

Death-row war criminal held in Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion has arrested a fugitive war criminal, who was sentenced to death for crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. Montaz Ali Bapary alias Montaz, 76, was arrested from Gazipur's Chandra area Saturday night, Lt Col Arif Mohiuddin Ahmed, commanding officer of Rab-3, told a press briefing yesterday. The Rab CO said Montaz had been hiding since 2016. He moved to his son's house in Chandra in November 2022 from where Rab members arrested him. On October 15, 2019, the International Crimes Tribunal handed death penalty to five people of Gaibandha, including Montaz for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. According to the tribunal's investigation agency, the war criminals including Montaz were involved in four incidents of killings, abduction, confinement, torture, arson and looting.

Equal wage still elusive

No increase in remuneration for temporary tea workers

MINTU DESHWARA

Hundreds of temporary tea workers in the country are suffering due to a poor pay structure. Many of them are paid around 30 to 50 percent lower wages than permanent workers. In August last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed tea estate owners to raise the daily wage of tea workers to Tk 170 from the previous Tk 120. As per her directives, the tea estate owners are now paying Tk 170 for permanent workers. However, the wages of many temporary workers were not raised. "Most temporary tea workers



discrimination in terms of wages but to no avail. Asked, Golam Mohammad Shiblee, chairman of the Sylhet chapter of Bangladesh Tea Association, a platform for tea garden owners, said, "Plucking is the main work in a tea garden. Temporary workers, who pluck leaves, get wages equal to permanent workers. But those who work less than eight hours or work on contract or shift are paid a lower wage."

The association's chairman M Shah Alam said, "I'm not entirely aware of this. We have received no such complaints regarding wage discrimination." According to the latest data from the Statistical Handbook on Bangladesh Tea Industry-2019, there are 166 tea gardens in the country where 1,03,747 permanent workers and 36,437 temporary workers are involved. Contacted, Major General Md Ashrafur Islam, chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board, said, "We have asked all tea estate owners to pay equal wages to permanent and temporary workers."

"We will investigate in case any such wage discrimination is taking place," he added.

"I work as much as a permanent worker but get paid way less. It is very difficult to survive with such a poor wage."

BRITISH ROY Temporary tea worker

get Tk 120, while some others get only Tk 70 to Tk 80. Rubber workers get Tk 110," said Karthik

Nayek, president of Sonachara Tea Garden Unit of Bangladesh Tea Workers Union. Moreover, the families of permanent workers are entitled to food rations, which is not the case for temporary workers. Even, family members of permanent workers get food rations.

"I work as much as a permanent worker but get paid way less. It is very difficult to survive with such a poor wage," said British Roy, a temporary tea worker

at Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila. As per Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006, workers must be paid equal wages for equal work, said Rajat Biswas, general secretary of the Moulvibazar district unit of the Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha.

Pankaj Kondo, vice-president of Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union central committee, said that they have repeatedly requested tea garden owners to end the

RO cancels Zahangir's nomination

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The other two are independent candidates Oliur Rahman and Abul Hossen.

On April 27, Zahangir's supporters submitted his nomination papers as an independent candidate.

He also submitted nomination papers for his mother, Zaida Khatun, who too would be running for the mayor post.

The returning officer, however, declared Zaida's nomination valid.

Zahangir, who was present at the press conference in the city's Bongo Taj Auditorium, however, refuted the allegations against him and accused the returning officer of bias.

"I have been treated unfairly. The bank authorities have given written and verbal statements regarding the payment of installments to the bank's creditors. Still, what you have done was a biased act," he told the

returning officer. Speaking to the journalists, he said he will appeal to the EC against the decision.

"The Election Commission has moved away from its neutral stance. I do not know under which invisible pressure they did it," he said.

"I want justice. If required, I will move the High Court and Supreme Court," he said, alleging that the decision was undemocratic.

Zahangir claimed that all the documents were submitted to the EC through the lawyer and bank authorities, but the EC cancelled his nomination papers, citing CID.

"I mortgaged my own land for humanitarian reasons to save an industrial establishment. I didn't take the money myself and the company is paying the loan."

Meanwhile, the EC said it will issue a show-cause notice to Awami League-backed mayoral candidate

Azmat Ullah Khan for allegedly violating the electoral code of conduct.

"It has been decided to issue a show-cause notice to Azmat Ullah Khan. An explanation will be sought from him and he will be asked to come to the commission and explain the matter," EC Md Alamgir told the journalists.

The EC alleged that Azmat Ullah Khan, also the president of Gazipur city AL, violated the electoral code of conduct while submitting his nomination papers on Thursday.

Violating the rules, at least 10 leaders and activists accompanied Azmat Ullah Khan from the main entrance to the office of the returning officer. Many leaders and activists were rallying on the road at that time.

The Gazipur City Corporation election will be held on May 25. The deadline for withdrawing candidacy is May 8.

Advertisement for Dhaka North City Corporation e-Tender Notice (OTM). Includes details about the tender for supply and installation of 500KVA sub-station and 150KVA Diesel Generator. Contact information for Executive Engineer (Md. Abdur Rahim Miah) is provided.

Evacuation of Bangladeshis

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Bangladesh embassy's charge d'affaires, Tareq Ahmed, is now in Port Sudan to supervise the evacuation process.

Sudan-Bangladesh Friendship Association has written a letter to the Bangladesh embassy requesting it to arrange overnight accommodation

in Khartoum, said its president Anisur Rahman.

The pick-up point decided by the embassy is an open place and it might not be safe, he added.

"The situation in Khartoum was always changing. The place safe today may not be the same tomorrow," Alam said.

On complaints that calls

to the hotline numbers opened by the embassy often are not answered, he said poor internet connectivity was probably causing it. He advised sending text messages on WhatsApp.

Bangladesh tried without success to contact the conflicting groups of Sudan for creating a safe passage for evacuation.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Shiksha Hospital and Institute. Details recruitment for various positions including medical officers, nurses, and administrative staff. Includes application procedures and contact information.

Advertisement for Janata Bank Limited Estate Department. Invitation for re-tender for operation, servicing and maintenance of Masiba and Housan Brand Lifts. Includes tender details, terms and conditions, and contact information for the Deputy General Manager.