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Man gouges out wife's eye over smelly meal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Anwara Begum is now the living evidence of her husband's cruelty.

It was just the smell of kerosene from evening meal that made the man gouge out one of her eyes Saturday night at remote Char Baaret of Bauphal upazila in Patuakhali.

The victim's family and hospital sources said the housewife had served Abdul Aziz his supper like every other night.

The man smelt kerosene in rice and savagely started beating her with an iron rod.

He went on torturing Anwara until she became unconscious.

Then came the most horrifying part of the story. Aziz pulled out the left eye of his wife using a slip of bamboo.

Anwara was left bleeding over the night. Aziz forbade all neighbours not to take his wife to any hospital.

The next day around 8:00am, Afroza, an NGO

No respite from outage soon

Frequent power cuts make life, business all too difficult

HELEMUL ALAM

Business and public life are weighed heavily down by the electricity crisis as the country has been experiencing power cuts for up to ten hours a day for the last two months.

Scores of industries, both big and small, are incurring huge losses as their production is greatly hampered due to power shortage.

Abdus Salam Murshedy, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the garment sector is reeling from both power and gas crises.

The garment factory owners face difficulties in meeting the deadline for shipments. The cost of business is going up sharply as they have to transport goods by planes instead of ships to meet the deadline, he said.

The shipment cost of goods is 13 to 20 cents a kg on an average by sea while it is up to \$4.50 by air, he said.

In December 2009, 5,858 tonnes of garment were supplied by air. It was 8,198 tonnes in January, and 8,622 tonnes in February this year, he said.

The BGMEA president said they did not confront such a situation even during the global financial meltdown.

"We have already started losing buyers," he said. Around 20,000 small factories producing plastic goods and other items in Islambagh, Kamalbagh, Debidasghat, Posta, Chadnighat incur huge losses every day due to frequent power cuts.

Nazrul Islam, owner of a factory of plastic goods in Islambagh, said they face power outage 12 times a day for the last 10 days. It used to occur 15 times before that.

"The machine requires a two-hour heating to be operational. But electricity goes out every one hour," he said.

The factory's production dropped to a mere 20 percent because of power crisis. If the situation continues, the factory has to be shut down soon, Nazrul said.

The situation is almost the same in other parts of the country.

"We experience power cuts eight to nine times a day," said Azad, a resident on Sagorika

Defamation case against CEC dismissed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday dismissed the defamation case hours after it was filed against Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda for hurting the sentiment of Muslims.

Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Emdadul Haque dismissed the case saying that the complainant did not take proper approval from the home ministry before filing the case.

Earlier, Mohammad Hossain Akand, an activist of Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

The plaintiff, in his case statement alleged that Huda in an interview with BBC on April 16 said, "Army men are no angels and if Allah himself comes down, He cannot do anything about the Bhola by-election."

The daily Amar Desh published the report on the following day.

Tk 2.35cr gold looted from city jewellery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 785 tolas of gold worth over Tk 2.35 crore was burgled at a jewellery shop of Muktijuddha Super Market in the city's Mirpur-1 on Saturday night.

All the jewellery shop owners of the area kept their shops closed yesterday protesting the burglary. The shop owners' association leaders threatened an agitation programme from Wednesday if the burglars are not arrested and the gold recovered within the time.

Police said the burglars entered Dewan Jewellery on the ground floor of the market, apparently breaking open the locks of adjacent Jyoti Cosmetics and Imitation Jewellers, as they found a hole cut through the wall between the two shops.

Mohammad Shah Alam Siddique Babu, manager of Dewan Jewellery, said, "When police opened the shop around 10:30 am, we found all our displays and three of six vaults empty. Initially we found the gold ornaments and Tk 3.5 lakh from cash boxes missing from the shop."

Jahid, an employee, said he along with his three colleagues opened the shutters of their shop around 9:30 am and found some cases on the floor.

He added that on information, shop owner Tazul Islam Dewan along with police rushed in around 10:30 am. The shop was locked at 8:00 pm on Saturday.

Owner of the cosmetics shop Mir Kaiser Muktadir who reached his shop around 10:00am said, "I found that two of the four locks of my shop were changed. I also found a hole in the

Saarc foreign secys meet in Thimpu

Agree to implement Safta to cut trade gaps

BSS, Thimpu

The standing committee of the eight-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) yesterday agreed to implement the free trade agreement subject to the final endorsement by the heads of government of the member countries during their 16th summit later this week.

Officials said the Saarc standing committee comprising the foreign secretaries of the eight countries on the first day of their two-day meeting at the Bhutanese capital reached a consensus that the instrument should be implemented without delay.

The 16th summit of the regional grouping of Saarc is expected to endorse the much talked about South Asian Free Trade Agreement (Safta) as the standing committee of the forum agreed to implement the treaty.

"The meeting decided to

Probe reports on 'identified' war criminals likely by May

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators are likely to provide prosecutors with reports on allegations against some identified war criminals by next month to start the long-awaited trial.

They have already collected relevant information on some perpetrators of crimes against humanity committed

Burial barred as she was Ahmadiyya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The devotees of a mosque yesterday obstructed the burial of an elderly woman of Ahmadiyya community at a graveyard in the city's Tejgaon Industrial area.

The body of Akimunnesa, 62, a resident of East Nakhhalpara, was finally buried in a graveyard near Mohakhali bus terminal amid resistance



Dhaka University freshmen sleeping in the veranda of SM Hall on the campus early morning yesterday, due to a shortage of accommodation in the dorm.

MPS' DUTY-FREE CARS Number plates to contain details

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has made it mandatory for all lawmakers to mention their detailed identities on the number plates of their duty-free imported cars.

A gazette notification yesterday said the number plate must carry the description of lawmaker's status including the district he belongs to, and the number of the electoral constituency.

The lawmakers must also comply with several other conditions.

Under the provision the lawmakers are not allowed to import any luxury vehicles like Lexus, Mercedes Benz, Hummer, BMW,

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5 criminals killed by mob, rivals

UNB, Comilla

Three dacoits were killed in a mob attack in Comilla Saturday night while two muggers stabbed to death by their rivals in Gazipur yesterday.

Comilla police said villagers of Baraia Krishnapur in Chandina upazila encircled a gang of robbers, numbering 7-8, while they were taking preparation to commit a robbery at 11:00pm.

Later, they caught the three dacoits and beat them to death.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent those to hospital morgue for autopsy. Identities of the robbers could not known.

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Japan to provide 5 mobile plants for desalination

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan government will provide five water purification mobile desalination plants to Bangladesh to improve the capacities of coping with natural disasters caused by climate change.

The high-performing plants, worth \$16.3 million (approximately Tk 113 crore), are designed to convert water from river, lake, pond and sea into drinking water. Japan will provide this amount as grant aid.

These plants can supply drinking water from both seawater and fresh water. The treated water is safely purified and can be

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Reckless driving claims 4 in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four people, including a garment worker and a bus helper, were killed in separate road mishaps in the city's Pallabi, Paltan, Mirpur and Khilkhet areas.

In Paltan, 20-year-old bus helper Mohammad Joy of Malancha Paribahan on Mohammadpur-Motijheel route was killed when another speeding bus hit him around 11:00am at Gulistan.

Witnesses said Joy was hit by another bus as he was hanging on his running bus.

Paltan police said Joy died on the spot and the killer bus was seized.

In Pallabi, garment worker Jamal Uddin, 18, of Azmat Group,

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the Bhola-3 by-poll was held in a credible manner?

Yes (63.2%)
 No (36.0%)
 No Comments (0.8%)

Total votes: 2598

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with ex-chief justice Mahmudul Amin Choudhury that country's judiciary has turned in to a "glass house" and about to crumble at any moment?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

April 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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