

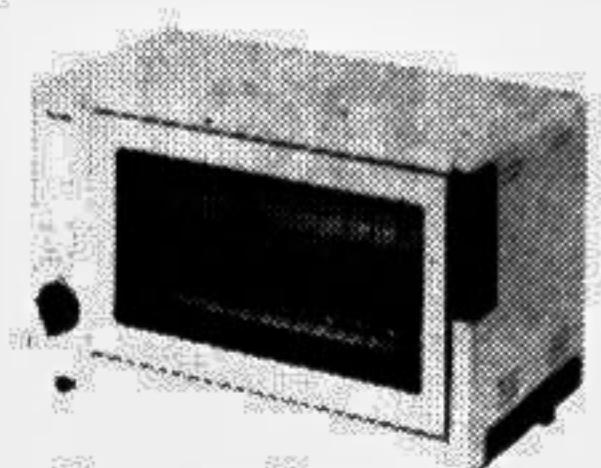
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PHILIPS

Shazneen murder A sense of insecurity haunts people

By Staff Correspondent

More people expressed their grief and solidarity with the members of the family of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, a 15 year old school girl murdered in the city last Thursday.

A cross section of people including businessmen, doctors and housewives while talking to this correspondent yesterday said that the majority of crimes against women and children committed over the years went unpunished.

Several housewives expressing concern over the murder of Shazneen said, the gruesome murder must be properly dealt with and thoroughly investigated.

A housewife at the city's Gulshan area said, "Since the day I read about Shazneen's murder in the newspaper, I became very concerned about my 17 year old daughter going to college. I can no longer think of allowing my daughter to go to college on her own."

Tasneem Siddiqui, an associate professor of Political Science at the Dhaka University, while expressing her concern

Couple held for
torturing maid
placed on remand

By Staff Correspondent

The couple, arrested for torturing a maid, were placed on a one-day police remand yesterday.

The maid, Nurjahan, was under treatment at a city clinic till last night, police said.

Meanwhile, Mohammadpur police said last night that they were investigating to ascertain the actual relation between Ayesha Newaz Dina and her so-called husband Anwar Hossain, a former army officer.

Our court correspondent said police yesterday produced the couple before the CMM's court praying for a 7-day remand.

But the Court placed Anwar and Dina on a one-day remand.

Girl gangraped
at Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 30: A 12-year-old girl was allegedly gangraped at village Sagaria under Jhenidah Sadar thana last night, according to police sources.

Police said the victim was a daughter of Abul Hossain. Three young men abducted her at about 8 pm and raped her at a nearby place. Abul Hossain lodged a case against three young men — Mofazzel, Reza and Masbir. The victim was undergoing medical examination.

Gulshan Lake

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He further claimed that as per document, Rajuk owned only a few feet of the lake from the western bank. "But look they are also filling up the lake and allocating plots indiscriminately," he said again pointing his finger at the other bank, which bore all traces of fresh earth filling.

Several elderly people who gathered at the site quoted Rajuk engineers and said that about 100-feet of the lake would be kept for drainage and eventually they would construct a box culvert.

On the northern side of these projects, a 16-story building known as Morium Tower, was constructed recently under the same circumstances, but the developers did not apparently encroach upon the lake. A second similar project is now underway in the same area on the southern side.

Officials there again confirmed that the area separated from the post, Gulshan area by a lake, was ... under Rajuk's jurisdiction as far as the land ownership was concerned.

When contacted, top Rajuk officials confirmed that the Prime Minister's proposal for banning student politics.

Noting that the nation's achievements in 1952, 1962 and 1971 could not be possible without the glorious history of student politics, B Choudhury said, "Many of today's national leaders, both in the government and the Opposition, were involved in student politics."

Asked about sale of the lake, a top Rajuk official replied that they were not aware of any such development in the area. "In that area, what we check is proper implementation of the Dhaka Master Plan and the building code. It is not a Rajuk housing project, so anyone can buy or sell."

The Dhaka Master Plan (1995-2015) has emphasised restoration of the Gulshan Lake in its present shape. Unless the lake is saved from being filled up, the whole area would be extremely vulnerable to flooding and waterlogging, he pointed out.

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Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom speaking at a banquet hosted by President Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is also

—PID photo

Male to back Dhaka

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cussed the progress of implementation of recommendations of the 9th SAARC Summit held in Male. A detailed progress report will be placed at the forthcoming SAARC Summit in Colombo. The two leaders agreed on carrying out informal consultations among the SAARC countries for formulating a guideline for the next summit.

The Maldives side agreed to consider Bangladesh's proposal for tariff concessions under the third round talks of SAFTA.

The Bangladesh side said it has decided to open a permanent resident mission in the Maldives.

President Gayoom assured of looking into problems of the 4000 member Bangladeshi workers community in his country.

The visiting dignitary said that Bangladeshi workers who along with Sri Lankan workers lost jobs with the closure of a garments factory there, will get compensation as per a court order.

The two leaders reviewed the six existing agreements signed between the two countries. These included agreements on

Flexible approach needed from ADB for institutional development: Kibria

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday said that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) should adopt more flexible approach to pursue institutional development in the region's economic growth, reports BSS.

Addressing the 31st annual meeting of ADB in Geneva, the minister said the flexible approach with sensitivity to its qualitative dimensions was required so that institutional development can be pursued in a longer time-frame simultaneously with the medium term goal of economic growth.

The bank had chosen rightly broad-based institutional development as its strategy rather than simple project financing.

Kibria said, adding that those would require a significant re-orientation in the bank's approach to development and its perception about "institution" according to a message received in the city.

Kibria pointed out that some reform contingent lending programmes seek to bring about change at a rate that might engender further economic instability and exacerbate social and political tensions.

Kidnapped man

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After a massive hunt in last two days police rescued Mondol from Gozdandi village in Boalkhali thana. Police also arrested eight persons, including Mondol's brother-in-law Khorshed Alam.

Alam confessed to the police he abduct his brother-in-law by hired goons for grabbing his property.

Other arrested persons are: Jumur Chowdhury, Jakir Hossain, Osmanul Huq, Shajahan, Kajol, Nasiruddin and Tipu Biswas.

Police also recovered two foreign-made revolvers and ammunition from the arrested people.

JS: B Chy

From Page 1

oblique reference to the Prime Minister's proposal for banning student politics.

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Occidental blames faulty sealing

From Page 1

ing to the Sylhet Airport.

On the night of the incident thousands of people in the adjacent areas started fleeing fearing a major blow-out. All flights to and from Sylhet were suspended till the leakage was sealed off later at night. None was injured in the incident.

High pressure gas started leaking out unexpectedly when Occidental was perforating the plug cemented by Scimitar. At one point, water started coming out of the well, thus minimising the risk of a major blow-out, sources said.

Part of Block 12, this well was drilled by Scimitar in 1989. It then tested the gas sand and finally abandoned it by applying cement plug and "kill" string.

Occidental claimed that it was following all standard methods during the workover. It was drilling the cement plug and replacing "drill mud" properly and the hole was balanced when the leakage occurred. Occidental reported to Petrobangla, before the leakage, that the drilling crew was unable to "stab a valve into the drilling cap." Occidental further said that none of the equipment used by Occidental caused the accident.

Sources said that further investigation into the incident was being undertaken. Occidental's inefficient and negligent operation in blocks 13 and 14 had resulted in the deaths of some five workers during the seismic operation at the well site.

Magurjhara blow-out and failure of the company to fulfil the work obligations outlined in the Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) with the government.

The US company's work schedule for Jalalabad-1 well was delayed as it had brought in a faulty rig last year. Occidental's PSC for blocks 13 and 14 expired on January 11 for its failure to fulfil its work obligation.

Occidental accepted the government's demand to increase Bangladesh's share by 5 per cent if gas was found in the Magurjhara structure. The amendment included a definition of the costs recoverable in a blow-out.

However, earlier this month, Occidental disagreed with a proposed amendment to the PSC that Bangladesh would have the sovereign authority to protect the public interest — implying that it could cancel an operation of the oil company if it threatened public interest. Occidental argued that this clause was contradictory to the spirit of the PSC while the government said that it had been incorporated in the model PSC approved in 1997 and therefore Occidental must accept it.

The issue of the PSC extension remained unresolved till date. Experts are now saying that the PSC should not be extended because Occidental has once again proved to be an inefficient operator. Its operation might lead to further disasters and the country would stand to lose its valuable gas reserves in the process.

In a statement issued in the city yesterday, the company also congratulated the local authority and police for smooth and rapid action they took to secure safety.

Occidental noted with satisfaction that no fire explosion or injury has caused during the leakage for which it credited the skill and well-prepared procedures at the well site.

President visits ailing Shawkat Osman, Dr Wazed

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday visited ailing litterateur Shawkat Osman at the Combined Military Hospital in the city, reports UNB.

He stayed there for some time and inquired about his condition and treatment.

The President also visited ailing Justice B B Roy Chowdhury, Dhaka District Judge Golam Rasul and former Air Chief Sultan Mahmud who are undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

Later, President Shahabuddin also visited scientist Dr M A Wazed Mia at the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. He stayed there for some time and wished him early recovery.

It all ended in laughter

By Staff Correspondent

BNP lawmaker Fazlur Rahman Patial has blamed Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf for replying in some "common words" whatever question he is asked in the Jatiya Sangsad.

"Project has been taken up, its implementation is subject to availability of fund" and "We're making all-out efforts to resolve the problem" are the common replies the minister give in the House," the BNP lawmaker said during the question-answer session yesterday.

The opposition MP then went onto ask the minister three questions: As of now, how many projects have been taken up? What's the amount of money made available? How far the minister has succeeded in turning his all-out efforts into reality?

In response, the health minister said, "I see, he is very wise. He knows what replies I'll give. As he was in the government too, I guess he also had managed to escape in a similar manner."

Claiming that there was transparency in his replies, the minister became a bit angry to say, "How can I implement a project without having the necessary funds?

The health minister termed Patial's questions irrelevant and assured the Opposition member of replying to those if prior notices were given.

The House plunged into laughter when the health minister suddenly shouted "stop" at another BNP MP, Abdul Wahab, who attempted to help him to answer the questions.

He said, "Many years have passed ... the world has changed in many ways. But these have only confirmed that we must continue to cooperate ever more closely."

He said, "The South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement has become a reality and SAARC now set its sight firmly on a South Asian Free Trade Area.

College student murdered in Jessore

By Staff Correspondent

The Grameen Phone Subscribers Forum yesterday protested a reported move by the company to impose charges on incoming calls on its cellular-phone subscribers.

Addressing a press conference, leaders of the forum alleged that the Grameen Phone authorities failed to keep their earlier commitment of not imposing charges on incoming calls.

Architect Mobassher Hossain, convenor of the forum, addressed the press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium.

Kibria pointed out that some reform contingent lending programmes seek to bring about change at a rate that might engender further economic instability and exacerbate social and political tensions.

Police arrested two young men from the village for their alleged involvement in the killing.

Nasir, brother of Mona, filed a case with Kotwali thana in this connection.

74 rescued while being trafficked to India

SATKHIRA, Apr 30: BDR personnel rescued 74 people including women and children from near Kula bridge in Debhata thana here while they were being trafficked to India on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Police said, Mohammad Alaudin 18 was chopped to death at about 10 am.

Alaudin, a student of first year of Monirampur Degree College, was taking tea at a roadside tea stall. The miscreants left the place just after the killing.

Police arrested two young men from the village for their alleged involvement in the killing.

Police are investigating the case.

Acid thrown

From Page 1

were sitting inside a room of the house.

Suddenly the attackers threw a plastic glass containing acid through a window of the room at about 9:15 pm.

Police arrested a young man, Aslam, 26, as a suspect in the incident. He was produced before the CMM's Court yesterday.</p