

Housewife beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was allegedly beaten to death at an apartment of Eastern Housing in city's Pallabi area on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Fatema Rahman, 55, wife of Sheikh Fazlur Rahman.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Pallabi Police Station Abdul Malek said they arrested three members of the apartment owners' association of the housing yesterday in this connection.

The arrestees were identified as Ebadur Rahman, 40, Khurshid Alam, 46, and Ashraf Islam, who were placed on a one-day remand to unearth the mystery of the death.

Family members of Fatema alleged that the apartment owner entered the apartment along with members of the housing society and some hired goons at 9:00pm and asked them to vacate the flat immediately.

They alleged that both the sides were involved in an altercation as the tenant wanted more time to leave the apartment. At one stage, the association members beat up Fatema, her husband, two sons and a daughter.

The victim fell sick following the incident and was rushed to National Heart Foundation where she died.

On the other hand, housing society sources said Fatema died after she had suffered a cardiac arrest following the altercation.

They further said she did not pay the rent of the house for the last several months, adding that the apartment owner asked her family to leave the place but they did not pay any heed to their notice.

Ctg medical student drowns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fourth year student of Chittagong Medical College (CMC) drowned in a pond in bordering Nila union of Teknaf upazila Thursday night.

The victim, Abhishek Datta, 22, son of Ranjit Datta of Sukhchhari in Lohagara upazila of Chittagong, walked into the pond around 8:00pm and drowned while his friends were also taking bath there.

Sources said his friends searched the pond and recovered the body, as Abhishek remained missing in their team after bath. Doctors present there declared him dead after examining the body.

Abhishek, the elder son of his family, and 25 other CMC students went to Teknaf Thursday morning to participate in two days' residential field site training and stayed in a house in the locality.

His body was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) mortuary early yesterday for autopsy.

"After conducting a survey at a Rohingya refugee camp in the hot afternoon, we returned to the house in the evening. Ten students jumped into the pond beside the house finding its water cool and clear," said victim's friend Jahangir while talking to The Daily Star.

But Jahangir could not say exactly when Abhishek walked into the pond. Abhishek might have slipped into the deep water of the pond and drowned, as he did not know how to swim, he said.

"After bath, I found Abhishek's clothes kept on the bank and started searching for him," said Jahangir in a choking voice.

A pall of gloom descended when his body was brought to their residence in the city's Bakalia area yesterday afternoon.

Prisoner dies at KMCH

BSS, Khulna

An under-trial prisoner in a murder case died yesterday at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH).

The deceased was identified as Huzur Ali, 50, son of Nazir Ali, hailing from Barobag village under Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia.

Khulna Jail Super Shah Alam Khan told BSS, Huzur Ali was shifted to Khulna district jail on September 27 while he fell sick causing bleeding from his nose.

He was admitted to KMCH prison cell on the same day in a critical condition where he died early yesterday.

The body was sent to his village home after autopsy.

City rife with littering problems

Campaign, tough law suggested

UNB, Dhaka

An effective anti-littering campaign needs to be launched to address the growing littering problems in Dhaka, a mega city of 1.2 crore people.

"Littering is a big problem in many cities, but this is a bigger problem in this sprawling city," said Dr Abdus Zaher of Dhaka University.

Dr Zaher, also chairman of Communication and Media Research Initiative (Camri), a research organisation, said littering not only reduces the beauty of a city, but it also finds its way into rivers and creeks affecting the environment.

"Conventional wisdom says if everyone just picks up an x amount of litter a day, then it would all be gone before long. Yet for some reason this has never been tried," said barrister Ahsan Habib, a Bangladeshi-born Briton.

In the United Kingdom, he said, there is a maximum fine of £2,500 for persistent littering. Different local authorities also have the power to impose on the spot fines to those caught littering. These are generally under £100.

"Even anyone caught littering in Georgia can be ordered to pay a fine of up to \$1,000 or more for serious littering violations," said Habib, quoting one of his friends who visited Georgia, the USA.

Singapore is known as a "fine" city. To maintain the cleanliness, there are strict laws against littering of any kind.

A former Dhaka City Corporation official, who wished not to be named, said motorists and pedestrians are responsible for creating between 30 and 55 percent of litter. The rest comes from household or commercial garbage, construction sites, loading and delivery areas and uncovered trucks. Garbage, not properly disposed of, is



Rubble pile up on the busy road in front of Kamaphuli Garden City at Kakrail in the capital, causing suffering to road users. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA.COM

easily blown by the wind spreading litter to neighbouring areas.

"What we clearly need is a strong, consistent message delivered all the year round that littering and illegal dumping will not be tolerated and that anti-littering laws will be formulated and then enforced. Without such messages, it is not possible to rid the city of littering problem," he said.

Habib said people and businesses litter because they

feel no sense of personal ownership for the area they are spoiling. For example, most people would never think of throwing a gum wrapper on their living room floor or throwing a bag of garbage over the fence into their own yard. But these same people may not think twice about dropping it in a park, parking lot, sidewalk, open space, or roadway.

"Preventing litter is an education effort and it isn't easy. Littering is a habit that is

really difficult to educate people about," he mentioned.

Citing findings of various research works, Habib said, males aged between 16 and 30 do most of the littering along roadsides.

According to him, delivering anti-littering TV commercials, litter receptacles, laws prohibiting placement of garbage in these receptacles and specifying proper use of receptacles, free distribution of litter bags, and regulations requiring load cover and spill

prevention measures are all helpful ideas to reduce roadside littering.

The types of littering Dhaka and other cities face include dropping of paper, domestic refuse, vegetable matter, cigarette butts, garbage, clothes and hard waste, throwing litter from vehicles, leaving litter uncontained on private property, abandoning unregistered or derelict vehicles on roads or other public land, and littering on building sites and allowing litter to fall

or blow from vehicles.

Dr Zaher said education is a long-term answer. "We need to educate our schoolchildren that littering is a very bad practice and teach them the proper way to dispose of waste."

He said thousands of children could be reached each year by providing promotional materials to teachers and organisations, participating in teachers' workshops, conferences and other activities and making presentations in schools.



Law Minister Shafique Ahmed inaugurates a programme marking the 140th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the International Day of Non-Violence by lighting a lamp at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. Gandhi Ashram Trust organised the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

'Gandhi's ideology can help ensure democracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the ideology of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi can be followed to ensure democracy in any country.

"The great ideology of Gandhi cannot be restricted to any place, time and country. It can be followed by the whole world. The example he has set can be followed by any society or country," said Shafique.

He was speaking as chief guest at a discussion programme organised by Gandhi Ashram Trust to mark the 140th birth anniversary of Gandhi at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

"Gandhi gave a specific direction in establishing the rule of law in his theory. Social deprivation cannot be accepted by any rule of any country. If we want to create a democratic country ensuring coexistence of all, we have to establish rule of law and human rights in the society,"

Shafique said.

"We have moved away from the key policy of our liberation war. As a result militancy has plagued the country and it cannot be accepted by any democratic country. Secularism is a must to ensure welfare of people," he added.

"Religious extremism is the main enemy of secularism. Inequality and deprivation hamper peace. Gandhi manifested the ideology and policy he talked about through practice in his own life," said National Professor Kabir Chowdhury.

"Considering all we cannot say that the dreams of Gandhi have come true. We should adopt the spirit of Gandhi in our life," said Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui.

"We would make mistake if we compare Gandhi with any political leader. Gandhi was a complete man. There is a significant difference between a political leader and a complete man," said columnist Syed Abul Maksud.

Indian High Commi-

ssioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, Prof Anisuzzaman, eminent economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, trust President Justice Goura Gopal Saha and human rights activist Sultana Kamal also spoke at the programme moderated by theatre personality Ramendu Majumder.

Earlier the discussion was inaugurated by lighting candle at the venue as a symbol to fade away darkness from the society with the spirit of Gandhi.

BSS adds: Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Ainjibi Parishad and Jatiya Gonotantrik League jointly organised a discussion at Mukti Bhaban where Jute and Textile Minister Abdul Latif Siddique and Chairman of BSS Management Board Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun were present.

Liberation War Museum also held a discussion on its premises marking the birth anniversary of Gandhi.

2 outlaws held in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two extremists out of four operatives of Lal Pataka (red flag) faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), who threatened to kill the superintendent of police (SP) of Bagerhat and officer-in-charge (OC) of Fakirhat Police Station, were arrested by police on Thursday.

The arrestees were identified as Tapan Das, son of Shib Prasad Das, and Banani Das, daughter of Manoranjan Das. They both hailed from Noapara village under Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat.

OC of Fakirhat Police Station Salahuddin Mizan said Tapan was arrested from Khulna city while Banani from her village home.

The police hunt for two others -- Khashrul Islam of Gopalganj Sadar upazila and Riadul Islam of Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat -- is going on, he added.

The PBCP operatives threatened to kill Bagerhat Police Super Mizanur Rahman and the OC through cell phones on September 26.

New CCC office for five would-be wards opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury inaugurated a newly built Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) office at Charpathar Ghata for the overall development of the five would-be wards (now unions) yesterday.

With the inauguration of the office, the CCC mayor moved one step ahead in the process of bringing the unions of Paschim Patiya under the city corporation.

The process of bringing the unions under Chittagong-12 constituency sparked conflict between the mayor, also the president of Awami League (AL) city unit, and local AL lawmaker Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, also the president of AL Chittagong south district unit.

Mohiuddin said the five unions were brought under the city corporation as per a gazette notification published back in 1997.

The gazette could not be implemented earlier due to legal complexities and an initiative was taken afresh for its implementation after the

AL government came to power, he said at the programme chaired by CCC Secretary Shams-Ud-Doha.

The mayor said the office was inaugurated to bring about necessary infrastructural development in the area before they could be formally included in CCC as wards.

Living at Razzak's home, Nilufar was in dispute with the in-laws over properties gained from her expatriate husband.

Manusher Jonno and Fareea Lara Foundation members visited the victim at hospital yesterday morning and assured her of medical and legal aid.

They are going to lodge a case, said Babul Akhter, officer-in-charge of Barguna Sadar Police Station.

Police quoting Abdul Huq Mridha, father of the victim, said Razzak had married Nilufar in 1998 divorcing his first wife.

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