

Land-grabbing behind monk murder?

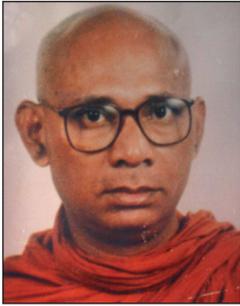
Brother's wife, neighbour held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police suspect a motive of land-grabbing behind the killing of Buddhist monk Ganojyoti Mohashthobir at a temple in Raozan.

Police yesterday arrested two persons on suspicion -- Nipu Barua, wife of the slain monk's brother Sulal Barua, and a neighbour Prodig Barua.

Police said Prodig might have killed the monk over his failure to migrate to Canada with the help of the monk's expatriate brother Bhupal Barua. Prodig reportedly spent around Tk 1 lakh on migration.



Monk Ganojyoti

Money, the temple complex and lands worth several crore taka, owned by Ganojyoti, might be the motive behind the assassination, the police believe. Hired men and revengeful extortionists might also be involved in the incident.

Ganojyoti Mohashthobir, 52, was slain in the early hours of Monday at Hingala Hoara Puyan Buddha Bihar in Dabua union of Raozan. As many as 22 armed miscreants forced their way into the Buddha Bihar -- a temple-cum-orphanage -- and blindfolded the 'sebok' (an apprentice monk) and stabbed the monk to death at around 12.30am.

The killing has spawned a flurry of speculations among the local people.

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Young man kidnapped, murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants abducted and killed a young man at Rajarbagh in the city's Sabujbagh area on Monday night, police said yesterday.

Mohammad Babul, 25, an alleged criminal, was picked him up from in front of his house at around 8:30 pm. The gang took him to an open space at Rajarbagh later in the night and killed him by slitting the throat, police said.

Police recovered the body from

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Journalist Harun murder Prime accused Baby refuses to make judicial confession

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Moktar Hossain Baby, prime accused in journalist Harun murder case, refused to make judicial confession after expiry of his three-day remand on Monday.

He pleaded innocence and denied the charge of his involvement in the murder.

He brought charge against DB police for "brutally" torturing him during interrogation to make confession.

Showing marks of torture on his body, he told magistrate Mashur Rahman of CMM's court on Monday that DB police tortured him "brutally" during interrogation.

"They beat me with batons at every sensitive part of my body.



Moktar Hossain Baby

Needles were slowly penetrated into my fingers and boiled water was poured into my nostrils. An electric device was applied to compel me to admit my involvement in the murder", he alleged to the magistrate.

He further alleged that an Inspector of DB threatened him of "dire consequence" in future if he does not make judicial confession under Section 164 stating his involvement in the murder.

"What I said at DB office during remand is not fact. I was tortured so mercilessly that there was no other alternative for me but to say what was, in fact, dictated by one of the interrogators", said the activist of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) who was convicted in 1997 in a triple murder case.

Arrested from Jessore bus stand on Thursday morning in connection with Harun murder case, Baby gave

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CIH virus may strike Apr 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Beware of the CIH virus! The Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) yesterday warned the computer users of the deadly virus that could possibly attack again on April 26.

The virus attacked hundreds of thousands of computers throughout the world and destroyed data on this very day.

The virus corrupts the BIOS of a computer and in some cases, damages data and files in the hard disk.

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Police foil AL meet in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police subverted a scheduled meeting of the Awami League (AL) in Narayanganj yesterday on an order of the district administration.

In the morning, several hundred policemen besieged the Narayanganj Club where the AL's Narayanganj district unit was set to hold the meeting and barred the AL leaders and activists from the auditorium.

Asked to comment on the reason of such action, the on-duty police officer did not say anything other than -- "we've instructions from the higher authorities".

On Monday night, District Commissioner (DC) of Narayanganj

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Cabinet approves Bangladesh Gas Act, 2002

UNB, Dhaka

The Council of Ministers yesterday approved in principle a proposal for enacting the Bangladesh Gas Act, 2002.

The approval was given at the weekly regular meeting of the Cabinet held at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The meeting also endorsed a proposal for fixing the price and target of internal Boro and maize procurement, said an official handout.

Besides, it approved a proposal for turning the project on environmental and geographic information system in water resources planning into a trust titled "Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS).



PHOTO: STAR

As laying of sewerage lines under the commercially important Nawabpur Road in the city progresses at snail's pace for the last few months, businesses suffer most.

Move for quick disposal of sensational cases

110 cases identified so far

BSS, Dhaka

The government has formed a high-powered monitoring cell for disposal of sensational cases filed in the last few years at the quickest possible time.

The recently formed cell in its first meeting at the home ministry yesterday initially identified 110 'highly sensational' cases of different natures like rape, murder and acid throwing, ministry sources said.

Meanwhile, reinvestigation into the sensational Gandaria Rifle Club double murder case in the city is almost in the final stage.

Inspector Lutfar Rahman of Detective Branch (DB), the current Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, told BSS that they would soon sub-

latest position of the cases and take necessary measures for their quick disposal.

Stern action would be taken against persons found responsible for willful lapses in framing charges or giving charge sheets in time to ensure justice, sources said.

However, the sources said the quick disposal of the cases will be held under the existing laws for criminal cases instead of any special tribunal.

Inspector Lutfar Rahman of Detective Branch (DB), the current Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, told BSS that they would soon sub-

mit the supplementary charge sheet, accusing 33 people.

Two young men, Mohsin, 18, and Sayem, 19, were brutally murdered inside the club and their bodies were chopped into several pieces by group of miscreants allegedly led by one Suman, son of the City Mahila Awami League leader Nasibunnessa.

The IO said out of the 33 accused, 18, including the main accused Suman, are now in the jail and the rest are on the run.

Amin Miah, father of victim Mohsin, filed a case accusing 14 people, including Suman and Sharif, with the Sutrapur police on September 16, 2000. Sutrapur police filed

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Shihab murder Absconding four asked to appear before court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four absconding accused allegedly involved in the abduction and killing of schoolboy Khondaker Shihab Ahmed have been asked to surrender before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka within 10 days.

Magistrate Mohammad Nurul Karim Majumder passed the order on Monday.

In its order, the court said that the four accused -- Faisal Sharif Raju, Mahbubul Haq Rubel, Imran Hossain Sabuj and Mohammad Nasim Sheikh -- have been absconding since the incident. As there is little possibility of their appearance in court they have been asked to surrender to the court within 10 days from the date of issuing the order. If otherwise, the case will be tried in

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140 polling centres in Khulna 'vulnerable'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

One hundred and forty out of 241 polling centres in Khulna City Corporation (KCC) are "vulnerable".

Each of these "vulnerable" centres will be manned by 24 policemen and the rest by 22 policemen each, according to sources at the Deputy Election Commissioner's office here.

Five companies of army, ten platoons of BDR and ten platoons of APBN have been deployed for patrolling the city in teams. Each team will be led by a magistrate.

Besides, 48 teams of KMP headed by 24 magistrates will also be on patrol duty.

Army will take position in 15 "vulnerable" palaces in the city and have been empowered to rush with magistrate on receipt of information of any violence.

Ten mobile courts manned by 10

magistrates will also be kept standby to meet any emergency situation.

In all, 4000 members of law enforcing agencies including Answers will be deployed for the 241 polling centres. They will be led by 237 magistrates.

The divisional commissioner will monitor the situation. He will be assisted by the police commissioner, the police superintendent and the DC of Khulna.

Apart from three mayoral candidates, 215 are contesting for 31 posts of ward commissioners. Sixty-one women candidates are contesting for 10 reserved seats in the first ever direct election for posts of women ward commissioners.

More than one person both from BNP and Awami League are in the polls race for posts of ward commissioner.

Of the 215 male ward commis

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Lok Sabha to debate Gujarat violence Deputy speaker's ruling deals a blow to BJP

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The week-long Lok Sabha logjam over the stand-off between the government of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and the opposition ended yesterday with a setback for the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), when Deputy Speaker PM Sayeed ruled that the house would debate the communal violence in Gujarat.

Proceedings in both houses of

the Indian parliament remained paralysed for six consecutive days last week with the opposition demanding a discussion on the Gujarat violence under rule 184 of Rules of Procedure. A discussion under this rule entails voting on a censure motion. The treasury bench preferred a debate without voting.

Sayeed, a senior Congress leader, tried to evolve a consensus on the rule by holding several rounds of talks with leaders of both sides of the political divide but a solution remained elusive. Finally, he announced on Monday that he would take a decision himself on the issue.

All political parties across the spectrum have already announced that they would accept the deputy speaker's ruling. Sayeed is now acting as speaker of the parliament.

The BJP, which leads the ruling alliance, had steadfastly opposed discussion on the Gujarat violence under rule 184, saying it would set a "bad precedent" as affairs of a state should not be discussed in parliament.

The BJP opposition to discus-

sion under rule 184 was understandable, as it fears it might put on record division within the ruling alliance between the party and some of its key allies on the issue.

Allies like the Telugu Desam Party, Trinamool Congress, Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janashakti have censured the BJP government in Gujarat for "failing" to control violence in the state and demanded

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Apr 24		6-24 pm
Apr 25	5-29 am	

Prayer Timings		
Apr 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-25	6-30
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation