

SC allows Azharul to appeal against death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday allowed Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam to move an appeal before this court challenging his death penalty for crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

The apex court also fixed April 22 for the appeal hearing.

A five member bench of the Appellate Division, led by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, passed the order after hearing a petition seeking a review of its earlier verdict that upheld the International Crimes Tribunal's (ICT) ruling sentencing Azharul to death.

TOFAZZAL MURDER Court orders further probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed Police Bureau of Investigation to conduct a further investigation into a case filed over death of 35-year-old Tofazzal Hossain at a Dhaka University hall in September last year.

Magistrate Md Saifuzzaman passed the order after granting a no-confidence (naraji) petition submitted by the DU authorities.

The magistrate said the PBI chief would assign an official of ASP rank as an investigation officer for probing the case.

The assigned official will submit a report by May 4.



Students of Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (Kuet) vacate their residential halls yesterday morning following the university administration's directive. The decision, announced in an official notice on Tuesday, ordered the indefinite closure of all residential halls due to security concerns amid recent student protests. Academic activities will also remain suspended until further notice.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

10,570 held in 'Devil Hunt' since Feb 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four Union Parishad chairmen of Jamalpur, who also hold positions in the local Awami League, attended a law and order committee meeting in Melandaha upazila yesterday. Little did they know, their participation would take a dark twist.

As the monthly law and order meeting concluded, police arrested them from the upazila parishad building as part of the ongoing "Operation Devil Hunt", on charges of sabotage.

"They were arrested as part of Operation Devil Hunt for their role in attacks and sabotage against student and mass movements," said Jamalpur's Superintendent of

Police Syed Rafiqul Islam.

The arrestees are Shahadat Hossain Bhutto, chairman of Charbanipukuria union parishad, Mamunur Rashid Mamun, chairman of Fulkocha union parishad, Saidul Islam Litu, chairman of Ghosherpara union parishad and SM Sayedur Rahman, chairman of Shyampur union parishad.

All of them hold positions in local AL committees.

Till yesterday afternoon, the joint forces arrested 678 more people across the country in the past 24 hours, according to the Police Headquarters (PHQ).

With the latest arrests, the total number of people arrested in the operation since its launch on

February 8 has risen to 10,570.

Additionally, 1,012 others, who were either accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested across the country, in the past 24 hours till yesterday afternoon.

Analysing reports from some districts, this newspaper found that many of the arrestees are members of the AL and its associate bodies.

Many are accused in cases filed after the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5.

289 HELD IN CRACKDOWN IN CAPITAL

In a 24 hour operation, Dhaka Metropolitan Police and other law enforcement agencies arrested 289 suspected criminals in the capital, said a DMP release.

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BANASREE ARMED ROBBERY

No arrest in 3 days

Locals, jewellery traders stage protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three days after the armed robbery and shooting in Banasree, law enforcers have yet to arrest anyone, prompting protests by locals and jewellery traders demanding immediate action.

On Sunday night, armed robbers ambushed Anwar Hossain, 43, owner of Alankar Jewelers, on Road 7, Block D in Banasree.

They snatched his bag containing gold and cash, and stabbed and shot him when

he tried to resist.

Anwar is currently undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet and stab wounds.

His wife, Hosne Ara, filed a case with Rampura Police Station, naming six to seven unidentified criminals.

Inspector (Investigation) Moshiul Alam of Rampura Police Station said police are analysing CCTV footage and investigating possible leads.

Anwar's family expressed frustration

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