that may have used its adaptations to dive underwater to hunt for prey like modern-day penguins about 71 million years ago.

The findings, published on Thursday in the journal Communications Biology, represent the first case of a non-avian theropod — a type of two-legged carnivorous dinosaur — to have a streamlined body.

Previous studies have documented how streamlined bodies help diving birds such as geese and penguins overcome drag underwater.

ANTI-HIJAB PROTESTS

Iran abolishes morality police

AFP, Tehran

Iran has scrapped its morality police after more than two months of protests triggered by the arrest of Mahsa Amini for allegedly violating the country's strict female dress code, local media said yesterday.

Women-led protests, labelled "riots" by the authorities, have swept Iran since the 22-year-old Iranian of Kurdish origin died in custody on September 16, three days after her arrest by the morality police in Tehran.

Demonstrators have burned their mandatory hijab head coverings and shouted anti-government slogans, and since Amini's death, a growing number of women have failed to wear the hijab, particularly in parts of Tehran.

"Morality police have nothing to do with the judiciary and have been abolished", Attorney General Mohammad Jafar Montazeri was quoted as saying by the ISNA news agency.

His comment came at a religious conference where he responded to a participant who asked "why the morality police were being shut down", the report said.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution that overthrew Iran's US-backed monarchy, there has been some kind of official monitoring of the strict dress code for both men and women.

But under hardline president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the morality police — known formally as the Gasht-e Ershad or "Guidance Patrol" — was established to "spread the culture of modesty and hijab".

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Sellers of warm clothes are enjoying a brisk trade as the temperature dropped a little over the last week. The photo was taken on Ring road in the capital's Mohammadpur.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The father of disappearance victim held by police for 3hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sub-inspector took a 71-year-old man to a police station in the capital allegedly at gunpoint because officers received an image on WhatsApp that showed the elderly man's photo on a BNP poster for the party's December 10 rally.

Jamsher Ali, father of a victim of enforced disappearance, said he was released from Mirpur Police Station near midnight on Saturday after three hours of interrogation.

Jamsher said policemen came in front of his house in Mirpur on five motorcycles around 9:00pm and Sub-Inspector Lutfor Rahman told him to go with them to the police station.

Jamsher replied that he was ill and would meet the OC in the morning.

"Brandishing two firearms, SI Lutfor said he would empty all the bullets if I didn't go with him," Jamsher told The Daily Star, adding that he then went to Mirpur Police Station.

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