

RMG worker tortured to death in Gazipur

Fate of 3 others unknown, factory owner and his men blamed

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Owner of a garment factory at Rajendrapur in Gazipur Sadar and his men allegedly tortured a worker to death on Wednesday night, but the fate of three others are still shrouded in mystery.

The victim identified as Selim Khandker, 25, who hailed from Langolmora village under Sherpur upazila in Bogra, had been working in TDK Zipper Factory for the last two months.

Selim and three other employees were confined in a room on the first floor of the factory on Tuesday on charges of stealing some goods and they were tortured. None could say what happened to three others.

Police said employee of the factory Abul Khair took the body of Selim to Gazipur Sadar Hospital on Wednesday night and kept it there.

The victim's body, hands and legs bore the marks of

injuries. There was a long deep cut on the right arm of his body.

Post-mortem sources told journalists that mixture of chili and salt was applied to the wounded spots to torture the worker.

Relatives of the victim took the body to his village home.

Selim's maternal uncle Mofizul Haque filed a murder case with Joydevpur Police Station against eight people, including factory owner Mokhelesur Rahman Milon.

Others accused in the case include the owner's car driver Siddique, factory peon Bayezid, floor in-charge Mostafizur Rahman, Billal Hossain, Zafar Miah, colour man Abul Khair and security guard Abdur Razzak.

The factory remained closed since the incident. None other than two security workers are staying in the factory.

Police said some goods of the factory were stolen

recently. When Selim came to the factory as usual on that day, he was called on to its first floor. Employees Raju, Monarul and Chhoto Raju were also called to the spot where they were detained and tortured.

As Selim's condition deteriorated, somebody from the factory informed the matter of his relatives over a mobile phone. Getting the message, Selim's maternal uncle Mofizul Haque and his cousin came to Joydevpur the following day, but they could not enter the factory despite repeated attempts.

They got the news of Selim's death on Wednesday night.

Officer-in-Charge of Joydevpur Police Station Abdur Rashid confirmed the incident.

On information, police went to the spot on that night but got none in the factory. Attempts are on to arrest the accused, he added.

Tangail court issues warrant against SQ Chy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court in Tangail yesterday issued an arrest warrant against BNP leader and lawmaker Salaudhin Quader Chowdhury in a defamation case.

Judge Mohammad Waezal-Kuruni of Judicial Magistrate Court issued the warrant.

Earlier on August 19, Advocate Abdur Rahim, senior vice-president of Tangail district Juba League, filed a Tk 20 crore defamation suit with the same court accusing Salaudhin Quader Chowdhury of making derogatory remarks about the National Mourning Day and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The plaintiff said in his case statement that SQ Chowdhury does not acknowledge the very existence of Bangladesh and has been creating chaos by making comments against the independence and sovereignty of the country that hurt him as an admirer and follower of Bangabandhu.

Advocate Shamimul Akhter and Shahanshah Siddiqui Mintu moved the case on behalf of the plaintiff.

After taking the case into cognisance, the court on August 19 directed the Sadar upazila assistant commissioner (land) to investigate the case and submit a report by yesterday.

Rangpur BCL men clash for tender: 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police arrested two ruling party activists during a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) factions over dropping of tender documents at Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) office in Rangpur yesterday.

LGED sources said a number of BCL activists hired by the proprietor of Noor Construction were obstructing contractors to drop tender for the construction of Rahmotganj-Matherganj road in Pirganj area.

A clash erupted when another group of BCL activists tried to drop tender on behalf of Prokowsal Construction.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion rushed to the spot and arrested Roton and Rubel.

Prokowsal Construction is a firm owned by Aziza Begum, wife of former Awami League president of Rangpur Sadar unit Rafiqul Islam Dulal. And Noor construction belongs to Shahidul Islam Pintu, a distant relative of eminent nuclear scientist late Wazed Ali Miah.

Rafiqul Islam Dulal alleged that a number of young men chased his men who went to drop tender at the LGED on behalf of his wife.

Dulal said those young men were the activists of Chhatra Dal and Juba Dal during the period of BNP-led alliance but later they had joined the ruling party.

LGED floated the tender two weeks ago with a deadline of September 10 at 2:00pm asking the contractors to take part in the bid for the construction.

Officer-in-Charge of Rangpur Kotwali thana Abdur Rashid said any case against Roton and Rubel is yet to be filed.

Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah



He is undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Kidney Hospital in the capital.

According to doctors, one of his two kidneys has been completely damaged.

He needs immediate kidney transplant which will cost him Tk 2 lakh.

But it is not possible for his father Md Zinnat Ali, a poor farmer, to arrange such a big amount of money for the treatment of his son who passed the SSC examination in 2008 obtaining GPA 5. Now he is studying at Mahatab Uddin Degree College.

Zinnat Ali has urged the affluent people of the society for financial assistance to save the life of his son.

Contributions can be sent to Al-Haj Jobed Ali, Savings Account No 1753, Sonali Bank, Kaliganj Branch-2, Jhenidah.



Visiting US acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Owen meets Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque at his office in the city yesterday.

Updated Nat'l Children Policy by Dec

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will announce the updated National Children Policy by December this year, Dr Namita Haldar, deputy secretary of women and children affairs ministry, said yesterday.

The government has taken initiatives to update the policy with a view to preserving the rights of the children of the country as per the recommendations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, she said.

She said this while addressing a seminar on 'Implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects' organised by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) at the Biam Foundation in the city.

The updated policy has defined children as young

people of up to 18 years to end debate on the age issue.

Prof Ishrat Shamim of sociology department at Dhaka University urged parents to spend a certain period of time of a day with the children to tap their hidden potentials and to ensure better social growth.

"Nowadays parents are always busy with their jobs and have no time to spend with their children. That is why their children suffer from loneliness and behave abnormally. So, the parents should spend the maximum time possible with the children to ensure their proper growth," she said.

While presenting the keynote paper, she also said that children are being tortured in different ways and their rights are being violated by the other family members.

At least 6 per cent of the children in the country

become orphan after losing either one or both of their parents and later the adult family members torture them.

"After being trafficked, the children are forced to do hazardous jobs and they become the victim of ruthless exploitation," she said.

She also stressed taking necessary initiatives to improve the quality of life of children and ensuring their social and economical security.

To address repression on children, she called upon the government to ensure proper implementation of Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, which was amended in 2003.

Md Kafil Uddin, director of BSAF, presided over the meeting while Dr Edward Thomas, country director of Plan International and Wahida Banu, chairperson of BSAF, also spoke on the occasion.

US keen to help face challenges of climate change: Owen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Owen said his country is interested to work with Bangladesh in facing challenges of climate change and ensuring food security.

He said this during a meeting with Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque at the latter's office at secretariat.

During the meeting Razzaque said that the government already started to repair the dam, cyclone shelter homes in Aila-hit areas.

"To implement these projects, we need the assistance from the donor agencies and countries", said the minister.

Michael Owen, however, informed the minister that the US president is very much cordial to struggle together reducing the impact of climate changes and to ensure food security globally.

Food Secretary Md Mokhelesur Rahman and US Ambassador James F Moriarty were present at the meeting.

Court orders fresh autopsy on Tamanna's body

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to exhume the body of Dr Tamanna Haque Monira for a further post-mortem.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Eamul Haque passed the order after the victim's brother Ahsanul Monir Manna filed a petition in this regard.

The court also gave an order that the civil surgeon of Madaripur Health Complex would form a medical board to carry out the post-mortem and also asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Kalkini Police Station to take necessary steps to exhume the body.

The body of Tamanna, 28, a physician of gynaecology department of Mitford Hospital, was found hanging from a ceiling fan at her Bibir Bagicha residence in the city's Uttar Jatrabari on August 29. She was buried at Kalkini upazila in Madaripur on August 30.

In the petition filed on September 3, Manna mentioned that Tamanna's husband Fakrul Islam killed her for dowry on August 29. But a medical board of Mitford Hospital, where Fakrul was serving as a physician, submitted that Tamanna committed suicide.

Manna further mentioned that a fresh post-mortem by another medical board can remove doubts about the cause of her death.

Earlier, Tamanna's brother filed a murder case against Fakrul Islam, assistant registrar of Mitford Hospital, and his parents with Jatrabari Police Station.



Swadhin Bangla Garment Sramik Karmachari Federation stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding rights to trade union as well as to fulfil the election manifesto of the ruling party.



Qulkhani of Saifur today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhani of former finance minister and BNP leader M Saifur Rahman will be held at the Central Azad Mosque at Gulshan in the city at 5:00pm today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends, well-wishers and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Abdul Khaleq Hazra, former head of the department of Mathematics at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), passed away at his residence in the city on Wednesday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He will be buried tomorrow at Kalsi graveyard at Mirpur in the city.

Mohammed Abdus Sattar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Mohammed Abdus Sattar, an Upazila Primary Education Officer, passed away at a private clinic in Chittagong city yesterday at the age of 55.

He has been suffering from blood cancer.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Dharmapur in Satkania.

Journo, cellphone card trader shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed miscreants early yesterday injured an employee of a local daily at Savar while a mobile phone-card trader was shot in the city's Bangshal in the afternoon.

The injured is Hasan Chowdhury, 26, computer in-charge of the daily Fulki, a local newspaper of Savar.

Sources said the miscreants stormed into the newspaper office sometime after sehi and opened fire on Hasan while he was sleeping. Hasan often sleeps in the office at night as he lived nearby.

The injured was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition with a bullet in his abdomen.

Hospital sources said doctors could not remove the bullet from his body.

Selim Ahmed, a senior reporter of the daily, told The Daily Star that the criminals, who were arrested last month on charge of mugging Suman, one of the employees of the Fulki,

might have made the attack as they were released on bail.

"Criminals had already threatened Suman of serious consequences," claimed Selim.

Suman has been working for the daily for around four years and sleeps in the office at night. He, however, was missing after the incident.

Asked about Suman's opinion, Selim said he did not say anything.

Officer-in-Charge of Savar Police Station AKM Nasirullah said Suman was present during the incident and they are looking for him. "Let us investigate the matter and find out the fact by arresting the criminals," said the OC.

Meanwhile, a three-man armed gang shot a mobile phone-card trader Pappu Miah, 28, in the chest. Pappu was admitted to DMCH right after the incident.

The victim said one of the gang members shot him while he was going towards Lalbagh on foot around 6:00pm.

Police suspect that the incident might have taken place over a feud.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over all the six divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely to occur at places over the country, Met Office said.

It also said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:06pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and Sathkira and lowest 24.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal and Dinajpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.5	26.2	85	87
Chittagong	31.2	25.4	83	83
Rajshahi	31.5	24.4	94	--
Khulna	33.2	26.1	92	87
Barisal	31.8	26.0	81	92
Sylhet	30.7	24.7	97	75
Cox's Bazar	31.8	25.0	77	83

Delhi offers transit

FROM PAGE 1

India attaches highest priority to its relations with Bangladesh. He reiterated his invitation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to visit India, expressing the hope that her visit would write a new chapter in Indo-Bangladesh relations.

During the official talks, the two ministers noted that recent elections

have provided both the countries with a historical opportunity to take their bilateral relations to a greater height.

Our New Delhi correspondent writes: This is the first time that India and Bangladesh reached such substantive agreements in the area of security cooperation.

Replying to a question from media persons at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi after the release of the joint statement, Dipu said Bangladesh government is taking action against militants and India and Bangladesh agreed to cooperate on the issue. She reiterated "our resolve not to allow use of our territories against each other".

Asked about the joint operation against militants, she said the two countries can cooperate by sharing intelligence about the ultras.

She, however, made it clear that the two countries "have not finalised anything on extradition agreement".

"We agreed to work together and move together not only in bilateral relations but also for entire South Asia," Dipu Moni said.

She said since both the countries believe in the rule of law and democratic and secular societies, "this is a historical opportunity for the two countries to move together to take

bilateral relations to a new height".

The two countries were understood to have had differences on a "few words" in the joint statement, which were sorted out after Dipu had telephonic calls with "appropriate authorities in Dhaka".

Excerpts from joint press statement

Both sides recognised the need to expedite negotiations with a view to finalise an agreement for sharing of the waters of Teesta river. Towards this end, they agreed to mandate their respective Foreign Offices to meet and discuss the technical and other parameters of this issue. They agreed to immediately commence Joint Hydrological Observations on the river. They also agreed to undertake bank protection works, dredging of Ichhamati river and minor irrigation/dinking water schemes on Feniriver.

The Bangladesh side thanked the Indian side for the hospitality and cooperation extended to the Bangladesh Parliamentary delegation during their visit to the proposed Tipaimukh Dam site. In this context, the Bangladesh side welcomed India's reassurance that it would not take steps that would adversely impact Bangladesh.

Both sides recognised the importance of bilateral and regional connectivity. In this context, both sides discussed designating Ashuganj as a new port of call under Article-23 of the Inland Water Transit and Trade Agreement as well as the use of Chittagong port by India. Bangladesh side agreed to provide access to Ashuganj Port to facilitate the transportation of the Over Dimensional Consignments for the Palatana

Power Project in Tripura.

Indian side agreed to facilitate Nepal-Bangladesh and Bhutan-Bangladesh connectivity.

Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the power sector. India agreed to provide at least 100 MW to Bangladesh on a priority basis. Ahead of this, it will also undertake a feasibility study on power grid inter-connectivity for transmission lines, etc from India to Bangladesh.

Both sides agreed on the re-opening [of] Sabroom-Ramgarh trade point as well as opening a land route at Demagiri-Thegamukh on the Mizoram border for bilateral trade.

India agreed in principle to provide a Line of Credit for railway projects and supply of locomotives, coaches and buses. India offered to take up construction of Akhaura-Agartala railway link under Indian assistance.

India also agreed to assist Bangladesh in the dredging sector.

Both sides agreed to start Border Haats [markets] at the Bangladesh-Meghalaya border for mutual benefit of the people in these areas.

Both sides agreed to movement of containerised cargo by rail and water for bilateral trade.

Both sides welcomed the holding of the Joint Working Group on Trade last month and discussed broad economic issues with a view to fully activate all institutional mechanisms to promote two-way trade, initiate long pending trade facilitation measures and facilitate movement of businessmen and professionals.

Bangladesh specifically raised the issue of duty free access to

Bangladeshi commodities, removal of Non Tariff and Para Tariff Barriers and improvement of infrastructures on the Indian side. Indian side expressed its readiness to assist Bangladesh in strengthening the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute. It also requested for removal of barriers to Indian investments and port restrictions for specific commodities.

Both sides agreed to comprehensively address all outstanding land boundary issues. Both sides expressed their intent to resolve outstanding issues relating to Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves and the Tin Bigha Corridor. Both sides also recognised the need for electrification of Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves as a humanitarian gesture.

The two Ministers reiterated their resolve to strengthen bilateral co-operation to deter the recurrence of terrorist incidents. Both sides also reiterated their resolve not to allow the use of their territories for activities inimical to each other's security interests.

Both sides agreed to conclude the following three agreements:

a. Agreement for mutual legal assistance on criminal matters;

b. Agreement of transfer of sentenced persons;

c. Agreement on combating international terrorism, organised crime and illegal drug trafficking.

The two Ministers reiterated their conviction that opportunities for fruitful collaboration between the two countries in furthering mutual interests were enormous and resolved to remain engaged to expeditiously address all bilateral issues.