

BISWAJIT MURDER 21 BCL men indicted

Staff Correspondent

THE trial of the Biswajit Das murder case began on Sunday after a session judge framed charges against 21 Chhatra League activists, including prime accused Rafiqul Islam Shakil.

The metropolitan sessions judge, Jahurul Haque, after framing the charges set June 13 for recording the depositions of the prosecution witnesses.

Before the framing of charges, assistant public prosecutor Tapos Kumar Pal read out the charges brought against the BCL activists and asked the seven accused present in the dock whether they would plead guilty.

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All accused pleaded not guilty and demanded 'justice'.

Biswajit, 23, a tailor by profession, was hacked to death by a group of Chhatra League activists near Bahadur Shah Park in Dhaka during the countryside road blockade the BNP-led opposition alliance had enforced on December 9, 2012.

After three months of investigation, the detective branch in March had pressed charges in the case filed with the Sutrapur police station and named 21 accused - Chhatra League activists Rafiqul Islam Shakil,

25, seen striking Biswajit with a machete in video footages television channels had aired, Rajan Talukdar, 24, Khandaker Yunus, 25, Mahfuzur Rahman Nahid, 24, Emdadul Haque, 26, Tarik bin Johr Tamal, 24, Golam Mustafa, 26, GM Rasheduzzaman Shaon, 24, Md Alauddin, 26, Obaidul Kader Tahsin, 24, Emran Hossain, 26, Azizur Rahman Aziz, 25, Mir Md Noor-e-Alam Limon, 26, Al Amin Sheikh, 25, Md Rafiqul Islam, 26, AHM Kibria, 26, Monirul Haque Pavel, 25, Saiful Islam, 24, Kaiyum Miah Tipu, 24, Kamrul Hasan, 25, and Musharraf

Hossain, 25.

The police till May arrested eight accused - Shakil, Nahid, Emdadul, Shaon, Kibria, Saiful, Kaiyum and Mustafa. All but Mustafa were present in the dock.

A court official said Mustafa could not be produced on the day as the documents relating to his arrest were yet to reach the court.

On the day, the court also rejected the petitions filed by Nahid, Kaiyum, Saiful, Kibria and Shaon for bail or discharge from the case.

Of the 21 accused, Shakil, Nahid, Shaon and Emdad gave statements before

magistrates in which they named the others involved in the attack.

On April 4, the metropolitan magistrate, rejecting a petition for reinvestigation, had taken the charge into cognisance and issued warrants for the arrest of the accused on the run.

On April 29, the case document was transferred from Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court to Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court for trial.

Biswajit's family, however, expressed concern as 13 of the accused were yet to be arrested.