

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK

Saber blames govt for creating confusion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, yesterday accused the government of creating confusion among the people about the August 21 grenade attack on Awami League (AL) rally.

"Nearly two months have passed, but there is no headway into the inquiry although the government high-ups including the prime minister had pledged to give exemplary punishment to the culprits through proper investigations", said Saber at a press briefing at Sudha Sadan at Dhanmondi in the city.

"In fact, the government is reluctant to identify the criminals as their own men are involved in the crime," he alleged.

There is also no consistency

between what the government says and what it does, said Saber expressing his dismay over the progress of investigation.

The AL leader asked the government to make it clear whether any foreign country was involved in the August 21 grenade attack as two contradictory statements have been released in this respect.

"While the judicial commission put the blame to a foreign country, inspector general of police (IGP), at an international conference, said the police investigation did not find any international link to the August 21 and other bomb blasts in the country", he said.

Saber alleged that both the statements were issued by the government only to create confusion.

Wife beaten to death by husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A husband allegedly beat his wife to death at Mohortuli in the city on Monday.

She was identified as Nargis Akhter, 24, wife of a cable trader Mohammad Aslam, who resides at 33/1 Abul Hasnat Road.

Witness Al Amin, a seven-year-old boy and cousin of the victim, said Nargis asked money from Aslam for iftar which angered him and at one point of their altercation he beat her mercilessly.

Sources said Aslam then took her wife to a clinic first and then to Mitford Hospital where the doctors declared her dead at around 4:00pm. He returned home from there with the body.

On information, police recovered the body at around 8:30pm and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

FARHAD MURDER

Verdict Oct 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A tribunal in Khulna yesterday refixed October 26 for pronouncing the judgement of the sensational industrialist SM Farhad Hossain murder case.

Judge MA Samad of the Speedy Trial Tribunal fixed the date.

Earlier, the judge fixed October 12 for the judgement.

Frozen shrimp exporter SM Farhad Hossain was gunned down by the extremists on October 17 in 2001 at Noapara under Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat district. His wife Selina Begum lodged an FIR with Fakirhat police station on October 18 naming three people as accused and without naming 12 others.

The Investigation Officer (IO) pressed charges against 14 people in November last year. Nine out of 14 chargesheeted accused are still at large while two died in cross-fire with police in July and August this year. Three FIR named accused are in Khulna district jail.

The case was transferred to Speedy Trial Tribunal in February last year. A total of 43 prosecution witnesses gave statements during the trial.

All the accused are armed cadres of Janajuddho and M-L factions of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP).

The body bore marks of bruises in the neck, cheek and shoulder, said police inquest report.

3 killed in Mirersarai road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three people including one woman were killed and twenty others injured in a road accident at Mirer Sarai in the district yesterday.

Of the killed, two were identified as Pakhi Akter, 35, and Mintu, 50, while the other could not be identified.

Of the injured, nine were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Comilla-bound bus from Chittagong collided head on with a BRTC bus coming from the opposition direction at Sonapahar at around 4:00pm.

Rab nabs BNP leader in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a leader of Babuganj upazila unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) under arms act in the early hours of yesterday.

He was identified as Nazrul Islam Miron, 45, joint secretary of Babuganj upazila BNP and ex-leader of Sarbahara Party.

Rab members raided the house of Nazrul at Dehergati village at 4:00am and seized two rounds of LG ammunitions from his possession.

Arms dealer Omar sick

Meanwhile, hearing on the remand prayer of Omar Ali, the alleged godfather and arms dealer who was arrested by Rab on Monday, could not be held at the Barisal Sadar Upazila Magistrate's Court yesterday due to his illness.

Court sources said, Rab prayed for a five-day remand to quiz about the stocks of his arms and ammunitions.

The magistrate postponed the hearing of remand prayer until the recovery of the arrestee.