

# Suspects in Shajahan case named but elude police



Clockwise from above: Anchor Tower, where Multimode Group has its office and where the car was abandoned; Sobhanbagh mosque, where Shajahan dropped his wife before he was knocked off his motorbike; the little boy who was also knocked over by the hit-and-run driver and passenger.

MORSHED ALI KHAN

Multimode Group's director administration and his company driver, the two suspected of dragging Dr Shajahan from his motorbike to his death on July 1, still remain elusive to the police.

Mohammadpur thana police said that following the news item published in The Daily Star on July 17, revealing the identity of the 'hit-and-drive' culprits, the police raided the house of the driver Sujon Sardar, son of late Shahab Ali Sardar, at 48/B New Eskaton Road.

MA Malek, the officer in charge of Mohammadpur thana, that is investigating the case, said that police had also sent an urgent note to Barisal police to arrest Sujon Sardar from his village home at Muladi under Uzirpur thana.

"We have asked the Multimode Group to hand over their director administration, Din Mohammad Khan, whom we believe was being driven in the car during the tragic incident," Malek told The Daily Star.

He explained that the tragic death of the doctor is a murder case under section 302 of the penal code and therefore every-

one in the car is an accused in the murder case. Malek added that they are investigating why the company managers had kept quiet following the doctor's death, withholding vital information from the police.

Mohammadpur police sources claim they have proof that Din Mohammad left the country the day after the incident.

On the day of the incident, Dr Mohammad Shajahan Ali, 40, a medical officer of the Pangu Hospital had just dropped his wife off near the Sobhanbagh mosque on Mirpur Road. As

Shajahan took off again on his motorbike, Sujon Sardar, driving the company's Proton Saga fitted with dangerously exposed illegal bumpers, knocked him from behind. As the doctor fell, his leg became entangled with the bumper. Dozens of onlookers, including his wife, signalled and shouted to the driver to stop the car. But neither Sujon nor Din Mohammad Khan paid any heed.

Several hundred people along the car's route, from Sobhanbagh mosque up to the Panthapath-Green Road intersection, attempted in vain to stop the vehicle. When it arrived

near the Green Road intersection with the fatally wounded Shajahan, his leg still trapped in the illegal bumper, the car hit another vehicle carrying bottled water. The collision dislodged the victim from the bumper, and Sujon and Din Mohammad Khan drove away from the scene.

After this, more than 17 days passed without any police action whatsoever. The Daily Star investigation revealed that having left the doctor to die, the accused took a right turn into Free School Street, Box Culvert Road, and smashed half a dozen rickshaw vans, before knocking

down a child with the same illegal bumper. Onlookers then chased the vehicle to the end of the road, and found it parked in the underground car park of Anchor Tower where Multimode Group has its office.

The driver and the passenger had disappeared. The car was seized, but police later gave a statement that the car had been recovered in front of the Samorita Hospital. Until the Daily Star report of July 17, the police had mysteriously kept silent about the case and apparently had made no effort to find the owners of the car.

## Dhaka gets AQI

SOHEL ISLAM

Air pollution is responsible for about 6,000 deaths in Dhaka city each year, while on average each city dweller spends about Tk 700 (US\$12) per year on medical treatment for pollution-related illnesses, according to Air Quality Specialist, Dr Sapan Kumar Biswas.

Dr Biswas, presenting the keynote paper at a media work-

Index (AQI) for Dhaka within a few months. Like cities in developed countries, this will inform the public of the rate of air pollution and create awareness among them to reduce hazardous emissions.

"Initially, DOE will release the AQI three days a week because of our limited infrastructure. Later we will be able to present each day's AQI by upgrading our facility and equipment," said director

At present, the USA, Australia, Canada, the UK, Hong Kong, Malaysia and a few other countries prepare their AQI and regularly inform people through the media. "We will send three days AQI to the meteorological department of Bangladesh and it will be available with the regular weather forecast in the print as well as electronic media," said Farouque Khan.

"The particulate matter (PM) contained in the smoke emitted from vehicles during the winter days is now the major cause of air pollution. Among the particulates, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, which a person can easily inhale due to its small diameter is the major concern for Dhaka's air," said Dr Biswas.

"City dwellers enjoy pollution free days during the rainy season. The level of pollution comes down drastically, well below the mark prescribed by the United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA)," said Biswas.

The keynote speaker added, "Air pollution in Dhaka can be attributed to rapid urbanisation, increased economic activity, high population density and traffic congestion."

"I urge DOE to prepare the AQI in a way that the media can understand it precisely and present it for the public through news and electronic media without any difficulties," suggested FEJB chairman, Quamrul Islam Chowdhury.

Project director of the Air Quality Management Project, Abdul Kader, technical director of the DOE, Md Rajiuddin, journalists and others also took part in the discussion.

shop on Air Quality Index for Dhaka, last Thursday, said that Dhaka's air quality has improved by between 27 to 40 per cent, in the past year owing to various corrective measures taken by the present government. But the transport sector still remains the major pollutant, added Biswas.

The Department of Environment (DOE), who jointly organised the workshop with the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB), is planning to launch an Air Quality

general of the DOE, Dr Omar Farouque Khan.

"The Air Quality Management Project, financed by the World Bank and the Government of Bangladesh, has been continuously monitoring the air of Dhaka city from the Continuous Air Monitoring Station (CAMS) located at Sangsab Bhaban, over the past one year. The AQI will be provided on the basis of the data obtained from that station," said Farouque Khan.

## 'Bio bags' solution or more waste?

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has finally acknowledged the open garbage problem at roadside primary dumping sites. But the Conservancy Department of DCC has embarked on a plan to introduce imported bags for household garbage disposal, as a solution to the open garbage-dumping throughout the city.

In the plan senior conservancy officials are thinking of distributing these bags among the private organisations responsible for household garbage collection so that household waste can be disposed in sealed bags.

The bag is called a 'bio bag' as it is made of biodegradable cornstarch. "The 'bio bag' can easily decompose and can be used for dry and wet garbage," said Sohel Farouque, the chief conservancy officer of DCC.

"The plan of introducing the 'bio bag' for house to house garbage collection is still at its nascent stage. We will first discuss the possibility of the uses of 'bio bags' with the community based private organisations and NGOs," said Farouque.

The Planning Department of DCC began the pilot project of house to house solid waste collection by private organisations in 2002, in 49 wards of the city.

The private collectors are responsible for house to house garbage collection and dumping beside the roadside open containers. DCC workers are then responsible for shoveling the garbage into the open containers.

However, the organisations voiced the need for a better technique as the open garbage creates environmental pollution and health hazards for city dwellers.

"We have asked DCC to remove the roadside open containers," said QM Iqbal Zaidie, secretary of Mission for Rural Urban Development (MIRUD), who got the job of garbage management in Uttara from DCC.

Crude dumping without separating organic and inorganic waste, or hazardous waste from organic and recyclable matter is creating further problems.

"There are more than eighty hospitals in Dhanmondi and toxic and hazardous clinical wastes are dumped with organic waste in open containers," said Zaidie.

Thanks to the thousands of *tokais* who have traditionally separated inorganic and organic waste from the primary dumping sites at least 50 per cent of recyclable materials are recovered. But DCC says that this is illegal and therefore *tokais* should not have formal access to

dumping sites.

Though DCC has urged that organic and inorganic wastes should be separated within the household, the private collectors failed to implement the decision because of lack of costing and people's awareness.

"There are many people don't want to pay for garbage collection. People are not even aware of the hazards of waste. Organic waste like kitchen garbage and inorganic waste like can, tin, glass and paper are kept in the same bucket," said Nurul Huda of Bangladesh Integrated Environment Development Forum.

The overall method of waste management has been

criticised by Waste Concern. "Nowhere else in the world are open containers kept at the roadside for primary dumping. We need to transfer stations to certain empty places where household waste could be dumped directly from van to container. The design of the container is also faulty," said Iftekhar Enayetullah, director of Waste Concern.

It is also a common concern expressed by people working in the garbage sector that bags made of jute should be used for sealed garbage dumping, to utilise our own raw materials, rather than unnecessary imports from other countries.



Air pollution in Dhaka can be attributed to rapid urbanisation.



At least 50 percent of waste is recycled from open dumping sites, despite the hazards of open garbage.

Weekly weather forecast for the city		hello dhaka													
		Today		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
		Low 27C High 33C Couple of showers, th- storms.		High 32C Low 25C Thunderstorms, Humid		High 31C Low 26C Morning Thunderstorms		High 32C Low 27C Showers		High 32C Low 28C Mostly cloudy, very humid		High 32C Low 28C Probable Rain		High 32C Low 27C Humid, Showers	
source: accuweather.com															

The latest crop of quotes from the city's press -- words worth repeating, we feel, for their humour, insight or sheer outrageousness. Star City does not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this column.



"[The alliance government] are now fearing the public rage following their misrule. That's why they are conspiring to destroy the caretaker government system."

-- Sheikh Hasina

Awami League and opposition leader

Talking to journalists at ZIA International Airport prior to departure for Italy to an international seminar

"A group of ten to twelve armed men cornered waylaid his [Anwarul's] rickshaw, surrounded it and fired at least ten times on him."

-- Manjurul Haque Milon

Brother of Anwarul Haque Anu

After BNP leader and alleged criminal, Anwarul Haque, was shot down in Old Dhaka last Thursday

"Developing countries provide subsidies of US\$2 a day for one cow, whereas most of the people of least developed countries earn less than US\$2 a day."

-- Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury

Commerce Minister

Criticising developed nations for their agricultural subsidies at a conference organised by UBINIG, Policy Research for Development Alternatives, last Thursday.

"You have to solve a national problem and if you fail your job will be at stake."

-- Akbar Hossain

Shipping Minister

Giving Sadarghat staff one week to get the launch terminal 'in order' after 140 employees were replaced and Hossain himself promised to resign after 'improving the shipping sector'

"I don't know anything about Moududi's ideology. What I know is Moududi is one of the pioneers of Islamic economic policy. The demands for excluding his books from library reference books is really frustrating."

-- Moulana Motiur Rahman Nizami

Industry Minister and Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami

In an inaugural speech of a two-day-long party meeting last week, regarding the demands from many quarters to ban Moududi's books