

Woman taken on remand over 16-month-old child killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A court in Dhaka yesterday remanded a woman in police custody after assailants killed 16-month-old boy Sadman Sadiq Sarker at their Moghbazar apartment block on Wednesday.

Ramna police arrested Shitu, the lone accused in the first information report (FIR), on the second floor Nayatola flat opposite Sadman's.

Unknown assailants picked up Sadman, also known as Arian, in the morning opening the latched door of their flat before strangling him and dumping his body in the attic of the apartment block in a trunk.

His body, wearing multiple injury marks, was found in the afternoon and his relatives believe somebody living in the same apartment block killed the child.

Police picked up Shitu on Thursday after Selim Sarker, father of Sadman and a receptionist of Monwara Hospital in Ramna, filed a case with Ramna Police Station the same day.

Producing her before the court yesterday, police filed a five-day remand petition, but the court granted two days.

Police are also grilling Mariam, home help of a third floor flat of the

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Prayer Timing

	June 19	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-05	4-40	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-50	6-55	
Esha	8-15	8-45	

Source: Islamic Foundation

LAUNCH DISASTERS

Shipping officials oppose system to detect unregistered vessels

RAFIQ HASAN

Opposition by a section of officials at the Department of Shipping and recent cancellation of tender have delayed the process of setting up classification society, a system practised worldwide to reduce launch disaster rate, official sources said.

Against the backdrop of a spate of launch disasters, shipping experts recommended introduction of a local classification society to reduce launch disasters by detecting unregistered vessels and ensuring safety requirements of

the passenger ships plying inland waterways, sources said.

Over three thousands people died in 260 launch disasters in the country since 1979, according to official statistics. The unofficial estimate, however, suggests the death toll to be much higher than that.

Vessels with flawed designs and plying without fitness certificates were the major causes of those ferry disasters, sources said.

"Local classification society is the most cost-effective solution to ferry disasters in the country," said Khabirul Haque Chowdhury, an

associate Professor of the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

He while explaining the advantage of the system said introduction of the system would bring a drastic reduction in the number of accident. Private companies would do the 95 percent work in this regard while the government will only have to deal with registration of the vessels on the basis of the recommendation.

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Annan raps US for bid to get exemption from global court

REUTERS, United Nations

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan rebuked the United States for trying to get another exemption from prosecution by the new International Criminal Court and urged the Security Council to oppose the measure.

He is expected to press his case at a luncheon with council ambassadors on Friday. And next week more than 40 nations are scheduled to debate the measure in a

public meeting, at which time US abuse of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan is bound to be mentioned.

"The blanket exemption is wrong. It is of dubious judicial value and I don't think it should be encouraged by the council," Annan told reporters on Thursday.

Annan has opposed the measure in past years but used particularly harsh language this time, noting the human rights scandal in US-run prisons in Iraq.

"I think it would be unfortunate for one to press for such an exemption, given the prisoner abuse in Iraq," he said. "I think in this circumstance it would be unwise to press for an exemption, and it would be even more unwise on the part of the Security Council to grant it."

The United States is investigating abuse of prisoners by the US military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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PM has to answer why crores spent on controversial person: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina has said intransigent attitude of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to nominate a controversial person for the post of OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) secretary general has deprived the country of the top job of the organisation.

"Khaleda Zia has spent more than Tk 100 crore for an anti-

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WB provides \$91m for water supply, education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank yesterday approved US\$ 91 million grant for two projects aimed at the development of rural water supply and primary education, said a press release by the World Bank.

While one of the projects will work for expanding the provision

of safe, rural drinking water through the promotion of piped water supply, the other one will provide universal primary education for all children by 2015.

The rural piped water supply project will support the government's evolving water supply programme and will promote the

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Swiss hope for a miracle

AFP, Geneva

After Switzerland's 3-0 drubbing against England in Euro 2004, the Swiss press on Friday urged Switzerland to conjure up a miracle against France next week in the faint hope of reaching the quarter-finals.

"We must beat France and believe in miracles," the newspaper 24 Heures headlined on its front page.

"Impotent up front, and not so

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TODAY'S MATCHES

GERMANY vs LATVIA

Live at 9.55 pm

NETHERLANDS vs CZECH REPUBLIC

Live at 12.40 am (Sunday)



France's Mikael Silvestre (R) congratulating teammate Zinedine Zidane after the opening goal as Croatia's Giovanni Rosso watches during their Euro 2004 Group B match at the Magalhaes Pessoa Stadium in Leiria on June 17.

PHOTO: REUTERS

3 of a family acid-burnt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals in Comilla threw acid on three members of a family including two children, a sequel to previous enmity over land dispute, in the early hours of yesterday.

Morsched Begum, 35, wife of Chittagong City Corporation employee Khalilur Rahman, and her sons Billal Hossain, 6, and eight-month-old Ramjan were sleeping when four criminals entered their house in Maniakandi of Daudkandi at 3:00am.

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