

Two to die for raping, killing teenager

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A tribunal in Chittagong yesterday sentenced two people to death for raping and killing a student in Comilla last year.

Akram Hossain Ripon and Jamal Hossain, convicted by the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong, have been evading arrest since Rashida died on May 27, 2002, five days after she was raped and burnt in kerosene flames in her home village of Mohanpur, Comilla.

"What they did is a heinous crime and deserve no mercy," Judge M Hasan Imam said in his verdict recounting the May 22, 2002, dreadful incident in which the two stalkers burnt the class IX student of Mohanpur Dakhil Madrasah after

she recognised them.

The judge cleared Mohammad Kausar and Mirza Golam Dastagir of the charges in the case filed by Rashida's elder brother Abdul Kalam with Chandina Police Station.

"We got fair justice," Kalam said.

Admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital, Rashida gave a statement to a first-class magistrate, two days before her death, naming Ripon and Jamal in her recollection of the incident.

The girl was later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital that confirmed her rape and death from severe burns in an autopsy.

The case was transferred to the speedy trial tribunal on August 20 this year.

49 more illegal outfits knocked down in clean Buriganga drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the third day of the eviction drive on the banks of the Buriganga river, authorities knocked down 49 unlawful establishments — 23 under Sutrapur and 26 under Kotwali police stations.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), equipped with tug-boats and backed up by magistrates, ansars and local police, has knocked down 168 such structures on both banks of the Buriganga since the start of the eviction drive Sunday.

The authorities have counted 890 encroachers on the banks of the Buriganga. The increasing incidence of river encroachment has led to fears the river will become clogged up and eventually die, leading to the eviction drive.

"Most encroachers are politically influential and are using their political influence to try to keep their establishments," said a BIWTA official, requesting anonymity.

The government has decided to file a case against the grabbers, official sources said.

The first initiative in recent years to save the Buriganga, the lifeline of Dhaka city, was taken during the period of the caretaker government in 2001. At that time, the number of encroachers was pegged at as many as 304. But the encroachers set up their establishments again once the eviction drive ended.

During the present drive, the authorities knocked down a kitchen market at Shambazar off the road by the river. As many as 250 small temporary shops were broken down at this time.

The eviction drive will move to the Lalbagh area today, the BIWTA official said, and will continue until next Saturday.

Imamuzzaman new BCIC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed Major General (retd) Imamuzzaman Chowdhury as Chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) on a three-year contract, according to an official announcement on Monday.

Former principal staff officer to the prime minister and a freedom fighter, Imamuzzaman retired in 2001.

The government also appointed Additional Secretary Shafaraz Hossain as secretary-in-charge of the Ministry of Establishment.

Moreover, former establishment secretary, Anwarul Bar Chowdhury, has been appointed ambassador to Italy and Joint Secretary AM Moniruzzaman Khan has been made additional secretary of the establishment ministry.

Joint Secretary Badrul Alam Tarafdar has been transferred to the Appointment, Posting and Deputation (APD) wing of the establishment ministry.

Joint Secretary Mohammad Mohsin, who served at the APD, has been transferred to the Organising and Management wing of the same ministry.

Apec

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terrorist groups that threaten the Apec economies."

The leaders vowed to eliminate weapons of mass destruction "by strengthening international non-proliferation regimes, adopting and enforcing effective export controls, and taking other legitimate and appropriate measures against proliferation".

In a widening of the focus of the group which was founded in 1989 to promote free trade and economic cooperation in the region, the statement said it would now take on the new mission of protecting the security of its members.

"We agreed to dedicate Apec not only to advancing the prosperity of our economies, but also to the complementary mission of ensuring the security of our people," the statement said.

In specific moves to eliminate the terror threat, they accepted a US proposal to curb the trade in shoulder-launched surface-to-air missile which Washington believes pose a grave risk to aviation.

They agreed to adopt export controls on the weapons, secure stockpiles, regulate production and trade, and ban sales to private clients.

Despite having qualified personnel within BSMUH many teachers have been appointed from outside like in medicine, surgery, gynaecology and ophthalmology departments.

"Such illegal practice clearly shows partisanship," said a senior professor of the university.

In the administration section more than one hundred staff were appointed since February this year. Some of the posts include store officer, senior office assistant, diet assistant, driver, telephone and computer operators and section officers.

It is alleged that the university had advertised for four section officers but instead they recruited 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The identity of the man whose mutilated body was found near a hospital in Maghbazar on Sunday could not be established till last night.

A young woman looking for her missing husband Babul disowned the body as her husband's after examining the body parts at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Babul, a police source, has been missing for the last two days, hospital sources said.

Earlier on Monday, a man, whose brother Helal Uddin went missing on October 7, also went to the DMCH to inspect the body and found that it was not his brother's. Helal was travelling to Comilla from his home in Tongi.

Police recovered the body parts inside polybags from a pile of garbage in front of the old entrance to Al-Deen Hospital Sunday morning.

The head was severed from the torso and the face of the dead man in his early 30s was burnt beyond recognition. Forensic experts estimated his height at five feet four inches, and said he was slim and fair complexioned.

After reconstruction, the body was preserved in the DMCH mortuary.

"Contributions of Bangladesh Armed Forces in general and the army in particular are now recognised globally," the PM said.

In this respect, she mentioned their role in rebuilding Kuwait, Somalia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Congo and many other strife-torn countries.

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