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BNP leader Annie sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent BNP publicity secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie to jail in a case filed over attack on police in front of Dhaka City College in the capital's Dhanmondi area on May 23.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mamunur Rashid passed the order after Annie was produced before the court on completion of a four-day remand, said a police official of the court.

The magistrate also granted a petition, which was filed with the court seeking Annie's proper treatment inside the jail.

Another Dhaka court on October 11 placed Annie to a four-day remand after police produced him before it with a seven-day remand prayer.



After one and a half years of closure due to construction work of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway, the Farmgate footbridge will be inaugurated today. Being the first of its kind, the bridge, designed in the pattern of the parliament building, was built at a cost of Tk 20 crore. It will have escalators and lifts at both ends for pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Air force chief leaves for US

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Air Staff of Bangladesh Air Force Air Chief Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan left Dhaka for the US yesterday for an official visit.

As part of this visit, he will inspect the current progress regarding maintenance activities of two C-130 transport aircrafts, says an ISPR press release.

The chief of air staff is scheduled to return to Bangladesh on October 21 on completion of the official visit.



PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 15

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:45 12:45 4:15 5:45 7:15
JAMAAT 5:20 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Communal forces active ahead of polls: info minister

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the communal forces try to hatch a conspiracy whenever the election approaches.

"Most of the Bangalee people are not communal. For this, the communal forces couldn't raise their head. The evil forces have been subdued by our combined efforts," he said. The minister said the evil forces always try to hatch conspiracies ahead of polls. So, everyone should remain alert, he added.

Hasan, also Awami League joint general secretary, made the remarks while addressing the inaugural event of Shuvo Mahalaya at Banani Puja Mandap in the capital.

Gulshan Banani Sarbojanin Puja Foundation organised the event.

The minister said the present government, in the last 15 years, tried to bring back the original spirit of the nation, which was lost after 1975.

A state should never have laws like the "enemy property law". A different law has been enacted to abolish it, he added.

He said the communal forces should be resisted to strengthen the non-communal spirit of Bangladesh.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina repeatedly said "Religion is for individuals and festivals are for all..."

Escaped militants are 'somewhere in the country'

Still no trace of 2 fugitive death row convicts; cops conducting drives to arrest them

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

On November 20 last year, two death row convict militants, Abu Siddiq Sohel and Moinul Hasan Shamim, escaped from a Dhaka court with help from their associates.

While being taken to prison, the convicts assaulted their police escort, untied themselves from shackles and fled on a motorcycle, never to be seen again. Almost a year has passed since that day, but police are yet to get any trace of the two.

Sohel, an Ansar Al Islam member, and his associate Shamim were sentenced to death for the murder of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipon.

A high official of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit recently told this correspondent the duo are now hiding "somewhere in the country".

According to the CTTC unit, they stayed in a Savar house for a month before moving north.

"The militants took shelter in their associates' houses," the CTTC unit official said, requesting anonymity.

The CTTC said they came up with the



Death-row convicts Moinul Hasan Shamim and Abu Siddiq Sohel.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

information following the arrest of five members of Ansar Al Islam, including its nayebe-amir, from Jatrabari in Dhaka last Saturday.

"We were very close to arresting one of the escaped militants. But he managed to flee just two days before we conducted the drive," said CTTC unit chief Md Asaduzzaman.

Investigators said the outfit has at least 70 modules or sleeper cells in 50 districts, each having at least four to five members.

In March 2021, several groups damaged and carried out arson attacks on establishments, including the land office, police lines, a music academy, a municipality office, a public library, a Hindu temple and the local press club in Brahmanbaria.

Some members of Ansar Al Islam worked as instigators behind the mayhem, according to police.

The outfit is now planning to conduct area-based attacks, with the outfit's top leader and sacked major Syed Ziaul Haque giving instructions to its members in this regard, they said.

During the interrogation of the arrested Nayebe-Amir Sakhawatul Kabir, alias Anis alias Rafique, investigators have reportedly uncovered information about financiers and sympathisers of the outfit.

Contacted, Ahamedul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of the CTTC unit, said, "We are analysing their [financiers and sympathisers of the outfit] activities before taking actions against them. We have also got details of some financiers who donated funds from abroad."

200 years of Bangalee history in 208 volumes, 74,000 pages

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra initiates gradual launch of vast compilation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In its bid to enlighten people through promoting reading habit, Bishwa Sahitya Kendra has taken an initiative to publish a vast compilation of selected writings of trailblazing Bangalee authors from different eras spanning over the past 200 years.

Titled "Bangalir Chintamulak Rachana Sangraha", the compilation will be of 74,000 pages, in 208 volumes, and covering 16 different subjects, according to the Kendra.

It announced the initiative during a ceremony yesterday at its premises in the capital. The ceremony marked the commencement of gradual launch of the compilation.

At present, 54 volumes are available. The rest will gradually be available to the readers by March, 2024, said the Kendra officials.

Describing the reason behind



Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, lead editor of the compilation, and subject-based editors at the Bishwa Sahitya Kendra yesterday.

the compilation while authors from relevant fields did subject-based editing.

The subjects are: history (in 18 volumes), philosophy (20 volumes), religion (20 volumes), arts (11 volumes), literature (35 volumes), science (eight volumes), environment (five volumes), film (10 volumes), music (13 volumes), politics (25 volumes), language (10 volumes), culture (four volumes), woman issue (four volumes), society (eight volumes), economics (eight volumes), and education (nine volumes).

Shameem Al Mamun, director of the Kendra, said they started the initiative in 2000 and collected and selected the writings between 2000 and 2008.

It was a massive task to keep everything in order considering the vast compilation of 74,000 pages, he added.

The initiative has been delayed

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selecting the past 200 years for the compilation, Kendra founder Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said the 200 years are the "finest" period in the Bangalee's lives.

Numerous important works could be found done earlier but

those might not be as comparable to what Bangalees have done in the past 200 years, he said.

"There has been an extraordinary rise in Bangalee's 'intellect' in the past 200 years," he added.

Prof Sayeed is the lead editor of

PM calls on president at Bangabhaban



PHOTO: PID

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a courtesy call on President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban yesterday evening.

"During the meeting, the premier discussed various state-level issues, including her recent visit to the US and the UK, particularly the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly and G-20 Summit in India," President's press secretary Md Joyal Abedin told BSS.

The president also wished the PM on her birthday.

On her arrival at Bangabhaban around 7:15pm, the president and his wife Rebecca Sultana welcomed Hasina with a bouquet.

3 held for killing software engineer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested three youths in connection with the murder of a software engineer who was stabbed to death in the capital's Dakshinkhan area on Thursday night.

The arrestees are - Razib, 23, a named accused in the case, Ashique, 23, and Sheikh Nizam, 22.

They were placed on a three-day remand each yesterday after Dakshinkhan police sought 10 days remand for them, Sub-inspector Abu Taher of the police station, told The Daily Star.

Musabbir Hossain Chowdhury, 25, resident of Bashundhara Residential Area and an employee of a private software company, was stabbed to death around 7:30pm on Thursday near Kosai Bari gate area when he was attempting to break up a quarrel between two groups.

Police are looking for the other miscreants, said Taher, also the case's investigation officer.

The victim's mother Nasrin Begum filed a murder case over the incident, accusing seven named and eight unnamed individuals.

Meanwhile, a group of students of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology, from where Musabbir recently graduated, held a protest rally in Uttara, demanding justice.

They blocked the road in front of the university in sector 10 area around 10:00am. Following the rally, a long tailback ensued in the area. Police later went to the spot and assured the students of arresting the perpetrators. Students left the area around noon.

5 workers burnt in N'ganj steel mill blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Five workers were burnt in a blast at a steel mill in Narayanganj's Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The blast took place around 4:30am at Sharmin Steel Limited in Godnail area of the upazila, said Officer-in-Charge Golam Mostofa of Siddhirganj Police Station.

The injured are Saiful, 30, Mozammel, 30, Iqbal, 25, Shoriful, 26 and Jakaria 20. "Mozammel and Saiful are in a critical condition. Iqbal, Shoriful and Jakaria are currently being treated at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka," said Toriqul Islam, its resident doctor.

"The fire was caused by a blast in a gas pipe line. We are looking into the incident," the OC added.

Rayhan Habib, director of Sharmin Steel, could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.