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RU teacher knifed to death

Murder sparks protests: Ruta calls strike, AL to enforce hartal

ANWAR ALI and ABU KALAM, Rajshahi

Unidentified assailants knifed and hammered a Rajshahi University (RU) professor to death at Binodpur in the city yesterday morning sparking off daylong agitation and public outcry.

Muhammad Yunus, 63, professor of economics and a former registrar of the university, was attacked and killed at about 6:10am some 150 yards from his house while he was taking his regular morning walk, police and witnesses said. He had

gone out of the house at 5:30am.

A prominent left-leaning teacher, Yunus was president of RU Bangabandhu Parishad and senior vice-president of Bangladesh Economic Association.

The murder was pre-planned, said police investigators, colleagues and relatives.

They suspect the killers may have links to the student wing of the ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islam, as the front-line pro-Liberation War teacher was attacked once in the past, on November 30, 1995, by Islami Chhatra Shibir cad-

resin front of RU Shaheed Minar.

Motihar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Akram Hossain said the killing was deliberate and done by professionals. He said a man informed them of the incident at 7:00am but did not disclose his identity.

Protesting the killing, students barricaded the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway for three hours from 10:00am and staged a demonstration putting tyres on fire.

A number of political, student and teachers' organisations announced agitation programmes

including hartal, strike and work abstention demanding prompt and proper investigation into the murder.

The victim's son Rashed Zaman Shovon, a part-time teacher at the music and dramatics department, told reporters, "I doubt whether we will get justice."

THE KILLING Neighbours found the elderly academician's body lying in a pool of blood beside a road, 25 yards off the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway, at about quarter past six in the morning, police sources said.

There were four stab injuries to the body - one in the head, two in the chest and one in the lower abdomen. His head also bore several wounds from hammer blows.

The victim was wearing warm clothes, a cap, hand-gloves and a gamchha (local cotton towel) around his neck.

Neighbours guess the murder must have been committed quickly and efficiently, taking not more than 10 minutes, after which the killers dragged his body to the roadside and left the scene.

"Even at six o'clock, I did not see anything untoward at the place," said Abdul Mannan, who lives nearby.

PUBLIC OUTCRY As the news spread, people including neighbours, teachers, politicians, journalists and students rushed to the victim's house.

Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, RU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Faisal Islam Faruki, Islamic University VC Prof Rafiqul Islam, senior RU teachers and police officials visited the scene.

Enraged, several hundred RU students blocked the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway felling trees on the road in front of RU main gate at 10:00am.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Christmas today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Christians of Bangladesh, as elsewhere in the world, celebrate Christmas today in commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas symbolises the day that God entered the world of men through his son, Jesus. But it is also a celebration of rebirth, of new beginnings, of forgiveness and peace as the new year approaches. It is an occasion for Christians to renew their relationship with God and with

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Bomb goes off at Sylhet Mohila AL meet

District president, secretary, 3 other leaders and 3 activists injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

President of district Mohila Awami League (AL) and former lawmaker Syeda Zebunnesa Haque, General Secretary Ruby Fatema Islam, and six other leaders and activists were injured as a powerful bomb went off at a meeting of the party unit yesterday.

Police and other sources said the blast took place at the Tantipara

residence of Zebunnesa where the meeting was going on in the afternoon.

The explosion also damaged some furniture and a TV set, and splinters even hit the ceiling of the ground floor room of the five-storey building.

The injured were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Zebunnesa suffered injuries to both her legs and was being oper-

ated upon for removing splinters, a doctor at the hospital said.

The injured include Vice-president of the Mohila AL unit and city ward commissioner Shahan Ara Begum, Joint Secretary of the unit and city mayor's wife Asma Kamran, and Organising Secretary Salma Baset. Three other injured are activists Khaitunnesa, Madhury Goon and Bibharani.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

21 killed as truck skids off road in Tangail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one people died and four others were injured in road accident in Tangail yesterday.

In two other accidents in Sirajganj and Manikganj on the day, five people died and nine were injured.

Our Tangail correspondent reported that the accident occurred on the Dhaka-North Bengal highway at Ashekpur under Sadar upazila when a Gaibandha bound fertiliser-laden truck from Chittagong skidded off the road and fell into a ditch at about 5:00am.

Witnesses said at least 28 day labourers were travelling by the truck. Twenty-one of them died on the spot and four others were injured. They are returning to their homes in Gaibandha.

Two of the dead are Manju, son of Shamsur Ali, and Kashem Ali, son of Badsha Mia. Both hailed from Kishomandhamid village in Sadullahpur upazila of Gaibandha.

Police rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Tangail General Hospital for autopsy.

In Sirajganj, three people were

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Bhuiyan mildly hurt while opening gas pipeline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

IGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan suffered an injury yesterday while inaugurating a gas pipeline at Tararchar under Shibpur upazila of Narsinghdi, said a press release.

As the minister was kindling fire to switch on the gas supply, a bunch of balloons burst and hurt the minister's forehead, said the press release from BNP.

Bhuiyan, also the secretary general of ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was immediately rushed to the local Prime General Hospital to be given first aid. Later, an Airforce helicopter flew him to the Dhaka Combined Military Hospital, where physicians stated his condition to be normal.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Outlawed parties to avenge 'killing' of Mofakkhar

OUR CORRESPONDENT

All police stations and outposts in Jhenidah, Kushtia and Magura districts have been put on alert as seven outlawed parties at a meeting in Jhenidah town on Wednesday vowed to avenge the 'killing' of their leader Mofakkharul Islam.

Mofakkhar, a top think-tank of underground outfits and founder of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), died in 'crossfire' between Rapid Action Battalion and his comrades in Kushtia on December 17.

The seven outlawed parties are Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho), Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Red Flag), Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), Diplobi Anuragi, Bangladesh Socialist Party (BSP) and Jashad Gono Bahini (JGB).

Our Kushtia and Magura correspondents reported that the meeting chaired by Sabuj, chief of Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), also formed killing squads for ten southwestern and six northern districts. (Details on page 15)

Six more killed in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four alleged criminals and two outlawed political operatives have been killed in the country since Thursday night apparently in six incidents of 'shootout' and 'crossfire' between their bands and the law enforcers.

The dead outlaws are Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) member Sumon of Chuadanga and a leader of PBCP Janajuddho faction, Shaikh Abdul Hakim, of Bagerhat.

The criminals killed are Aminul Haq alias Aminya of Raozan in Chittagong, Nasir Uddin Shamim and Ismail Hossain Ratan of Dhaka and Kashem of Barisal, in Gazipur.

CHITTAGONG CROSSFIRE Top-notch terror and underworld kingpin Aminul Haq alias Aminya, 29, was killed during crossfire between his accomplices and a joint force of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police at Alkhalil under the crime-prone Raozan upazila in

RU syndicate may okay controversial recruitment today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The syndicate of Rajshahi University (RU) is expected to approve in a meeting today the recent controversial recruitment of 15 teachers at the social work and the computer science and technology (CST) departments.

The RU authorities are also likely to initiate today the process of recruiting six more teachers for the department of Islamic history and culture (IHC).

Sources alleged wide-scale nepotism in the unnecessary recruitment made on political consideration and in gross violation of rules.

CST DEPT The CST department's selection board on Thursday evening appointed 10 teachers reportedly without approval of the university's recruitment planning committee.

Four planning committee members -- Prof AKM Akhtar Hossain, Prof Somlal Das, Nazmul Huda and Abdul Alim -- said the RU rules do

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

প্রতি ঘণ্টাতেই ৫০ হাজার টাকা পর্যন্ত নিশ্চিত পুরস্কার!

রিহাব মেলায় গুট বুকিং করলেই ৫০,০০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত উপহার

তারিখ: ২৩-২৭ ডিসেম্বর '০৪

সার্বজনীন যোগাযোগ: ০১৮৯ ২৮৫২৪৪, ০১৯ ৩৪৯১০৭, ০১৭ ৩১০৫০৫০

বিশ্বের বৃহত্তম এনজিও 'ব্র্যাক', নির্ধান জগতে আহ্বার প্রতীক 'কনকর্ড' এবং দেশের সর্ববৃহৎ গৃহস্থ দানকারী বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান 'ডিবিএইচ' - এই তিন এর মিলিত প্রয়াস 'ব্র্যাক কনকর্ড ল্যান্ডস পিমিটেড'।

তাই আপনার বিনিয়োগ সম্পূর্ণ নিরাপদ।

দীর্ঘমেয়াদী মাসিক কিস্তিতে ২, ২^১/_২, ৩ এবং ৫ কাঠার গুট বুকিং চলছে

দীর্ঘমেয়াদী মাসিক কিস্তিতে ২, ২^১/_২, ৩ এবং ৫ কাঠার গুট বুকিং চলছে

তিনটি প্রাইম লোকেশনে

- মতিঝিলের সন্নিকটে, ডেমরা।
- আজলিয়া।
- উত্তরখান, উত্তরা।

ব্র্যাক কনকর্ড ল্যান্ডস লিঃ

কম্পোজিট অফিস: বাড়ি নং ১১/বি, রোড নং ২৭, ব্লক-এ, বনানী মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা-১২১৩ ফোন: ৮৮১৯৭৯২, ৮৮১৯৭৯৬, ৮৮১০০২২, ৮৮২৭৭৯৩, ৮৮২৮২৯৫, ৮৮৩২৮২৮, ০১৯ ৮০৭৮০০, ০১৯ ৮০৭৮০১, ০১৯ ৮০৭৮০৬

ব্রাঞ্চ অফিস: কনকর্ড টাওয়ার, ১১০, দাবী নাজুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, বাবা মন্ড, ঢাকা-১২১৭ ফোন: ৯০২০৭০৬, ৯০২৪৩০৬, ০১৯ ০৪৯২০৪, ০১৮৯ ১৪১৮১৯

Overseas Office: Suite: 26, Suffolk House College Road, Croydon, UK, CRO1PE, Tel: 020-86862404 Tel & Fax: 1-888-886-1787

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