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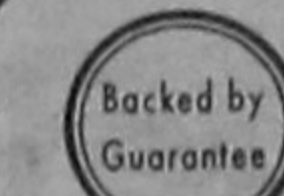
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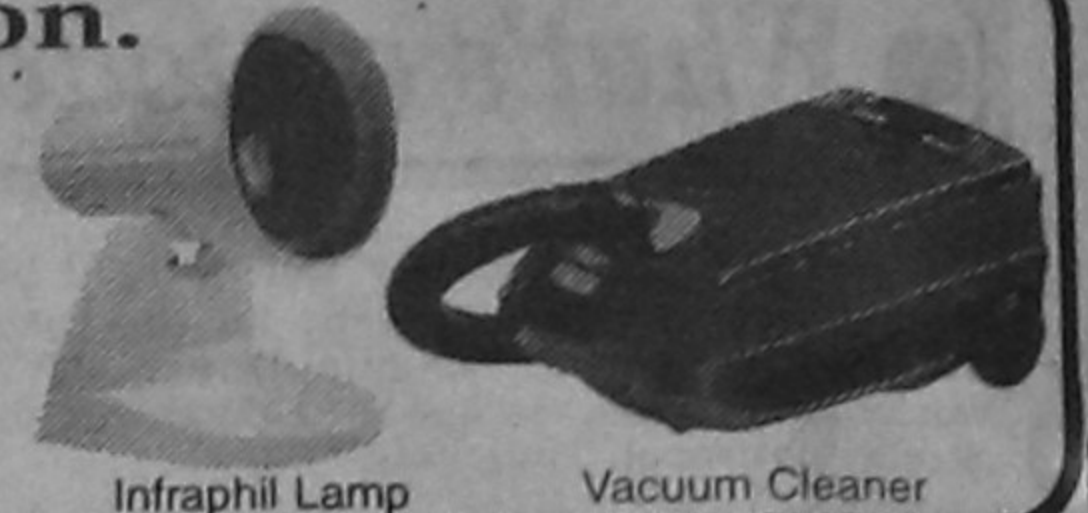
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Three murdered in city in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent

Three people were murdered in separate incidents in the city within a span of eight hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

The dead were identified as Advocate Syed Babar Elahi, 35, a contractor, Mohar Banu, 50, a business woman and Shawkat Ali, 27, an electric mechanic.

Babar Elahi, a resident of Sir Sayed Road, Mohammadpur, was shot dead by unidentified armed gang in front of Mujibnusa Hospital at Road Number 28 in Dhanmondi residential area Friday night.

According to witnesses a gang of about five came in front of the hospital, boarding a white microbus and laid an ambush there just before Babar's arrival. Babar arrived there by a car at about 11 pm. When he came out of the car, the gang fired at him. The gang left the place, leaving him injured. He received bullet injuries in his abdomen, chest and legs.

Police arrived at the spot at about 11:45 and rescued him with the help of local people in a critical condition. They took him to the DMCH where the attending doctors declared him dead, witnesses said.

Family sources, however, said that Babar might have been killed by his aunt and cousin due to dispute over a piece of land in Dhanmondi area. Some locals alleged that the incident occurred near a police post but police reached the spot 45 minutes after the incident took place.

Police filed a case in this connection, but none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night.

Maher Banu, 55, wife of Islam Khan, was murdered at her residence in front of Nasirabad High School, at Khilgaon in the city in the early hours yesterday.

Family sources said she was scheduled to visit Narayanganj for purchasing goods for her shop.

Maulana Abu Taher, imam of the local mosques called her at about 6 am. When he did not get any response from inside he informed the matter to the local people. They rushed to her house and got inside breaking open the door, hospital sources said quoting the relatives.

The locals found the lady in a pool of blood with injuries in

her throat. Police said the assailants looted money and valuables after killing her.

On receiving the information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body. They sent the body to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

She was staying alone inside a tin-shed house in the area after her husband and only daughter left for Pakistan few years ago.

A case was lodged with Khilgaon police in this connection, but none was arrested in this connection.

Sawkat, 27, an electrician of Green Enterprise and resident of 413 Tilpapa in Khilgaon, succumbed to his injuries at the DMCH on Friday night.

Hospital sources said Sawkat, son of Ali Akbar, a police Sub-Inspector posted at Chandpur, received bullet in his abdomen and leg during a shootout at Amtala Bagicha in Shahjahanpur on March 2. Sawkat died at the DMCH at about 11:40 Friday. The body of the victim was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Abduction: 5 arrested from CU campus

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 4: Five people including two alleged BCL cadres of CU unit were arrested in connection with an abduction case here last night.

Golam Hossain was kidnapped by three miscreants from Chhararkhol of Fatehabad area at around 11:30 pm. Two BCL cadres Manirul Islam and Ali Ahsan Tusher joined the alleged abductors Shah Alam, Abdul Halim and Abdul Mannan at gate No-1 of the Chittagong University.

The abductors confined Golam Hossain to a room of Shah Jalal hall at the university.

The kidnappers reportedly tortured and forced him to sign a paper promising to pay Tk. 30,000. Hossain went to the Hathazari thana to file a case immediately after his release from the kidnappers.

Police arrested all the five accused from the hall and adjoining area at around 3 pm.

Non-govt pry teachers continue strike

By Staff Correspondent

The non-government Primary School Teachers continued their countrywide strike for the seventh day yesterday, said a press release of the organisation.

About 23,000 non-government primary schools teachers across the country began a 13-day long strike on February 27, demanding nationalisation of their service.

No initiative however was taken by the government to solve the problem till yesterday, press release added.

Shiv Sena pelts stones at bus bound for Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Mar 4: Hindu right-wing activists threw stones today and caused minor damage to a bus taking mostly Pakistani passengers across the Indian border, police said.

A passenger was hurt, reports AP. Waving their fists and shouting slogans against Pakistan, at least 15 members of the Shiv Sena party shattered a window pane of the bus, the only road link between India and Pakistan, said Prithvi Singh, the Deputy Superintendent of Phagwara town near which the incident occurred. The protesters also burnt a Pakistani flag, eyewitnesses said.

Sharif's trial: Battalvi sticks to his decision

KARACHI, Mar 4: The head of the legal team defending deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif against a possible death sentence said today he had agreed to end a protest boycott of the trial at Sharif's request.

"I have decided to return to the trial on Monday and one of us will inform the court today," Khawaja Sultan told Reuters by telephone from Lahore.

But he said that one senior defence lawyer, Ijaz Battalvi, would not be returning to court. "Battalvi sticks to his previous decision of withdrawing from the case," he said.

Sultan said the decision was taken after Sharif and three other co-accused asked him to carry on with the case, which resumes in the port city of Karachi on Monday.

Sultan was one of two senior lawyers who withdrew from the case on Sunday in protest at a court ruling that Sharif's statement to the court be made in private.

They said the ruling was an attempt to gag Sharif but the prosecution said the ousted premier could divulge state secrets in an open court.

On Wednesday the judge ex-

AG's views trigger fresh dispute

committee so appointed may, subject to this Constitution and to any other law —

(a) examine draft bills and legislative proposals;

(b) review the enforcement of laws and propose measures for such enforcement;

(c) in relation to any matter referred to it by Parliament as a matter of public importance, investigate or inquire into the activities or administration of a ministry and may require it to furnish, through an authorised representative, relevant information and to answer questions, orally or in writing;

(d) perform any other function assigned to it by Parliament;

The AG observed, "According to Article 76 a standing committee may examine draft bills and legislative measures referred to it. Though there is no mention of reference by Parliament in respect of sub-clause (b), one can argue that a standing committee can do the work of review of the enforcement of laws when it is referred to it by parliament as it is on such delegation a standing committee can perform the function."

"However, for the present, we proceed with the assumption that there is no requirement of reference by Parliament in case of sub-clause (b). But the language of sub-clause (c) and (d) is such that there cannot be any doubt that a standing committee cannot perform any function mentioned in sub-clause (c) and (d) of Article 76 unless Parliament makes a reference of the matter to the standing committee."

"One may say that investigation of a particular matter is implicit in the function of review of enforcement of laws. If this would be so, there was no need to provide separately in sub-clause (c) the matter of investigation."

"It is a cardinal principle of interpretation of the Constitution that the provisions of the Constitution shall not be interpreted in such a way as to render any of its provisions redundant and it must be assumed that each provision has a separate purpose."

"Investigation and inquiry having been specifically mentioned in sub-clause (c), there is

no escape from the conclusion that investigation into some complaint comes within the purview of sub-clause (c) and not sub-clause (b).

"In order to attract sub-clause (c), a matter must be of public importance and must have been referred to a standing committee by Parliament."

"The point would be clear if we take into consideration the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure."

"Chapter XV of the Rules of Procedure makes separate provisions in respect of petitions. Rule 100 provides as follows —

"Petitions may be presented or submitted to the House with the consent of the Speaker on —

(i) a bill which has been published under Rule 76 or which has been introduced in the House;

(ii) any important matter connected with the business pending before the House; and

(iii) any other matter of public importance;

Rule 105 provides as follows —

(i) every petition shall, if presented by a member, be countersigned by him.

(ii) A member shall not present a petition from himself.

Rule 108 provides —

A petition may be presented by a member or be forwarded to the secretary, who shall report it to the House. No debate shall be permitted on the presentation, or the making of such report.

Rule 110 provides —

Every petition shall, after presentation by a member or report by the secretary, as the case may be, stand referred to the committee on petition.

The AG further said, "It can be seen that any person can submit a petition to a Member of Parliament who can present it to the House by countersigning the petition. Such person may also present the petition to the Secretary of Parliament who shall make a report of it to the House and on such presentation of a petition to the House through a Member of Parliament or through the Secretary of Parliament, the petition shall stand referred to the committee on petition."

"Rule 246 of the Rules of Procedure provides —

Parliament shall, as soon as may be, after the inauguration of each new Parliament, appoint the Standing Committees on each ministries which may, subject to the Constitution or any other law, —

(a) examine draft bills and other legislative proposals;

(b) review the enforcement of laws and propose measures for such enforcement; and

(c) examine any other matter referred to them by Parliament under Article 76 of the Constitution" (emphasis added)

"Rule 248 provides as follows —

Each such standing committee shall meet at least once a month and the functions of a committee shall be to examine any bill or other matter referred to it by Parliament, to review the work relating to a ministry which falls within its jurisdiction, to inquire into any activity or irregularity and serious complaint in respect of the ministry and to examine, if it seems fit, any such matter as may fall within its jurisdiction and to make recommendations;

(Emphasis added)

"Rule 248 has to be read along with Rule 246 as Rule 246 stipulates the extent of jurisdiction of standing committee and Rule 248 describes the nature of the function of the standing committee."

"Furthermore, the rules cannot be interpreted in a way which will bring them in conflict with the provision of Article 76 of the Constitution."

"Any grievance made by a person shall on presentation in, or report to, the House of Parliament shall stand referred to the committee on petition unless the House specifically refers it to the standing committee. If a different interpretation is given to the relevant rules, there will be conflict between Article 76 and the rules referred to above and also between the rules referred to above which is absolutely impermissible."

"In the present case, no reference having been made by Parliament, the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Finance has no authority to investigate or inquire into the complaint lodged with the Chairman of the Standing Committee."



A procession was brought out in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killers of Ahmed Hossain Sumon of Postagola. — Star photo

Abduction at gun point alleged

By Staff Correspondent

The acting secretary general of the Bangladesh Association for Aged People and the Institute of Geriatric Medicine was abducted at gun point from his office at about 11:30 a.m. yesterday.

A gang of six people grabbed me on the veranda of the association's office in Agargaon," said Dr. K.M. Rashid during a phone interview after his release. "They beat me up and then dragged me down the stairs at gun point. They put me in my car, told me to go home and advised me never to return to the office."

Mohammadpur Police said they sent team to the spot but didn't find anything. A case hasn't been filed in connection with the abduction and no arrests have been made.

Rashid said he believed somebody inside the association involved in fund misappropriation might have been involved in the incident, although he refused to name names.

Sources said the executive committee asked Rashid to act as the association's secretary general, since the regular secretary general, Dr. Mahbubur Rahman, was unable to attend meetings due to illness, and the association's annual general meeting was approaching.

Rahman said he was unaware of the attack on Rashid, although he confirmed the 21-member executive committee had appointed Rashid as acting secretary general.

The association has an an-

See page 11 col 8

Sec 144 in Atpara of Netrokona

From Our Correspondent

NETROKONA, Mar 4: Authorities have imposed Section 144 in Atpara thana today apprehending a clash between the ruling party and BNP over foundation laying ceremony of two bridges.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) invited BNP Member of Parliament (MP) Nurul Amin Talukdar to lay the foundation of the bridges at Nasirkhali and Bots long today. But Awami League activists went on the rampage and damaged the stage on Friday night.

Global workshop on air pollution begins today

A two-day international workshop of environmental journalists on "Curb Air Pollution Role of the Media" begins at GIRDAP auditorium in the city today, reports BSS.

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will inaugurate the workshop at 10 am. Over 100 environmental journalists including some editors, resource persons and policy-makers are expected to attend.

World Bank Country Director Fredrick Temple, Environment Secretary Syed Marghubur, Secretary General of International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ) Manuel Satorre, Chairman of Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (AFEJ), Dharmar Wickremaratne, Chairman of Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association (CEJA) and Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, CEJA Secretary General Nina Ratulele and FEJB General Secretary Mofizur Rahman will address the inaugural function.

The conference is being hosted by FEJB in collaboration with AFEJ and CEJA with support from UNDP, World Bank, Ministry of Environment and Forest and a number of development agencies. The workshop is expected to help curb air pollution across the world.

PM awarded Lions Medal of Distinction

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been awarded Lions Medal of Distinction in recognition of her dedication to humanity and determination to work for public welfare, reports UNB.

International President of Lions Clubs International James E Jim Arvin yesterday formally handed over the medal and a citation to Hasina at a simple ceremony at Gano Bhaban.

The Lions Clubs International in the citation said: "We recognise your unselfish dedication to humanity, a determination to labour for public welfare and outstanding achievements from which all mankind benefits, and in testimony to the fact that in such humanitarian endeavors you have always upheld the ideals and objectives of Lions International Clubs, the world's largest service organisation."

Receiving the award, Prime Minister Hasina said she and her government is deeply engaged to bring about a change in the destiny of the poor and hapless people of the society by improving their economic condition.

Council chairman Ln Eng Iqbal H Khan, Past International Director Ln Moslem Ali Khan, Ln Kazi Akramul Jin Ahmed, Ln Sultana Shaheda Islam, Ln Adv Sawkat Ali, Ln Rasheda Maksud Khan, Ln Firoz Rahman, Ln ABM Firoz, Ln Nazmul Huq Chowdhury and Ln MS Shakil Chowdhury were present.

Kalaroa

From Page 1

organised the rally at Kalaroa High School ground to mourn the Thursday's tragedy. Kalaroa Teachers' Association president Abdur Rouf chaired the rally.

Principal Raisuddin, Ashrafuzzaman, Abdul Momen and Advocate Kamal Reja also addressed the rally.

People from all walks of life amended the rally and gayerana janaza.

Besides, Bangladesh Human Rights Implementation Association, Human Rights Monitoring Cell Sathkira and local Press Club also jointly held a meeting to mourn the deaths at Kalaroa Press Club with Advocate Azharul Islam in the chair this morning.

President Kalaroa Press Club, journalists Bulu Ahmed, Samur Rahman, Samareh Ghosh and human rights activists Habibur Rahman and Amirul Islam spoke on the occasion.

Condemning the tragic incident the speakers demanded judicial inquiry headed by a justice or district judge, arrest and punishment to those responsible for the incident. They also demanded compensation to the families of the dead and injured.

Moreover, local Awami League, BNP, Jatuya party, Jamaat, Workers Party, JSD and student bodies also condemned the tragic incident.

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The Branch has been shifted to-day, on the 5th March, '2000

Attentions are drawn to our valued clients and patrons.

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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