

Mohammadpur double murder Autopsy done, but no progress in probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammadpur police has failed to make any headway in the investigation into double murder at Baitul Aman Housing Estate in the city.

A couple -- Rumana Tahneen, 25, and her husband Akram Ali Iku, 30, -- was found dead at their bedroom at Baitul Aman Housing Estate in the city's Mohammadpur area on Thursday night.

"We are waiting for the autopsy report," the investigation officer of the case said. The autopsy was performed at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police recorded the case under section 302, but they did not mention any charge regarding removal of evidence from the room where the murder took place.

According to a physician at the forensic department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the woman was dragged along the floor and her throat was slit with a sharp weapon. He mentioned that it is not possible to commit the murders for any single person.

The cut marks also suggest that a professional killer was involved in the killing, according to sources.

"The doctors said that cut mark in the left hand of Ali was deep while the cut mark in his right hand was not so deep," morgue employee said.

Woman gangraped, stabbed to death in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police recovered body of Uma Chakravarty, 26, at village Mathbaria of Koira upazila on Thursday morning. She was stabbed to death after being gangraped, Koira thana OC Hashem Khan said.

Separated from her husband two years back, Uma was abducted at gun point on Wednesday night from her residence, police said.

The alleged rapists then dumped her body into a canal. Her body was found bearing multiple stab injuries and teeth marks, the doctor who conducted autopsy at Khulna Sadar Hospital morgue on Friday said.

Police arrested two persons Tasiruddin, 42, and Dr Anil Krishna Sarker, 50, in this connection.

Uma was married to Rangul Chakravarty of Mathbaria village nine years back. But she had been living at her father's house due to unhappy conjugal life, police said.

A case was filed with Koira thana yesterday.

Writers' Award

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The award carries a citation and cash equivalent to Tk 2,23,000.

Emotion-choked Shamsur Rahman, while receiving the award, paid deep tributes to his predecessors, saying he is greatly owed those great writers and poets for his today's success.

He urged the SAARC Writers Secretariat to arrange more translation of the works of the writers and poets of the region to popularise those regionally and globally.

Mannan dead

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Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain and Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury attended the janaza.

Later, the body was taken to his village home at Barama under Chandanaish upazila where he was laid to rest with state honour after a second janaza.

Japan to extend GSP

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export income of the developing countries, it added.

Balancing the benefit resulting from preferential treatment and the necessity of protecting Japan's domestic industry, preferential tariff rates will be raised (or preferential treatment margin -- MFN rates-preferential tariff rates -- will be reduced) in accordance with the degree of expansion of the amount of preferential imports, the sources mentioned.

Preferential tariff rates for industrial products will be diversified -- 0

Leaders on 'hit list'

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jail.

A divisional level leader of outlawed PBCP was recently shifted to Rajshahi central jail when his involvement in passing secret letters outside the jail was detected.

The conspiracy hatched up inside the jail leaked when outlaw "Kana" Babu was interrogated while on remand and his information checked and rechecked by different intelligence agencies.

When asked, Superintendent of

The CID expert said that they could not collect sufficient fingerprints from the spot. They suspected that somebody had destroyed the evidences.

Footprints of a person were found around the room. Somebody might have searched for something inside the room after the killing took place, CID experts said.

The killings are shrouded in mystery as the family members did not know that the killings were taking place. And the door of the bedroom was open.

Police have not arrested anyone for destroying the evidence or for their ignorance of the incident.

Rinku, brother of Rumana, received the body from Dhaka Medical College Hospital and she was buried at the Mirpur intellectual graveyard. And the body of Ali was received by Atiar, uncle of the deceased. Five members of his family came to DMCH to receive the body.

Ctg int'l airport

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bridges and luggage conveyors, will be able to handle about 1.5 million passengers a year, sources concerned said.

As the airport is located on the air route of around 20 airlines that fly over Chittagong, these airlines could be motivated to use the MA Hannan Airport for transit, sources said.

They further said the government will follow an open sky policy for technical landing of passenger aircraft, transit and refueling and air cargo services at the airport.

The inaugural ceremony will be addressed among others by Civil Aviation, Tourism, Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Charge d'Affaires of Japan embassy Kiyukazu Ota and JIBC representative Tomohiro Hamada.

SSC exams:

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Commissioner of Land, Nandail, was stabbed by Kharirul Islam at Nandail Shaheed Smriti College examination centre on March 15 when he expelled him for adopting unfair means. Police arrested Kharirul from the spot.

Some sources said copying takes place mainly in examination centres in rural areas. Imposition of section 144 and other laws virtually becomes ineffective as the associates of examinees create chaotic situation outside the centres.

Students in rural areas adopt unfair means as they do not attend classes regularly, the sources noted.

A total of 8,83,345 students, including 89,515 who failed last year, are appearing at the SSC examinations this year under Dhaka, Chittagong, Comilla, Rajshahi, Jessore, Barisal and Sylhet boards. The last two are newly set up.

Education

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technical education for developing a skilled national workforce and women must be involved in the process, he added.

Mashuda Khatun Shefali said women must be treated equally with men as a powerful factor in development.

Dr Ayesha Khatun said development of the nation would remain incomplete unless women are involved in the process. Technical education could play a vital role in this regard.

The three-day conference of IDEB inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday ends today.

per cent, 20 per cent, 40 per cent, 60 per cent and 80 per cent of general tariff rates -- and will be raised in accordance with the degree of expansion of the amount of preferential imports.

Preferential tariff rates for agricultural products would be revised when a new round of negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) reaches an agreement, taking account of general tariff rates to be agreed on.

The GSP tariff rate will be applied in fiscal year 2001 (April this year-- March next year).

Call to link Ctg with Trans Asian Rly & Asian highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Greater Chittagong Development Action Committee demanded immediate step for linking the port city with Trans Asian Railway and Asian Highway to help the country join globalization system.

The committee at a press conference at the local press club on Friday also called for developing land route between Ramgar of Khagrachhari and the Indian state of Tripura and restoration of train service between Karimganj of Sylhet and the Indian state of Assam.

The speakers said this would help increase use of Chittagong port in exporting goods to seven northern states of India and other countries through Myanmar.

The written statement was read out by the chairman of the committee Alhaj S M Jamaluddin. MA Salam and M Salimullah also attended the conference.

JU BCL council today

JU CORRESPONDENT

The council of ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit for the year 2001 will be held today.

The president of BCL central committee, Bahadur Bepari, will inaugurate the council at the university's central auditorium at 10 am. BCL activists will bring out a procession after the inauguration.

Convener of JU unit Mehedi Jamil will preside over the central session. Among others, general secretary of the central committee Ajay Kar Khokon and other central leaders will also spoke.

Meanwhile, BCL leaders of the university unit are busy lobbying the central BCL leaders and policy-makers of Awami League to get a post in the new JU committee which will be formed today.

Two boys electrocuted in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two boys were electrocuted at Ainagar in Chapainawabganj municipal area on Thursday night.

The accident occurred when the house was electrified from a short-circuit, sources said.

The dead were identified as Abdur Rahim, 11 son of Ruhul Amin and his uncle Rushed, 12.

A case of unnatural death was registered with Chapainawabganj thana in this connection, police said.

Navy fleet

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others who attended the meeting, Defence Secretary M Idrish Ali, Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Harun-Rashid, Naval Chief Rear Admiral Abu Taher, Air Chief Air Vice Martial Jamal Uddin Ahmed and high officials were also present.

Thursday's meeting did not go through its agenda that included the issues of killing of former president Ziaur Rahman, pre-coup activities by former military ruler H M Ershad in 1982 and coup attempt by former Army Chief Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim in 1996.

The issues will be taken up at its next meeting, likely to be the concluding one before dissolution of parliament.

Civic amenities

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service, as once again government postal department is not very dependable for swift delivery.

In the telecommunication sector, privatisation is very much present as side by side with BTB, private companies are increasingly providing cellular phone service and internet connections.

The country's transportation system is also being gradually privatised with private buses running on long routes. The air transport is also being privatised, though slowly, with a few companies operating private planes shuttling passengers along some domestic routes.

Times are fast changing indeed!



President Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing the inaugural session of golden jubilee celebrations of the Kishoreganj Zila Samity, Dhaka at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the city yesterday.

Four killings in city

No headway in investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have so far failed to make any headway in terms of pinning down the assailants responsible for three political killings and a murder in the city on Monday.

Wahidur Rahman, 40, father of two children and president of the Ward 50 unit Jubo Dal, a front organisation of BNP, was gunned down while he was reading newspaper near his Al-Amin Road residence at about 9:30am. Unidentified assailants shot him at point-blank range, leaving him dead on the spot.

His wife Marzina Begum filed a murder case with Dhanmondi police station, accusing two persons Lamba Khokon and Jewel, who was later picked up by police and sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

Sources said Wahid was killed by his political rivals following a feud over gaining control of Mohakhali inter-district bus terminal. "Rivalry over tender-related businesses

might also be the reason behind the killing," said Sub-Inspector Jaman, investigation officer of the case.

He said Dhanmondi police interrogated Jewel during one-day remand on Thursday but could not get any information from him. The IO also said that they were continuing hunt for the killers of Wahid.

Meanwhile, police are yet to arrest any of the killers of Abdur Rashed Sikder Bacchu, organising secretary of Lalbagh thana unit of ruling party-backed Jubo League. Armed miscreants shot him dead at about 1pm near the BUET central library in front of hundreds of students.

Lalbagh police recovered eight spent bullets from the spot. When contacted, duty officer of Ramna thana said they had launched several drives but failed to arrest anybody in this regard till last night.

Sources said Rashed, a contractor listed with the Facilities Department, was killed over sharing

of profit earned from a cattle market at Lalbagh.

Another Jubo League activists Sikder Abu Sayeed Abdullah, 40, who is also a contractor, was shot dead near his residence at Kaji Nasir Khan Road of Paikpara in Mirpur. Gunmen shot Abdullah at point-blank range while he was returning home.

IO of the case Sub-Inspector Farid Ahmed told The Daily Star last night that he need some more days to find out any clue to the killing. "The incident is so complicated that I can't say anything about it right now," he added.

The police also could not make any headway in the investigation into the killing of Farid Hossain, a post-graduate student of BSMMU, who was allegedly pushed down from the roof of his five-story dormitory at Paribagh.

Mir crashes safely into Pacific

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overhead. "It was blinding bright."

Stunned and thrilled residents watched, with adults and children running along beaches, trying to keep the cosmic fireworks in sight. Some families had camped out on beaches, hoping for a glimpse of Mir.

Neli Vuatalevu, a pilot flying alone above Nadi, said he watched as the station disintegrated in a shower of fireballs.

"It was spectacular. The best fireworks I've ever seen. I don't think I'll see anything like it again in my life," said 29-year-old Vuatalevu. "It was amazing to see it disintegrate in mid-air."

Mir was set into its fiery downfall around 0500 GMT, when Mission Control fired engines on a cargo ship docked to Mir to brake the station's

orbit and send it hurtling into the atmosphere.

Most of the 130 metric ton station slammed into the Pacific about 30 minutes later, raining down over an area called the "cosmic graveyard" where Russia dumps derelict spacecraft and satellites.

Russian authorities said it hit an area centered at 40 degrees south latitude and 160 degrees west longitude, within a target zone about 200 kilometers wide by 5,800 kilometers long between New Zealand and Chile. That's about 3,000 kilometers east of Wellington, New Zealand.

Australian and New Zealand emergency officials who monitored the descent said the debris hit the target area, with debris falling

across a wide area. Defense and civil defense organizations were on alert across the region in case the controlled crash went wrong, plunging wreckage down on land.

Uncertainty prevailed until the very end about just where heavy chunks of metal from Mir, some weighing up to 800 kilograms would fall. Russian officials had insisted they could carry out a safe descent. But the station was by far the heaviest spacecraft ever dumped, and its size and shape made it difficult to exactly predict the re-entry.

The safe downing was a relief to nations that had been in its flight path like Japan, where many worried that a mishap could bring wreckage plummeting into populated areas.

Manzur removed as Secy Gen

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the jail yesterday, told The Daily Star that her husband was a bit sick.

Ershad's brother BM Kader, also a JP Presidium member, and son Shahid Ershad accompanied her.

When contacted, Ershad's counsel Khandakar Mahabub Hossain also said Ershad may be allowed to attend the upcoming parliament session on parole.

Earlier, Ershad was taken to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) on February 1 on complaint of heart ailment, where he held a meeting of his party Presidium. He was sent back to the Central Jail two days later.

During the half an hour meeting at the jail yesterday, Ershad discussed with Raushan and Kader the latest political developments, future of the four-party opposition alliance and conflict in JP.

Raushan told this correspondent last night that Ershad asked them to go to parliament. "He told us that if BNP lawmakers and other Opposition MPs can join the parliament to save their Jatiya Sangsad

seats, why should we not go to parliament to save our election symbol?"

Raushan said Ershad expressed deep anguish that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia "insulted" her (Raushan) when she met Khaleda recently to inform JP's decision to join the parliament session.

Khaleda told Raushan that JP should either remain in the opposition alliance or opt for collaborating with the government, other sources said.

As an immediate fallout, Raushan abstained from attending the March 21 'grand rally' of the alliance in the city.

Ershad also expressed dismay at Opposition's ultimatum to the government, saying it is a matter of hardy three weeks as the Prime Minister has already announced to quit power after April 17.

Nazir Rahman Manzur earlier alleged that Raushan and GM Kader were conspiring to break the Opposition unity by toying the government line and planning to attend the parliament session. Manzur also alleged that GM Kader

recently had meetings with Industries Minister Toifal Ahmed and Prime Minister's Political Advisor Dr SA Malek. Kader denied the allegation.

JP sources said, the government hinted to Ershad that he might have to languish in jail for long if he fails to break away from the alliance.

The process to revive some of the cases against Ershad is underway. The lower court has already rejected his bail prayers in two corruption cases.

Cox's Bazar betar centre opens today

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the Cox's Bazar centre of Bangladesh Betar at 12:15 pm today.

Bangladesh Betar, Dhaka Centre, will air the inaugural function live from 12 noon to 1:30 pm through 1000 KW on medium wave (693 kilohertz), an official handout said here.

TB claims over 70,000 lives annually

BSS, Dhaka

Tuberculosis, a deadly disease, kills over 70,000 people and infects 300,000 others every year in Bangladesh, an official statement said yesterday.

The World Tuberculosis Day will be observed in the country today as elsewhere around the globe to create awareness about the dreadful consequence of this disease.

This year's theme of the day is "The Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course (DOTS)-TB CURE FOR ALL".

The day-long programme starts today with a rally to be led by State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah from the National Museum to the Jatiya Press Club.

A discussion will be held at the NIPSOM auditorium, Mohakhali, in the city at 10 am. Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim will attend the discussion as the chief guest.

The UNICEF in a press statement here termed Bangladesh as

the worst TB affected country in the region and the fourth worst affected country in the world.

The National Tuberculosis Control Programme in Bangladesh calls for reducing the incidence of TB until it is no longer a public health problem. Objectives of this programme is to detect at least 70 per cent of the contagious TB cases and to cure at least 85 per cent of these cases.

The UNICEF statement referred to a social stigma especially when women were attacked by TB and said at least 11 per cent of the children in families with TB in India were being withdrawn from school. Besides, it said, eight per cent enter work while 300,000 children leave school every year due to TB in India.

The UNICEF statement said more than 406,032 TB cases were traced since the start of the programme in 1993 and nearly 80 per cent of the contagious patients were treated successfully in Bangladesh.

Hasina challenges Khaleda

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Prime Minister said she wants to leave it to Almighty Allah to judge who should have a broken waist, who should not be able to stand straight.

About corruption charges against Khaleda Zia for receiving kickbacks in the Airbus deal, furnishing her Cantonment house and appointing police Sub-inspectors, the Prime Minister alleged that while in power, Khaleda Zia had bought two aerobuses for \$150 million, whose tender price was \$130 million. "Where has this \$20 million gone, to whose pocket?"

Rebutting Khaleda's allegation of corruption in buying Mig-29 fighter jets, Hasina said her government saved \$165 million to exchequer by purchasing the warplanes for the Air Force for \$124 million whereas tender prices were \$289 million.

She said the BNP leader got houses in Cantonment and Banani

and financial benefit from ex-President Ershad.

Hasina also questioned who Khaleda Zia and her sons could amass crores of taka overnight from the "broken suitcase" of Ziaur Rahman and how they became the owners of Dandy Dyeing, Marshal Distillery and Cocco-1 to Cocco-6.

Responding to criticism for filing corruption cases against Khaleda Zia, the Prime Minister said the judiciary is independent and cases of corruption must be filed by whoever is to free the country from corruption.

The function was also addressed by Awami League presidium member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, State Minister for Local Government Rahmat Ali, State Minister for Textiles AKM Jahangir Hossain, Akhtaruzzaman MP, and Meher Afroz MP.

Ahsanullah Master MP presided over the meeting.

Heroin seized

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24.1 kgs of heroin worth about Tk 25 crore from Hotel Razmonti lhaskah in the city on 20 September 1999. Three Pakistanis were arrested in connection with the incident.

Khulna blasts

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on October 13 and Inspector Kamrul Islam was made the investigation officer (IO). Few days later, the case was handed over to Inspector Suhrawardy.

On December 20, 1999, the case was transferred to CID again and Inspector Golam Mostafa and Inspector Shahrum Khan were made IOs one after another.

When contacted, Shahrum said, "I can not submit investigation report without having the report from army explosive experts."

The fifth IO however said, "I think the grenade or bomb exploded inside the Kadiani mosque. None threw it from outside".

BSC (edn) assoc

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more.

Secretary General of the association Prof. M Kofliuddin in his speech said promotion is a normal process and a logical demand of every service holder but we have been forced to go for a movement to realise our logical demands.

"We even take classes on weekends but can not enjoy our earned leave due to the bureaucratic tangle," He said.

He called upon the Prime Minister to take effective measures to break the stalemate prevailing in the sector.

Earlier on March 19, the teachers boycotted classes to press their demands for promotion, earned leave and appointment of teachers in government colleges against vacant posts.

Presided over by Prof. Jahanara Begum, the rally was also addressed among others by Fahima Khatun, Selim Khandoker, M

Sindhis threaten

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eastern wing East Pakistan seceded to become an independent Bangladesh.

Pakistan could only survive if it became truly democratic, secular, non-militarised and federal state, the Sindhi leaders said, adding that in the absence of these, the Sindhis would have no option but to seek their right to self-determination or even struggle for their own separate nation.

The institute leaders urged India to extend help in their struggle against exploitation by the Punjab-dominated Pakistan regime. They also appealed to India to raise the issue of human rights violations of Sindhi people during the bilateral talks between leaders of India and

Pakistan. They expressed concern at the growing Talibanisation of Sindh where number of Madrassahs in recent years had grown to nearly 400 from where fundamentalist cadres were emerging.

Mukhdoom expressed apprehensions that there could be attack on Indus Valley sites of Mohenjodaro and Sathwello in Sindh just like the Bamiyan Buddha statue in Afghanistan.

Sindh always had a Sufi culture where religious tolerance was the predominant feature. Fanaticism fanned by the successive Pakistan government was threatening its cultural identity, he said.

Russia retaliates

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could seriously injure wobbly relations between the former rivals.

"We will easily find" US diplomats to be expelled "in a more painful form to the United States than it was in our case," Sergei Ivanov, chief of Russia's influential Security Council, said on Polish state television during a visit to Warsaw late Thursday.

"We have time to think, to carefully pick from among more than 1,000 US diplomats in Russia, to choose those who are most precious to the Americans," he was quoted as saying through an interpreter.

The rolling spy scandal was the latest sign of rising tensions