

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 ward72 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 in 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'ganj

Ten JCD activists were arrested on charge of occupying a piece of land used for sand business in Dopa Balurghat 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.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 25		6-39 pm
May 26	5-12 am	
Prayer Timings		
May 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zoha	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-42	6-47
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

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

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

AL discards reviving new party

REAZ AHMED

Expelled leaders of the Awami League (AL) are trying to reactivate their new political party styled Bangladesher Awami League apparently to induct into the party more people whose expulsion from the mainstream Awami League is now a matter of time.

The expelled AL presidium member Dr Mohammed Selim on Thursday declared a 7-point motto of his party after breaking a month of hibernation since the April 17 announcement of floating the new party.

The declaration came through posters containing the party's seven-point motto as well as a portrait of Dr Selim alongside that of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman put up on the wall at all important city points. The release of the posters coincided with AL chief Sheikh Hasina's return home after a month-long private tour to the USA and UK.

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

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

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.

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 Boddha Krishi Prochar Sangha, Boddha Religious Welfare Trust, Bangladesh Buddhist Federation, National Buddhist Youth Federation, Bangladesh Buddhist Development Programme, International Buddhist Monastery, Bangladesh Buddha Nagarik Forum, Bangladesh Boddha Samity, Bangladesh Boudha Juba Parisad, Bangladesh Boddha Sangskritik Parisad, Marma Buddhist Association,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

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 Puthia in Rajshahi district was raped on April 19 allegedly by her neighbour Harunur Rashid, a Jatityatabadi Chhatra 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 Rugganj in Nayaranganj on May 20.

The opposition leader also talked with Shaheniur 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.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

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.

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 Ranadia 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.

Pre-world development summit in Bali tomorrow

REZAUL KARIM, from Bali, Indonesia

The fourth international conference of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom-4) for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg begins tomorrow in Bali, Indonesia's major tourist resort.

A high-powered Bangladesh delegation will be among over 6,000 delegates from some 190 nations scheduled to attend the 12-day event beginning at 10am tomorrow at the Bali International Convention Centre (BICC).

Among others, Indonesian Environment Minister Nabil Makarim, Chairman of the PrepCom Emil Salim and Secretary General of the Johannesburg Summit Nitin Desai will speak at the inaugural session.

The PrepCom-4 will be the final preparatory meeting before governments, citizen groups and businesses gather in Johannesburg for the WSSD aiming to emphasise the need for a global partnership to achieve the objectives of sustainable development recognising the interdependence of human society and the physical environment.

The Bali meeting will finalise the agenda and organisational arrangement for the Summit, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 26 to

September 4 this year.

The Jakarta Post quoting the Sheraton Nusa Indah Resort and the Bali International Convention Center (BICC) authorities said all modern travel, medical and telecommunication facilities will be available to the delegates during their stay in Bali and that tight security arrangements had been made for their safety.

The PrepCom-4 will be led by a 10-member bureau composed of two members from each of the following regional groups: African Group, Asian Group, Eastern European Group, Latin American Group and a fifth group of Caribbean, Western European and Others.

"Bali will be the last major opportunity before the Summit for ministers to shape the political declaration that heads of state and government will adopt in Johannesburg. Bali will be an important test where we will see how far countries will go toward committing themselves to change, to depart from business as usual, and to make our world a place that can meet the needs of people now and in generations yet to come," said Secretary-General of the Johannesburg Summit Nitin Desai in a statement on the eve of the PrepCom.

The meeting will draw upon the agreed text from the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7