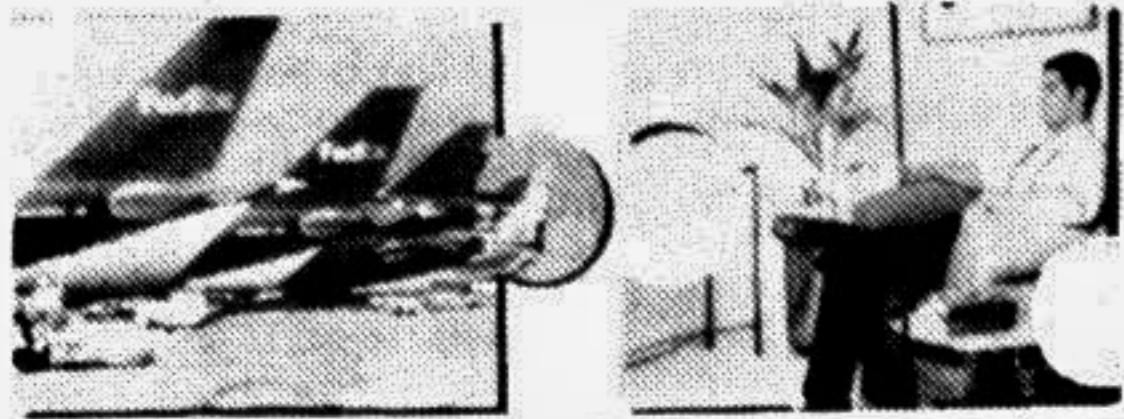


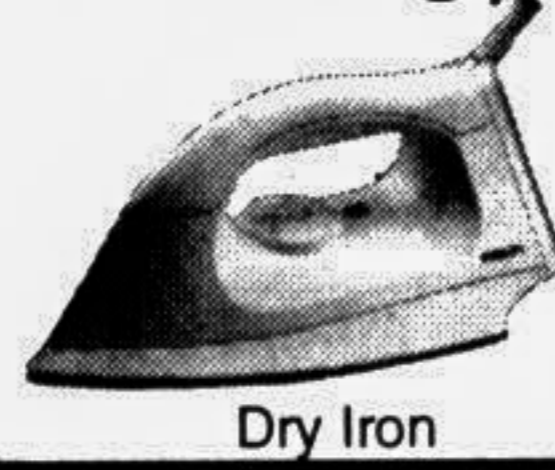
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Schoolboy beaten to death in city

By Staff Correspondent A schoolboy was beaten to death at Fayedabad under Uttara thana in the city yesterday afternoon. Sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital identified the dead as Abu Hanif alias Rusel, 16, a student of Class Ten of Uttara High School. The incident took place when Rusel, son of Ibrahim, was watching a football match at Fayedabad playground. He had an altercation with a gang. At one stage, the gang started beating him and he became unconscious. Rusel rushed to DMCH where doctors declared him dead. No case was, however, lodged with Uttara thana in this regard till the filing of this report last night.

Guidelines for setting up small power plants

The government yesterday announced a policy guideline for setting up small power plants (SPP) for generation of electricity for private use and selling the surplus to other users, reports BSS. The plant's capacity could be 10 mw and it could be built up in stages, depending on the potential market and load growth, the guideline said, adding that the SPPs will be developed on a build-operate basis. The SPPs can be located in any part of the country and the type of plant is open. The sponsor will be allowed to select the plant of any configuration provided the electrical characteristics of the plant match that of the power system in Bangladesh.

New envoy to Pakistan

The government has appointed Masum Ahmed Chowdhury as the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan, reports BSS. A press release of the Foreign Ministry yesterday said that he was serving as High Commissioner to Sri Lanka prior to his new assignment.

Landslides kill 100 in Tajikistan

MOSCOW, Apr 29: More than 100 people were killed and 50 others were missing in massive landslides in the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan, the Russian television TV centre reported, citing the Tajik interior ministry, reports AFP.

JP favours ban on student politics

Former President H M Ershad yesterday said his party would support any government move to ban student politics. "There is no way but to ban student politics to stamp out terrorism from campus in national interest and restore congenial academic atmosphere," he told UNB in Parliament.

Shrimp plants

From Page 1 The EC had imposed a ban on import of frozen food from Bangladesh on July 30 last year after a EC veterinary committee found that fish processing plants and food testing laboratories owned by the government were not maintaining the EU standard.

BNP observes countrywide protest day

Opposition BNP observed countrywide protest day yesterday demanding annulment of the black CHT accord, protesting price hike of essentials and also demanding immediate release of arrested JCD leaders and workers, reports UNB. As part of the programme City BNP brought out a procession from Nawab Yusuf Market at Nayabazar yesterday. Before the procession, BNP city unit convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP told the gathering that the government would not be able to prevent its fall by resorting to torture, and filing false cases against its leaders and workers. The fall of the government will be hastened and out-governance movement accelerated following the ruling party's repressive measures, he said. Khoka said the government

in a planned way is snatching away the democratic rights of the people. It is not allowing the opposition to speak both in parliament and on the street. "Police, Awami armed cadres and hired goons could not protect the ruling party from the people's outrage," Khoka said adding that the government to be ousted through mass upsurge like 1990 when JCD played a heroic role. The city BNP convenor said the government would have to bear all consequences if the arrested JCD leaders and workers, including its president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny, are not freed immediately. BNP leaders Barrister Rafiqul Islam, Mirza Abbas Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Amanullah Aman and Nazimuddin Alam also spoke at the gathering.

Shazneen murder

From Page 1 asked yesterday evening when asked whether they have got any new name from Shahid in connection with the killing. However, CID officials almost confirmed that Shahid brutally killed Shazneen. A CID official said the whole incident could not take more than half an hour. But the CID investigators' suspicion centred the kameez which Shazneen was wearing when she was found in a pool of blood on the floor in front of her bedroom's toilet. There was no perforation in the kameez nor it was torn, CID sources said.

get hold of her. Shahid started stabbing her indiscriminately, including four blows on the upper portion of her body. Shazneen was shouting for help, saying, 'save me... save me.' At one stage Shazneen fell down on the bed and started groaning. Shahid then dragged her down from the bed and took her on the floor in front of the toilet. Then he started violating her. Later Shahid felt something wet on his palms. Then he found blood in his hands. Shahid instantly went to the toilet, washed his hands and the knife. CID sources said. He again came to Shazneen and sat on her body. At that time, Parvin, one of the maids at Rahman's residence, opened door of the room and found Shahid. At the time, Shahid left the room, scaled the wall, throwing away the knife. He then walked to Cantonment railway station. However, police found inconsistencies in Shahid's statements. They were confused why the kameez was not torn when Shahid indiscriminately stabbed her. One of the main focuses of CID investigation is the contradiction regarding Shahid's claim that he indiscriminately stabbed her while the kameez she was wearing bore no trace of knife perforation. CID is considering that the kameez might have been put on her after she was stabbed to death. This is leading to the question whether there was any other person abetting Shahid in the crime. Following are some of the other inconsistencies that CID is investigating. 1) A security guard at the house, Humayun Kabir told CID that he found Shahid leaving through the main entrance of the house. But Shahid said till yesterday that he had scaled about an eight feet boundary wall after climbing a tree. 2) Shahid said that he put his shirt in his trouser pocket as it was stained with blood. He was wearing a vest, CID sources said quoting Shahid's version. 3) Hemayet, intruder of Shahid in Rahman's residence, Shahid identified Hemayet as one of his cousins. Earlier police said Hemayet described himself to be an uncle of Shahid. Shahid worked in another businessman's residence in Gulshan for about one and a half years before he came to Rahman's residence. He spent a few months in his village under Moksepur thana in Gopalganj before that. Shahid who reportedly has not completed primary education was the second among his three sisters and two brothers. His father Siddiq Mollah a farmer in their village, Bhangadurgapur. Meanwhile, police were also interrogating five other servants, placed on a seven-day remand on Sunday. Besides, two maids - Parvin and Minu - on Saturday gave confessional statements accusing Shahid of murdering Shazneen. CID investigators were also investigating why Shahid narrated a story of kidnapping when he surrendered to Kotwali thana of the CMP. But during about two hours' interrogation by a team of senior CID officials at their Malibagh headquarters in the city Monday night, Shahid confessed his involvement in Shazneen murder, retracting his statement he had given after surrender to the CMP Monday morning. Meanwhile, a CID team is likely to visit Tongi today or tomorrow to find out the spot where Shahid reportedly washed his blood stained shirt. Besides, CID investigators had visited Rahman's residence yesterday. CID team has so far questioned about 25 people including inmates of Rahman's residence, a friend of Shazneen and some others in the locality.

Outpouring of grief

From Page 1 the protection of women and children. Several schools in the capital held special assemblies and prayer meetings to mourn the death of Shazneen. A leading city school even sent out a letter to all guardians of students expressing grief over the incident. The school - Sunbeams - in its letter to the guardians stated that: "This monster that committed the heinous crime should be brought to justice and none of us can find peace unless this is achieved so that other children like her do not meet this horrendous fate." The teachers and students of the school held an assembly on Sunday where the teachers spoke about her qualities. Shazneen was a student of the school from Play Group to Class VII. The school also held a doa yesterday for the salvation and peace of the departed soul. The American School in Dhaka yesterday held a prayer service at the school premises in memory of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman. Earlier the teachers and students of the Scholastic School, where Shazneen was studying, expressed their profound grief and shock. A statement from 'Platform for Resistance for Women' signed by Hasna Moudud expressed concern over the death of Shazneen and also about repression on women and children. The organisation will hold a rally starting at 8:30 am on Saturday where women and children are expected to participate. Reports were received different business concerns and garments factories where workers held spontaneous meetings to condemn the brutal killing of Shazneen and demanding that the authorities bring the culprits to book. Several readers rang up the offices of The Daily Star in the last few days to express concern and grief over Shazneen's murder and demanding that there should be a social movement to restore a sense of security for private citizens and their family members. "Our lives have been jeopardised. We see an overwhelming sense of insecurity afflicting our lives and the lives of our children since the cruel murder of Shazneen," said Abul Kalam Azad, a businessman living in Mohakhali. Dr Latif, whose wife is employed at the ICDDR,B, informed that he takes the additional trouble of accompanying her 32-year-old wife to the workplace and back. Earlier she used to commute alone. Ms Roushanara of Shamoli said that she accompanies her grandchild, a student of Class VI, to school in Dhanmondi by going with her. Earlier, the girl used to go to school in the family car. Rita Rahman of Eskaton told this correspondent that she has stopped from going to the kutcha bazar at New Market which she did once a week after the murder of Shazneen. "I feel absolutely insecure both at home and going out alone," she said.

Shoot at sight

5 NGOs express concern over PM's proposal Five national non-governmental organisations have expressed their deep concern over the Prime Minister's statement that she is ready to empower police to 'shoot at sight' the illegal arms-holders on the campus, reports UNB. Human rights and legal organisations Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid & Services Trust (BLAST), Madaripur Legal Aid Association, Odhakar and Jatiyo Ain-jibi Parishad in a joint statement yesterday said, "We are disturbed and concerned to learn that the Prime Minister in reply to a question in parliament said that she would be willing to empower police to 'shoot at sight' anyone bearing arms." The signatories said implementation of such a measure will constitute the most serious violation of the Constitution, existing laws and human rights. "Even the most villainous criminal is a human being and protected by the most fundamental of all fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. They said, "No person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty save in accordance with law. Shooting at sight is infliction of punishment without trial and conviction and as such can never be justified." They said, there are plenty of laws against carrying and use of arms and explosives and prosecution under the laws are the proper measures for combating terrorism. They urged the Prime Minister to empower police to 'shoot at sight' under any pretext.

SAARC ministers agree to derogate rules of origin under SAPTA

The SAARC Commerce Minister have agreed to derogate the rules of origin contained in the SAPTA agreement as proposed by Bangladesh, reports UNB. The ministers attending a conference in Islamabad also decided yesterday to formulate a framework for the derogation within three months, according to a message received in the city. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif opened the two-day SAARC Commerce Ministers' conference earlier in the day. The meeting decided that the 3rd SAARC commerce ministers' conference will be held in Dhaka in February 1999 as proposed by Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed. According to the present rules of origin, the SAARC countries are enjoying preferential treatment if the local value addition is 40 per cent of the exporting products. It will be lowered to 25 per cent FOB value after the derogation. Inaugurating the conference, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

Couple held for torturing maid

By Staff Correspondent A couple was arrested yesterday for allegedly torturing a 30-year-old maid at their flat at Shamoli under Mohammadpur thana in the city. Police identified the arrested person as Anwar Hossain, reportedly a retired lieutenant colonel, and his wife, Ayesa Newaz alias Dina. The maid, Nurjahan Begum, daughter of Wahed Ali of Jamalpur, was under treatment at a city clinic. There were burn injuries in different parts of her body, police said. Quoting the victim, police said that Dina had beaten Nurjahan with a hot kitchen utensil on April 15. Nurjahan also alleged to police that Dina often beat her since she started working in the house two years back. Nurjahan's condition became critical after the torture on her on April 15. The couple then admitted her to a city clinic on Saturday last, police said. Police said they came to know about the incident after the clinic authorities filed a general diary with Mohammadpur thana on Tuesday. The arrested couple are likely to be produced before the CMM's Court today. Mohammadpur police filed a case on Tuesday night, accusing the couple under the Women and Children Repression Act 1995.

Gas explosion

From Page 1 making loud noise. Smoke had engulfed an area of over two square kilometres and there was an unusual smell in the air after the gas leakage, local people said today. The smoke and the smell gradually subsided, they said. Meanwhile, workers of the Lakkhara and Malnichhara tea gardens yesterday observed work abstention demanding compensation for what they said looting of their houses following the emergency evacuation, the managers of the two tea gardens said. Malnichhara tea garden is located near the gas well.

Gulshan Lake up for grab

From Page 1 litical leaders. Local people pointed at each plot and named their owners and said these plots were handed over within the last one year. The waterbodies of Gulshan Lake between Road-32 and Road-40 bore demarcation pillars inside it. At a lakeside house at Road-32, a resident requesting anonymity, said that he had got his building plan approved with a clear mention that his house would be the last one before the lake. "But in 1995, a gentleman came and put a signboard in the lake beside my house which read his name and a Rajuk allotment number," he said. He then went to the then Rajuk Chairman Humayun Khadem who told him that those were illegal plots allocated by Ershad. "Don't worry. These allocations will be cancelled," the Chairman was quoted by the resident as saying. "If you look into Rajuk file, you will find that hundreds of plots have been given out from the Gulshan Lake but Rajuk is taking time to land-fill those and register the plots fearing an outcry," the resident said. From Kamal Ataturk Avenue to the north-west end of Gulshan area, the lake known as Banani Lake is also fast narrowing down with several buildings situated in the middle of the waterbody. At places the Banani Lake is merely forty feet

Repatiation of Rohingyas may resume next month

The process of repatriation of remaining Rohingya refugees to Myanmar is expected to begin next month, according to a Foreign Office spokesman in the city yesterday, reports BSS. He said an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in the chair took stock of the Rohingya refugee situation. The meeting discussed ways of initiating the repatriation process stopped since middle of last year, he added.

Students go on rampage at Titumir College

A group of students went on a rampage at the Govt Titumir College, ransacking several rooms of teachers and damaging a private car yesterday, reports UNB. The students went berserk as the college authorities refused the proposal of its students' union, dominated by pro-Awami League Chhatra League, for illegal admission of some students into the college. Witnesses said the unruly students ransacked the Economics Department and damaged the car of Shaheda Obaid, chairman of English department, at about 11 am. She also suffered serious injuries during the attack. Protesting the incident, teachers of the college in an emergency meeting decided to boycott classes from today for an indefinite period.

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