

Four get life for killing Naushin



Marian Islam Naushin

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Four muggers accused of killing Marian Islam Naushin in May last year received life sentence yesterday from a sessions judge in the Second Additional Metropolitan Court, Dhaka.

Two-year-old Naushin was cradled in his father Nazrul Islam's arms when a stray bullet fired by the fleeing snatchers at Uttar Badda hit her in the head.

Thirty-eight years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) was handed down to each of Mohammad Moslem alias Muslim Miah, Mohammad Saiful Islam Ratan, Mamun alias Abdullah-al-Mamun alias 'Rogkata' Mamun and Sumon

alias Baitta Sumon.

Taking seat at 12:30pm, Judge Hossain Shahid Ahmed read out the 42-page verdict in presence of Moslem and Saiful at the packed court room. Two other convicts -- Manun and Sumon -- have been absconding since the incident.

The four were found guilty of the offence punishable under the Section 302 (murder) of the Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC) and given rigorous imprisonment for life (30 years). Each of them has to pay Tk 50,000 in fines, failing which will have to serve one more year behind bars.

The gang was also found guilty of robbery punishable under Section 397 of the Penal Code. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 7**



PHOTO: STAR

Police take Saiful Islam Ratan, left, and Muslim Miah, right, to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after a court sentenced them along with two fugitives to life in prison for killing a two-year-old child.

Six killed in Cox's Bazar landslides

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six people, including four sisters, were buried alive and nine others injured in two landslides on the outskirts of Cox's Bazar resort town early yesterday, police and witnesses said.

The district administration and locals believe that torrential monsoon rains and multiple cracks caused to hillocks by Sunday's earthquake triggered the mudslides at Kalatali and Purba Kalatali Adarsha Gram, two neighbouring villages.

Sadar police said huge chunks of mud crushed to death Rezia Begum, 16, Nurun Nahar, 14, Fatema Aktar Munni, 10 and Babli Aktar, 8, daughters of forest guard Muslem Uddin, at about 4:00am at Kalatali village, 3 km off the town.

Muslem, his wife Lalmati, 50, their daughter Merry, 3 and son Nurul Kabir, 10, survived the land-

slide, injured.

Muslem and the surviving members of his family were sleeping in a room of the staff quarter of the forest department where they resided and the dead in another room at the foothill of a hillock.

The mud and five big trees collapsed on the roof from 200 feet above, levelling part of the house instantly.

In Adarsha Gram, Sakina Khatun, 48 and Sabura Khatun, 30, wives of Md Siddique Ahmed, were killed in sleep under a giant pile of earth at around 4:30am.

Siddique, his sons Alamgir, 25, Rabi Alam, 7, Babul, 3, and daughter Banu Bibi, 5, were injured in the mud plunge.

They were admitted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

"It was raining heavily and all were sleeping when the landslides hit," a witness said.

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Wounds still fester

ABDUL KADER

The court verdict on the killing of a two-year-old child was not enough to heal the wounds her parents suffered through losing her to gunfire.

Naushin's father Nazrul Islam left the court, eyes full of tears and unhappy with the verdict that sentenced four people to life imprisonment for killing the child in gangland fire on May 9 last year.

"I thought the court would punish them with death. I cannot accept it," an ailing Nazrul said of the sentence handed down by Judge Hossain Shahid Ahmed of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

"Would you accept it if you had suffered the same shock?" Naushin's father, a businessman, asked waiting reporters on the court premises.

Marian Islam Naushin, born on August 19, 2002, died cradled in her father's arms at Uttar Badda in Dhaka. The outrage created by the killing got a new edge after Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury's comment on the incident that "Allah has taken back His creature".

Achhia Islam, mother of Naushin, could not show up at the court premises yesterday because of her illness. "Is it an appropriate judgement? I am not pleased with that...I cannot say more," Achhia told The Daily Star

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Dhaka court hands down death to 16 in a month

STAR REPORT

The Speedy Trial Court in Dhaka handed down 16 death sentences in last one month.

The court, which was set up in October last, has so far awarded deaths to 46 persons for murders. Besides over a 100 have been given life.

However, it will take between six and seven years to execute the verdicts, lawyers say.

A lower court death sentence needs to be approved by the High Court Division before its implementation. The convict can also appeal

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Govt grains purchase makes no difference for boro growers

REAZ AHMAD

Paddy growers are yet to get the price support the government's food grains procurement intended to give them in the current boro season.

The issue came up at an inter-ministerial meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) recently as the drive failed to procure boro paddy from the growers but succeeded in procuring

rice from the millers.

The cabinet had earlier decided that 5.5 lakh tonnes of rice and 1.54 lakh tonnes of paddy would be procured during the boro season from April 1 to August 31.

The meeting found that in the first three months of the season, food officials procured 5.6 lakh tonnes of rice from the rice millers but only 26,000 tonnes of paddy from the farmers.

Meeting sources said State Minister for Finance and Planning Anwarul Kabir Talukdar, who was present at the meeting, suggested formation of an independent committee to investigate the poor procurement of paddy.

But the meeting decided that officials of the food directorate would be directed to gear up the

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Car used in Savar ambush found abandoned

Wounded Acme official still in critical condition, link of Mohammadpur gang suspected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday found an abandoned white car believed to have been used by robbers in ambushing the microbus of Sanwar Habib Sinha, administrative manager of Acme Laboratories, in Savar

investigators identified the owner of the car, which was stolen before the ambush in which the robbers shot Sanwar and two others and took away Tk 40 lakh, specified in the FIR (First Information Report). The officer did not give details about the

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