

Bina murder
Case filed with
Kotwali thana
against 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A murder case was filed with the city's Kotwali thana last night in connection with the killing of BNP-backed ward commissioner Binoy Krishna Sarkar Bina.

Sharika Sarkar, wife of the slain commissioner of ward 72 of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) filed the case accusing 26 people, including the 15 arrested earlier.

In the FIR, she alleged that local BNP leader Mosharraf Hossain Ripon and his supporter Ranjeet killed her husband.

Known as the main rival of Bina, Ripon went into hiding soon after the killing on Wednesday night.

Those arrested earlier are now on a two-day police remand for interrogation.

**PM's letter to Deuba
Dhaka to welcome
any move to defuse
Indo-Pak tension**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed her deep concern over the escalating tension between India and Pakistan and said that Bangladesh would welcome any move or initiative to defuse the crisis in the region.

Khaleda sent a letter to Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, who is also Chairman of the seven-nation SAARC, on Friday to share her concern over the deteriorating situation between India and Pakistan, said an official handout yesterday.

"I have no doubt that you too, just as others in the region and beyond, find it extremely worrisome," the prime minister said in the letter despatched from her hotel suite in New York, where she is recovering from a knee surgery.

Khaleda said Bangladesh would welcome any statement by the Nepalese prime minister and SAARC Chairman urging restraint by India and Pakistan.

**Tribal youth
held with
AK-47 rifle
at Khagrachhari**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Police on Friday night arrested a tribal youth from zero mile area of Khagrachhari town and recovered an AK-47 rifle loaded with five bullets from his possession.

The arrested youth was identified as Bijoy Kumar Chakma, 28.

On a secret information, police surrounded a nursery in zero mile area and nabbed Bijoy with the sophisticated assault rifle.

The other associates of the arrested youth fled the scene during police drive.

Bijoy was yesterday produced before the court that placed him on remand.

**10 JCD men held
on charge of
occupying
land at Fatullah**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'garj

Ten JCD activists were arrested on charge of occupying a piece of land used for sand business in Dopa Balurhat area under Fatullah thana yesterday.

Police also recovered a loaded pistol from one of the arrested JCD men.

According to police and local people, one Abdur Rashid took out a lease on the land and was doing sand business there.

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Prayer Timings

May 25

May 26

Esha

Source: Islamic Foundation

Sun Rises Sun Sets

4-15 6-39 pm

5-12 am

5-15

5-00

6-42

8-15

8-45

Mozambique train crash kills 200

AP, Maputo

A passenger train and a freight train collided in southern Mozambique yesterday, killing about 200 people and injuring hundreds more, Mozambique's transport minister said.

The accident happened Saturday morning at Moamba, about 60 kilometres south of the capital, Maputo.

There were conflicting reports about what caused the crash, but Transport Minister Tomas Salomao told radio Mozambique from the scene that it appeared to be the result of human error.

Between 300 and 400 people were injured, he said.

About 150 injured people had been taken to hospitals in Maputo by Saturday afternoon and many

more were on their way or still at the scene of the crash.

Salomao said several of those wounded had died on the way to the hospital, and he expected the death toll to rise.

**WDB engr robbed
at Narayanganj**

UNB, N'ganj

An engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) was robbed of Tk 1,700 on Bangabandhu Road here yesterday.

Two muggers intercepted a rickshaw carrying WDB Engineer Abdul Latif Mia at noon and snatched the money from him at gunpoint.

"We are investigating the cause of the accident, which brought this time of mourning to the nation, but it was caused by a human error," he said.

President Joachim Chissano declared the accident a national tragedy and called on Mozambicans to donate blood for the injured and support those who had lost their families.

Alexandre Manuele, the national health director, urged all off-duty doctors and nurses to immediately report to hospitals in Maputo to assist the injured.

Mozambique is a deeply poor southern African nation of 18 million people. The former Portuguese colony is still recovering from its devastating 16-year-long civil war that ended in 1992.

Annan appoints Nafis Sadik spl envoy on AIDS in Asia

AFP, United Nations

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Friday appointed Nafis Sadik, the Pakistani former director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as his special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia.

Sadik will be responsible for pushing governments to meet goals including a 25 per cent cut in HIV prevalence among young people aged 15-24 in the most affected countries by 2005.

The goals were endorsed by the UN General Assembly on June 27, 2001, in a special session where governments agreed to fix time-bound national targets by next year.

Sadik "will meet with high-level government officials to promote key issues and encourage celebrities and other influential persons to get involved in the fight against AIDS," Annan's spokesman Fred Eckhard

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A big procession paraded the city streets yesterday on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi today.

Waste recycling project dumped into oblivion

JULHAS RIPON

Proper recycling of the staggering 5,000 tons of solid waste generated every day in Dhaka City could transform this apparently phenomenal liability into a valuable asset.

But successive governments have failed to implement any project to recycle this huge amount of solid waste that could be used in power generation as well as a substitute for chemical fertiliser.

In fact, no government department or ministry or the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has any policy to properly handle this potentially useful solid waste.

A study conducted by Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) and the DCC Conservancy Department says that of the nearly

Pvt terminal Ctg port workers to form human chain in Dhaka on Tuesday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Bandar Sramik Karmachari Parishad, an alliance of 26 trade unions decided to form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka on Tuesday protesting government move to allow American company SSA to build a private port in Chittagong.

The decision was taken at a meeting at Chittagong port yesterday with Mahfuzur Rahman Khan in the chair.

Abu Zafar Azad, general secretary of Bandar Sramik League and Sharif Ullah a leader of Bandar Sramik Union, made coordinators to make the Tuesday's programme a success.

At the meeting, the TU leaders vowed to resist the reported move to construct private terminal at the entry of Karnaphuli river.

Selim's move came at a time when the AL is preparing to dispose of the long pending cases involving over 500 partymen including seven

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Two UPDF men abducted at Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Two activists of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) were kidnapped from Jora Moram area of Khagrachhari town on Friday night.

The victims are Dibor Chan Chakma, 45, and Dilip Kumar Chakma.

Activists of Jana Shanghati Samity (JSS) called out the two of their houses at about 9:00 pm and abducted them at gunpoint, District Unit of UPDF said in a press release yesterday.

It also urged the district administration to rescue the abducted activists and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits responsible.



Members of the Buddhist community took out a peace procession in the city on the occasion of Buddha Purnima yesterday.

President hosts reception for Buddhists

UNB, Dhaka

President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Mrs Chowdhury hosted a reception for Buddhists at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

Ambassadors and High Commissioners of China, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Japan and India attended the reception, said a Bangabhaban press release.

Besides, leaders and members of Bangladesh Bodhda Krishiti Prochar Sangha, Bodhda Religious Welfare Trust, Bangladesh Buddhist Federation, National Buddhist Youth Federation, Bangladesh Buddhist Development Programme, International Buddhist Monastery, Bangladesh Buddha Nagarik Forum, Bangladesh Bodhda Samity, Bangladesh Bodhda Jubo Parisad, Bangladesh Bodhda Sangskritik Parisad, Marma Buddhist Association.

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Members of different organisations offering munajat after placing wreaths at the mazar of national Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in observance of his birth anniversary yesterday.

Hasina calls people to resist rapists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina has called upon the people to unitedly arrest the 'alarming rise' in incidents of rape in the country and boycott the rapists and their families socially.

The Awami League chief demanded exemplary punishment to the rapists and sought justice for the rape victims.

Rapists should be identified and boycotted socially, she told reporters yesterday after visiting some victims undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The victims include two minor girls - Sheuli and Lipy.

Two-year-old Sheuli of Putia in Rajshahi district was raped on April 19 allegedly by her neighbour Harunur Rashid, a Jatiyatabdabi Chhakra Dal activist. Her father

Abdul Hakim said her daughter was victimised as he campaigned for the Awami League in the last general election.

The aggrieved father demanded death penalty to the rapist. He also said that they were feeling insecure since the incident.

While visiting Sheuli, Hasina said she would bear all expenses of her treatment and education.

She looked quite emotional while talking with eight-year-old Lipy, who was raped at Rupganj in Naryanganj on May 20.

The opposition leader also talked with Shahenur Begum, who was tortured by her husband, and with an acid victim, Monwara.

Talking to journalists, Hasina alleged that innumerable incidents of rape were taking place across the country. Demanding immediate punishment to the rapists, she said those 'protecting them are equally

guilty.'

"What the government has got to say now as minor girls are being raped in front of their parents," Hasina said. She regretted that the victims were not getting justice and many of them were committing suicide fearing public disgrace.

But, she observed, it is the rapists and their families who should feel ashamed of the hated crime.

Referring to 'political reasons' behind such crimes, Hasina wondered how could supporting a political party be a crime, for which people were being victimised.

"Have they (the government) banned politics in the country?" she asked, inviting international human rights groups to see what was going on in Bangladesh.

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14 hurt as rival groups clash in Manikganj

UNB, Manikganj

At least 14 people were injured, five of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Attigram in Sadar upazila on Friday.

Witnesses said the supporters of Noor Hossain and Sonamuddin clashed over harvesting paddy on a disputed land in the morning.

Five of the injured Sonamuddin, Nazimuddin, Solaiman, Abdus Samad and Noor Hossain were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Another report adds: A youth was critically injured in an attack by his rivals at Ranadip village on Friday evening.

Witnesses said one Shamim with his associates swooped on Wazed, 26, and cut off the tendons of his one hand and one leg following an altercation over watching TV.

Wazed, who received multiple injuries, was first admitted to Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Pangu Hospital in Dhaka.

Green courts caught in red tapes

SHEHAB AHMED

Environment Courts are yet to function even more than a year after the Jatiya Sangsad passed a bill to set up them to try polluters of the environment.

Numerous reasons were cited by the officials concerned for the delay like bureaucratic red tape, delay in sanction of funds, shortage of manpower and allocation of buildings for the courts.

Magistrates were selected for two courts likely to be functional at the initial stage in Dhaka and Chittagong. However, the courts' function is still uncertain since necessary manpower to support them have not yet been provided.

Polluters cashing in on the delay, while the people appear to have no respite from pollution.

Authorities were reluctant to sue

them in civil courts since disposal of the cases takes long in these courts.

The government enacted necessary laws in March last year to set up the environment courts in divisional headquarters for quick disposal of the cases following demands by the environmentalists.

Necessary manpower and funds would be allocated soon for the courts, the sources said.

They expressed their hope that the courts would help the Department of Environment to prosecute river grabbers and polluters who are pumping their factory wastes directly into the rivers or wetlands without treating them at waste treatment plants in their factories or lack such plants.

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The Bali will be the last major opportunity before the PrepCom-4 will be led by a