

Trader shot dead in city

Manpower agent stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals gunned down a videocassette trader at his shop in the city's Gandaria area on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Shariful Islam, 32, owner of Youth Video Corner on Satish Sarker Lane of Gandaria. He was also a resident of the area.

Local people said around five to six criminals riding two motorbikes swooped on the shop in the evening and sprayed seven rounds of bullet on Sharif, leaving him critically wounded.

He was rushed to a local clinic where the attending doctors declared him dead around 8:30 pm, police said.

Sheuli Begum, elder sister of the victim, said Sharif beat up a motorbike rider on Tuesday morning after the motorbike hit a minor boy in front of his shop.

She suspected that the motorcyclist along with his accomplices might have killed her brother.

Officer-in-Charge Toffazzal Hossain of Sutrapur Police Station told The Daily Star that though he was a trader, he was also involved in local Saju-Mamungang.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue yesterday noon. The medical sources said the body bore seven bullet wounds.

In another incident in the city's south Kamalapur, unidentified criminals stabbed a manpower agent to death at his house yesterday.

The deceased Abdul Jalil, 45, had his office at Fakirpura area in the capital.

Sub-inspector Sultan Ahmed of Motijheel Police Station said on information they recovered the body from the isolated house.

Quoting neighbours he added Jalil used to live with a roommate and his family is in Comilla.

However, his roommate is missing, he said adding that they could not ascertain the motive behind the killing.

Sircar

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Receiving the letter, the probe committee decided not to send any documents to Sircar, rather opted to ask him to access the documents by appearing before the committee.

The committee also said if the former speaker wanted to see the documents he could communicate with the secretary to the committee before June 27.

"We drafted a reply to the former speaker's letter and will send it to him," Fazle Rabbi Mia, chief of the probe committee, told The Daily Star.

The Parliament Secretariat will notify the former speaker about the committee's decision today.

The committee on June 21 sent a letter to the former speaker, his former deputy Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain asking them to appear before it on June 27 and defend graft charge against them.

The committee led by its chief Fazle Rabbi Mia yesterday also met Speaker Abdul Hamid and informed him about the progress of the investigation.

Japan to lend

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Razzaque said one storehouse would be built at Postagola, one at Mongla Port while the rest in different parts of the country's northern region.

During the meeting, the food minister sought Japan's assistance in constructing cyclone centres and dams in the cyclone-affected areas. He also requested the outgoing ambassador to help rebuild the houses damaged by cyclone Aila.

In response, Chief Representative of JICA Toda Takao who accompanied the outgoing ambassador assured him of extending cooperation and requested the minister to submit a proposal in this regard.

Bangladesh has 621 storehouses of different types with total capacity of 14,73,217 tonnes which is far less than what the country requires. So, Bangladesh had proposed that Japan government assist in building the depots to increase the capacity of storing food.

Food ministry officials said the capacity should be doubled so that the government can stock sufficient amount of food. The amount of stock has a significant influence on the market. If there is sufficient stock it will help government control the prices," said an official.

Food Secretary Md Moklesur Rahman was present during the meeting.

Contain graft

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alliance government were not removed," Zillul Hakim, committee member, told The Daily Star after the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

Zillul, also ruling Awami League lawmaker, said some other members of the committee echoed the same.

Omor Faruk Chowdhury, another member of the committee, said he asked the minister on recent appointment of the director general of railway eastern zone.

"I wanted to know why the director general was transferred and why the transfer order was cancelled. If there was no anomaly, you would not cancel the transfer order," Omor, also AL lawmaker, said.

He told the meeting the government's image is tarnished by such an incident.

Omor said the minister replied that the matter was handled at the joint secretary level and he took action on receiving information.

Earlier, the committee members criticised the minister for floating a tender to purchase a luxury vehicle for his own use.

The parliamentary body formed four sub-committees led by members Zillul Hakim, Abu Zahir, Golam Mawla Roni and Omor Faruk to investigate and check different corruption and anomalies.

One committee would investigate irregularities and corruption occurred during the past BNP-led government in communications ministry and another would work how to recover government land from grabbers.

The two other sub-committees would oversee the progress and quality of different development work and check possible anomalies in tender process under the ministry respectively.

The committee asked the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) to initiate steps for purchasing 100 public carriers to ease traffic congestion in the city.

Talking to reporters, committee chairman Sheikh Muzibur Rahman said hundreds of acres of railway land would be recovered at any cost no matter how influential the grabbers are.

UN starts debate

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"Although we were not responsible, we are suffering the collateral damage," Martin Khor, executive director for the South Center, a Geneva-based policy think tank for developing countries, said here this week.

Organizers noted that the World Bank is projecting a finance gap of up to 700 billion dollars in developing countries, resulting in additional deaths of 1.5 to 2.8 million infants by 2015 and more than 100 million people tipping over into extreme poverty each year for the duration of the crisis.

Khor stressed that the international response to the global crisis has been undertaken by exclusive clubs such as the Group of Eight (G8) or Group of 20 (G20) while most developing countries have had no say.

"This meeting leaves no doubt that the proper and most fitting venue to discuss this type of problem is the United Nations," D'Escoto said. "After all, we're talking about global problems and they should be discussed globally."

Nearly 120 UN member states are to attend the parley, including presidents Rafael Correa of Ecuador and Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, the vice presidents of Iran and Zimbabwe, and the prime ministers of Bosnia, Serbia, Togo and several Caribbean nations.

But in an apparent sign of lack of interest, key developed countries are sending low-level delegations.

D'Escoto, a former Nicaraguan foreign minister,

said he was "relieved" that a revised outcome document due to be adopted at the end of the three-day meeting has been finalized.

The document is based on recommendations submitted by a panel of economic and financial experts from around the world on immediate and longer-term measures as well as practical steps for reforming the international financial architecture.

These include external financing to make up the estimated one to two trillion dollars shortfall in income from reduced exports by developing countries and the outflow of capital caused by the crisis.

The funding would come from new Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), an international reserve asset, which could be issued by the International Monetary Fund and would be provided on the basis of need.

Other proposals focused on substantial debt relief for poor countries hobbled by the crisis, new and innovative sources of financing for development projects and the need for donors to fulfill their existing bilateral and multilateral commitments for official development assistance.

Khor also said the conference should have a follow-up mechanism, such as a working group of the General Assembly that would monitor implementation of the outcome document and would report back to the assembly.

D'Escoto was tasked with organizing the conference by world leaders during talks on financing and development held in December 2008 in Doha, Qatar.

Maj Liakat

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Rahman at Chittagong jail in the afternoon.

Two former police sergeants Alauddin and Helal Uddin, who share the credit for the seizure of the consignment, identified ex-NSI DD Liakat as the person who by the name Abul Hossain supervised the offloading of the consignment at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Company Ltd (CUFL) jetty on April 2, 2004.

They identified Liakat out of 11 accused—with identical appearance and movement—lined up for the parade after examining them closely for some fifteen minutes.

Earlier, detained ex-NSI Director (security) wing commander (ret'd) Sahab Uddin in his judicial confession also claimed ex-NSI DD Liakat's involvement in the offloading and stated him to be the person who informed him (Sahab) of the seizure over telephone.

After his arrest on May 26, following Sahab's confession, ex-NSI DD Liakat during remand at Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) cell confessed his involvement in the offloading and agreed to make a judicial confession. He, however, refused to make a confessional statement when he was produced before a magistrate here on June 07. It prompted the investigators to go for the TI parade.

Investigation Officer of the case Muniruzzaman Chowdhury—a senior ASP of CID Chittagong zone—made the petition for arranging a TI parade on June 18.

The Chittagong court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Helal Uddin passed the order after hearing of the petition on June 21.

Muhith

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money in the public-private partnership (PPP) initiative.

Explaining why more money was whitened during the caretaker regime the finance minister said their power was of different kind.

Muhith was speaking after separate meetings with Bangladesh Cold Storage Association (BCSA) and Telecommunication Infrastructure Operators of Bangladesh (TIOB) at the finance ministry.

Rural landless

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activities have increased in the villages, causing the decrease.

The BBS said since the last population census in 2001, the number of dwelling houses increased by 15.4 percent over a period of seven years. In 2001, the figure was 28.6 million and in 2008 it was 24.85 million.

Growth rate of households is the highest (18.5%) in Dhaka Division closely followed by Rajshahi (17.0%) with the lowest in Barisal (7.1%).

JS body

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phone sets and SIM cards," he said.

"We believe harassment of cellphone users will reduce once the mobile phone sets are sold at fixed rate."

The parliamentary body also recommended reduction of import tax of raw materials for furniture and aluminium industry.

"We hope the finance minister will bring changes in the proposed budget in line with our recommendations," said the standing committee chief.

He added budget will not be passed the way it was announced in parliament, adding there will be certainly some changes.

He also said a website on the standing committee on finance ministry will be launched soon.

Lotus Kamal said they made the recommendations considering suggestions of the leaders of different trade bodies.

Break-in

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leaving Abdullah free, said SI Aslam, adding that they then took Abdullah to cashbox and took the keys from him.

Abdullah said when he had given the robbers a bag of local money they threatened him to handover foreign currencies too.

He gave the robbers keys to the cashbox where foreign currencies were kept, said Abdullah. The robbers left all confined in the locker room, he added.

As the robbers left the scene, the victims untied each other and screamed for help through the window, said Abdullah.

Locals responded to their cry and rescued them—Abdullah, his friend, and employee and a customer, he added.

Police rushed to the spot on information.

Earlier on Monday, an attempt of robbery during broad daylight was made at a jewellery shop in Gulshan.

However, while briefing the press after a cabinet meeting on law and order Home Minister Sahara Khatun said the cabinet found improvement of the situation but they were not satisfied because it still needs improvement.

Emajuddin

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June 21 judgement on proclamation of independence.

Meantime, the Supreme Court chamber judge did not pass any order yesterday on a plea against the High Court judgment that declared Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the proclaimer of the country's independence, which apparently kept the verdict in force.

CONTEMPT OF COURT

After hearing the petition, an HC bench comprised of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Mamtazuddin Ahmed also issued a contempt rule against Emajuddin.

The petition was filed by Supreme Court lawyer Manzil Murshid on behalf of Abdus Salam, who had filed the writ petition upon which the HC delivered its verdict.

In its rule, the HC asked the former vice chancellor to explain by July 2 why contempt proceedings should not be drawn against him for making statement about the HC judges who gave the judgement declaring that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, not Ziaur Rahman, had proclaimed the republic's independence on March 26, 1971.

Emajuddin alleged that the HC judges had cast aspersions on an authentication committee concerned without hearing its members. He also questioned if the judges had acted like judges.

His statement was published in a section of the national dailies on June 23.

Emajuddin was on the authentication committee, formed by the BNP-Jamaat alliance government, concerning publication of the book titled 'Swadhinata Juddha-Dailipatra' (Liberation War: Documents) in June 2004.

SC PASSE NO ORDER The Supreme Court chamber judge did not pass any order yesterday on a plea against the High Court judgment that declared Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the proclaimer of the country's independence.

The plea seeking stay on the operation of the HC judgment was moved before the chamber bench of the Appellate Division yesterday afternoon, but Judge MA Aziz did not pass any order, as the petitioner did not submit the certified copy of the verdict to the court.

BNP leader and freedom fighter Wing Commander (ret'd) Hamidullah Khan filed the provisional leave-to-appeal petition with the SC on June 23.

The chamber judge, however, told the lawyers for Hamidullah that they can move a regular leave-to-appeal petition before this court when they have the certified copy of the HC verdict.

Attorney General Mahabub Alam, who defended the HC verdict, told The Daily Star that the chamber judge did not interfere in the HC verdict and following his order the verdict would apparently remain valid and upheld.

Khaleda

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tomorrow, the BNP chairperson also appealed to the United Nations to take necessary steps for encouraging the government to take such initiatives.

Khaleda recalled the "torture on her and her two sons and her party leaders and workers during the then Army Chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed-supported unconstitutional government of January 11, 2007."

"During the emergency period," she said, "The unconstitutional government had confined me in my house for nearly one year and kept me in solitary imprisonment for another year without trial."

Khaleda said the unconstitutional government arrested her two sons and perpetrated inhuman physical and mental tortures on them taking them to unknown places in the name of interrogation.

"But in the last two years they could not prove in court any allegation brought against me," Khaleda said in her statement.

The BNP chairperson further said other political party leaders, businessmen and citizens were also subjected to torture in the name of interrogation, but proper investigation and the trial of those were not held during the emergency period.

She lamented that no step has been taken yet in this regard although an elected government is in power.

She also criticised the present government for repressing the opposition.

On the eve of the International Day Against Torture, Khaleda condemned all those incidents of repression and expressed her heartfelt sympathy to all the oppressed people of the world, including Bangladesh.

Advocate Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, principal counsel for Hamidullah, told newsmen that they will move the same provisional leave-to-appeal application before the full bench of the Appellate Division today or on Sunday.

Earlier, during the hearing on the petition yesterday he told the court that the issue of the proclamation of the country's independence is a settled matter and the HC has no jurisdiction to deliver any verdict on the issue.

He said the writ petition, upon which the HC gave its ruling, was not maintainable in the HC as per article 102 of the constitution as the writ petition was not related to any fundamental rights of people.

The article empowers the HC to enforce the fundamental rights of people and a writ petition always deals with fundamental rights, according to legal experts.

The attorney general opposed Hamidullah's petition, saying there was no urgency to stay the operation of the HC verdict, which was delivered on the basis of relevant documents and evidence in accordance with law.

He said the HC did not pass any order yesterday not to create any obstacle to running state machinery.

Upon a writ petition filed by Dr MA Salam, a freedom fighter and private practitioner in Dhaka, the HC delivered the judgment on June 21, saying Bangabandhu had issued the proclamation of the country's independence on March 26, 1971, and Kalurghat Betar Kendra relayed it the next day.

Hamidullah Khan, who was an added party to the writ petition, filed the provisional leave-to-appeal petition, claiming that late president Ziaur Rahman had first declared independence of the country from Kalurghat radio station in Chittagong on March 27, 1971.

A number of prominent lawyers including barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud, Abdul Baset Majumder and advocate Manzil Murshid defended the writ petitioner. Former speaker of Jatiya Sangsad barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and former law minister of BNP-led government barrister Moudud Ahmed, among others, stood for Hamidullah during the hearing of the petition.

Swine flu

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of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

They were detected following the government's "contact case tracing" initiative in which some 28 inbound passengers of the flight were contacted and tested, he told reporters at a briefing on "Pandemic A/H1N1 2009" at the Press Institute of Bangladesh.

Unicef and Health Reporters' Forum, Bangladesh jointly organised the programme.

Describing the condition of the six infected persons as "not so serious", the IEDCR director said they have been under treatment at their homes.

Prof Mahmud said people generally suffer from influenza during the April-September period. So, they need not be panicked for having fever, cough, runny nose and respiratory problems because it needs epidemiological links with the symptoms to have swine flu.

He, however, advised people to maintain cautionary measures like washing hands, maintaining safe distance from those suffering from flu-like illnesses, cover the mouth and nose while sneezing and coughing.

The government has set up 16 screening points in the country under its three-tier cautionary measures to prevent the entry of the virus. Besides, an influenza ward has been set up at the National Institute of Diseases of Children and Hospital at Mohakhali.

Isolation units at 30 district hospitals have also been kept prepared, government sources added.

The antigenic shift of the A/H1N1 virus, transmission and management of the disease, and role of the media in public health emergency were also discussed at the briefing.

Surani Abeysekera and Arifa Sharmin, communication specialists of Unicef, Moniruzzaman Uzzal, president of Health Reporters' Forum, Bangladesh also spoke at the event.

World Health Organisation sources said the A/H1N1 virus is spreading rapidly, because of which containment of it is not possible. The current focus should be on mitigating measures.

According to government sources, infection of A/H1N1 virus has so far occurred in some 99 countries with around 52,160 cases having been confirmed in lab tests. The death toll has risen to 231 this year.

Nat'l interest first

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people of Bangladesh will not be misled," she said.

She also castigated the BNP for not resolving crucial issues like the Tipaimuk Dam and the Ganges water sharing when they were calling the shots.

"It is the Awami League which has to fulfil the expectations of this country," she said adding, "As the Awami League was able to overcome the Ganges water problem, it will be able to solve the Tipaimukh problem as well."

The AL president said no good could be done by those who kill thousands of AL leaders and workers, resort to looting of public money, conduct wide-scale corruption, misuse power and siphon off crores of taka.

She alleged that the BNP wanted to oust the present government through the BDR incident in February. They want to take political advantage by keeping alive issues like Khaleda's cantonment house and number of front-row seats in parliament, she claimed.

On the BNP's not joining the parliament, she said, "It is not a game where you can choose to take part or stay on the sideline."

Hasina called upon her party leaders and workers to get themselves ready to make any kind of sacrifice for meeting the expectations of the people who voted the AL to power.

On the other much-debated issue of whitening black money, Hasina said the culture of whitening black money started after late Ziaur Rahman assumed power in a military coup after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It would not stop overnight, she added. This time the government in its

proposed budget placed conditions on this opportunity so that the money is invested and people get benefited.

She said many people are criticising this but they forget that former prime minister Khaleda Zia, her sons and former finance minister Saifur Rahman and his family members whitened black money during the last caretaker government's regime.

The prime minister asked how they got to whiten black money after the Anti-corruption Commission had served notices upon them to submit their wealth statements.

Hasina paid rich tributes to the founding leaders of AL including Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardi, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Mansur Ali and AHM Quamruzzaman, Liberation War martyrs and party leaders and workers who made supreme sacrifice for the country over the years.

AL presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury chaired the discussion conducted by AL publicity secretary Asaduzzaman Noor. Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Party acting chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque and Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua and AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir also spoke.

Noted poet Syed Shamsul Haque and AL leader and state minister for ICT Yafes Osman recited poems at the programme.

Khamenei

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groups near the square but were not shouting slogans or carrying any banners.

"In the recent incidents concerning the election, I have been insisting on the implementation of the law and I will be (insisting). Neither the system, nor the people will back down under force," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said.

It was the latest indication that the clerical regime will not brook dissent over the re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad despite a wave of public demonstrations and complaints that the June 12 vote was rigged.

And in a sign security forces are wasting no time to put down protests, a large presence of riot police and Islamist Basij militiamen stopped a crowd of several hundred people trying to gather outside parliament in Tehran, a witness said.

In the latest diplomatic backlash over what Iran has branded Western meddling, Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said Tehran is considering whether to downgrade ties with Britain.

His comments came after the two governments expelled diplomats in a tit-for-tat move, with Tehran increasingly pointing the finger at London over the street violence that erupted in the aftermath of the election.

Tehran has accused Britain—described by Khamenei as the "most evil" of Iran's enemies—

of plotting against the election and seeking to stabilise the country.

It has expelled the BBC correspondent in Tehran and arrested, a British-Greek journalist working for a US newspaper, one of at least two foreign reporters detained by the authorities.

Iran's interior minister also took aim at the United States, saying rioters were being funded by the CIA and the exiled opposition group the People's Mujahadeen.

US President Barack Obama, in his strongest comments yet, on Tuesday raised questions about the legitimacy of the election and expressed outrage over the violence against opposition protesters.

Iran has refused to overturn the results of the poll but Khamenei—who has ruled over the Islamic republic for 20 years—has extended by five days a Wednesday deadline to examine vote complaints.

The authorities have also intensified a crackdown on opposition leader and defeated presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi, with the arrest of staff at his newspaper and vitriolic attacks from the hardline press.

Another defeated candidate, former Revolutionary Guards chief Mohsen Rezaei, has withdrawn his protest about election irregularities, in a blow to the opposition.