

2 murdered in city JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A jewellery trader and an unidentified youth were found dead in the city, both with bullet wounds, yesterday.

Meanwhile, M Amzad Hossain, one of the three security guards of Epyllon Knitwear Ltd in the city's Pallabi, who were shot at the factory by criminals on April 18, succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

The deceased trader was identified as Mohammad Mithu, 28, a resident of Ibrahimpur area. He was the owner of Mamoni Jewellers and also owned a readymade clothes shop at Kachukhet Bazar.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) of Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital recovered his body from Azampur area and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Family sources said Mithu had gone missing on Monday night while returning home from Kachukhet to Ibrahimpur. His family said that he had called them over a mobile phone to say that he was on his way home.

Early yesterday morning, an unknown man informed his mother over a cellphone that Mithu's body was lying near the rail track at Azampur.

His family said they suspect some local criminals might have killed him as he had declined to pay them toll about five months ago.

DMP Morgue sources said the body had a bullet injury on the back of the head.

Gulshan police, meanwhile, recovered the bullet-hit body of an unidentified youth aged around, 35, from Banani area at around 7:00am and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said the body had several stab injuries and a bullet on the back of the head.

M Amzad Hossain security guard of Epyllon Knitwear Ltd at sector 7 on road no 6 in Pallabi succumbed to injuries at about 4:00 am in the hospital yesterday.

He, along with his two colleagues, was shot when a gang of four fired on them at the factory garment at noon on April 18.

In another incident, three unidentified men attacked Kabir Bread and Biscuit Factory, in city's Badda yesterday, injuring a worker.

The injured man was identified as Aminul Islam, 25, a worker at the bakery.

He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The reason behind the shooting could not be known.

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secretary of Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan).

"We feel the committee has gone beyond the scope of its operation with a malafide intent and leaders of the parliament should do something about the matter immediately. This action will raise questions about the government and whether the government institution is being used with malafide intent," he said.

He was speaking at a two-day-long workshop titled "Right to transparent governance, South Asian Perspective," organised by South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR), at Brac Centre Inn.

The parliamentary standing committee headed by Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir sent a letter to the commission on April 7 asking the acting ACC chairman and its commissioners to appear before it on April 12.

Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir was sentenced to 13 years in prison in a case for amassing around Tk 3.27 crore through misuse of power.

AL lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, "The ACC commissioners should have gone before the committee in reply to the summons. It is not the parliament or lawmakers, the arbitrators of the committee are, after all, people of the country."

"Democracy is not everything about elections but what happens in between the elections. As the government has

won a four-fifths majority, the big challenge for the government is how to maintain this majority," he said.

Speakers also emphasised making the parliament and local government system effective as that would be the only way to ensure democracy in the country. They criticised the government for strengthening the power of lawmakers over the local government.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno, said, "The people of Bangladesh were very shocked when the government increased the control of lawmakers over the local government against its pledge of strengthening the local government."

"There should be a business calendar for the parliament. The lawmakers should come and attend the sessions, thus contributing to the parliament's functioning," lawmaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said.

Speakers also talked of scrutinising the defence budget to check misuse of a huge amount of money, ensuring information about budgetary matters to the citizens of the country and ensuring transparency in the budget.

Executive Director of TIB Iftekaruzzaman, human rights activist Hamida Hossain were present at the seminar among others while representatives from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives also attended the seminar.



Police stand guard in front of Pall Mall Group head office at Gulshan in the capital yesterday fearing attack by staff of Khan Jahan Ali Paribahan. Story on page 16.

Pall Mall Group

FROM PAGE 16 Sunday's incident, said the clash between the two groups began when Sheikh Rubel slapped driver Kamal Hossain of Pall Mall Group.

"Two cars, one of Pall Mall Group and the other of Sheikh Rubel, were face to face in a narrow lane in front of the Pall Mall Group office on Road-30 in Gulshan. Sheikh Rubel asked Kamal to backup but he refused and a heated exchange of words took place," the security guard said.

Being slapped, Kamal along with 15 other drivers of Pall Mall Group went to Sheikh Rubel's office on Road-29 to protest, he added.

Meanwhile, staff of Sheikh Rubel's office told The Daily Star that the drivers of Pall Mall Group hurled bricks at Sheikh Rubel. Later, the two groups engaged themselves in chases and counter chases.

A staff of Khan Jahan Ali Paribahan filed a case in this regard.

Officials of Pall Mall Group refused to talk about the matter.

Onus of climate battle

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He said fighting against climate change is a responsibility of all nations -- developed, developing, and poor.

"The developed nations should feel that fighting climate change is a benefit for them as well, otherwise they also have to face the same consequences," he said.

Expecting the upcoming Copenhagen pact to be a 'true pact' that will help to fight climate change together, the Norwegian state secretary said countries like the US are looking forward to it too, and it is a good signal that President Obama is also talking about tackling climate change now.

"Everybody has to contribute to get a truly global pact. We cannot afford only developed countries to come to the table and contribute. Developing countries like China, they also have to come to the table and contribute by cutting emission. We have to find a global answer to save the world," he said.

When asked about the international migration of climate change refugees,

Hakon said, international migration of climate change refugees is not yet a burning issue, adding, "Still we can fight climate change by reducing the risk factors. So we all should concentrate on the issue. We can think about the international migration issue when it will be really needed."

While talking about the adaptation programmes going on in Bangladesh, the minister said, the world can learn from Bangladesh how the people are reducing the risks of climate change.

"Bangladesh has not contributed to the global warming, but the people are facing the consequences, and they are preparing to fight it," he said.

While visiting Barisal, he said he noticed the weather there has become more extreme than before.

He also said he learnt about the real consequences of climate change in the Barisal region, as farmers there are facing a drought like situation since there has been no rainfall, something they need very much for their standing crops.

Praising the improvement of the communication

sector, the Norwegian state secretary said Bangladesh is on the right track of development. It took much longer to reach Barisal from the capital when he first visited Bangladesh 13 years ago.

"I needed to cross three rivers which took much longer. But this time I just reached there within five to six hours," he said.

During the trip, Hakon visited Barisal and Barguna to meet some victims of cyclone Sidr and to see first hand how non-government organisations are working there to empower women and to rehabilitate cyclone victims back in their livelihoods.

Hakon totally disagreed with the theory that Norway is going to be benefited by the climate change as their agricultural yield might get a boost if global temperature rises.

"I don't think Norway will be benefited. After a long time this year we got some snow this winter. A warmer weather is going to make it disappear forever, and we don't want that," he said.

Boro farmers

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Agronomists said though the government lowered the prices of fertiliser by almost 50 percent, Boro production cost is more this season compared to last years because of increase in prices of other inputs like seeds, pesticides, irrigation and labour cost.

Despite lowering diesel price by Tk 2 per litre, farmers had to buy per litre of diesel at Tk 44 this season, which was Tk 40 last year. Besides, it rained four occasions during last Boro season, but this season there was almost no rain. The urea price was Tk 6-7 a kg then while it is Tk 12 per kg this season, Uttam Deb said.

"For the sake of farmers, unhusked rice should be not be in anyway less than Tk 500 a maund while price of rice should be Tk 20-25," he said.

Abu Sayem, a farmer in Pirganj, told our Dinajpur correspondent that most of the

farmers incurred a huge loss in potato cultivation due to bad weather and leaf blight disease. They also had to sell wheat at lower price than the production cost in winter season.

A food ministry official said production cost of per kg wheat this season was Tk 22, but the government is procuring it at Tk 16. Farmers sold wheat at Tk 13-14 a kg too.

Dr Shahidul Islam, national consultant of Food and Agriculture Organisation in Dhaka, said there is a trend that farmers swiftly move to other crops if they face losses in a crop in a season.

"As rice is very crucial crop here, the government should not take any risk. It must announce rice procurement price so that farmers get at least 10 percent benefit and build a good stock, even by renting private warehouses," Shahidul, former director of DAE, told The Daily Star.

BNP to fight

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government," he said. Talking to newsmen at his chamber in Motijheel, he said the government would first need to scrap the registration of the cantonment house through court and then serve the eviction notice.

In reply to a question, he said the party has not taken any decision about seeking legal remedy on this score. However, BNP leader and senior lawyer TH Khan said they are preparing a legal notice to be served on the government and they will go for a legal battle against the government if it does not withdraw its notice following their legal notice.

While talking to newsmen at his Supreme Court Bar Association chamber, he said they would file a writ petition next week with the High Court challenging the legality of the government to issue the notice upon Khaleda.

According to a party decision, BNP and its associate bodies will hold protest programmes regularly to forge a stronger movement against the government decision. They, however, feared that reorganising process of the party might be hindered due to the latest developments.

They said if necessary they would not attend the next parliament session if the government continues its effort to "oust Khaleda Zia from her house". "We cannot attend the next parliament session as it would give legitimacy to the heinous activities of the government," senior BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

Referring to a point made in the notice that the government, the president, or any other authority does not have the right to sell, lease out or hand over a military property inside cantonment area to a civilian, he said, "If it is legal for the president to allocate land for a bar in the cantonment area then why cannot he allocate land for the family of late president Ziaur Rahman."

decision and such provocative decision shall be responded politically," he said, claiming, "The recent visit of an Indian foreign secretary contributed to this government decision."

Asked about the reorganising process of BNP a BNP leader said this activity of the party might be hampered as the party is planning to concentrate on the legal battle and protest programmes.

"We will do our best to make the protest programmes successful so that a strong movement against the government can soon be forged," the BNP leader said, adding that the government wants to divert people's attention as it failed to take effective measure to solve problems of the people.

Another lawyer for Khaleda, Mahbubuddin Khokan MP, said the notice issued by the government asking Khaleda Zia to leave the cantonment house is faulty and unlawful.

The contract for allotment of the house was made between the president of Bangladesh and Khaleda Zia in 1981 and a military estate officer had signed the contract on behalf of the president, he said, adding that the military lands administrator signed the notice, which was served to Khaleda Zia asking her to leave the house.

He said the office of the military lands administrator has no jurisdiction to serve such notice, as the administrator has no authority on the land.

On this issue, Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim said the government has served the notice to Khaleda Zia to leave the cantonment residence through proper authorities and after examining and considering all aspects of laws concerned.

The authorities have served the notice upon Khaleda Zia to implement the cabinet decision and all should assist the government in getting back the state property from illegal possession, he said.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) featuring an invitation for tenders for the supply of Caustic Soda (Flakes) for water treatment. The ad includes contact information for the BRTA and details of the tender process.

Two Koreas end rare talks without agreement

AFP, Seoul

Rare talks between North and South Korea ended without agreement late yesterday after just 22 minutes, Seoul's unification ministry said.

Aspokesman had no immediate details on what happened at the talks, which had been delayed for some 12 hours by procedural disputes.

The meeting at the Kaesong joint industrial estate just north of the heavily fortified border was the first formal one since a conservative government took office in Seoul almost 14 months ago.

Relations are at their worst in a decade after President Lee Myung-Bak abandoned his predecessors' policy of providing almost unconditional aid to the communist state.

Regional tensions are also rising after the North's purported

satellite launch on April 5, widely seen overseas as a disguised missile test.

The North, angry at UN censure of the launch, has announced it is quitting nuclear disarmament talks and restarting its atomic weapons programme. It has expelled US and UN nuclear inspectors.

In Tuesday's talks the seven-member Seoul delegation was seeking access to a South Korean worker being held by the North at Kaesong for allegedly criticising its political system.

The North gave no indication of what it wanted to discuss when it proposed the meeting last week.

It said only that it had an "important notice" to announce regarding the Seoul-funded Kaesong estate, built as a symbol of reconciliation between two countries, which have remained technically at war since their 1950-53 conflict.

Advertisement for Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited (EGCB) featuring an invitation for tenders for the supply of Caustic Soda (Flakes) for water treatment. The ad includes details of the tender process and contact information for the EGCB.