

Jalalabad gas company CBA chief murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Criminals killed president of ruling Awami League backed CBA of Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd Md Abu Taher when he going with a colleague was along to his office in the city yesterday morning.

Taher, 55, senior technician of the company, a concern of state-run Petrobangla, along with Fazlul Bari Didar, joint assistant secretary of the CBA, came out from their official quarters at the city's Rainagar area and started for office on Taher's motorbike at about 11:00am, police and locals said.

As they reached near the Roads and Highways Department office after a few minutes, two young men on a motorbike waylaid them and suddenly hit Taher, making him fall on the ground.

Then one of the attackers slit Taher's throat. They also beat up Taher's companion Fazlul Bari, accounts assistant of the same company, before leaving the scene.

Pedestrians sent Taher to the Osmani Medical College Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead.

Hailing from Purba

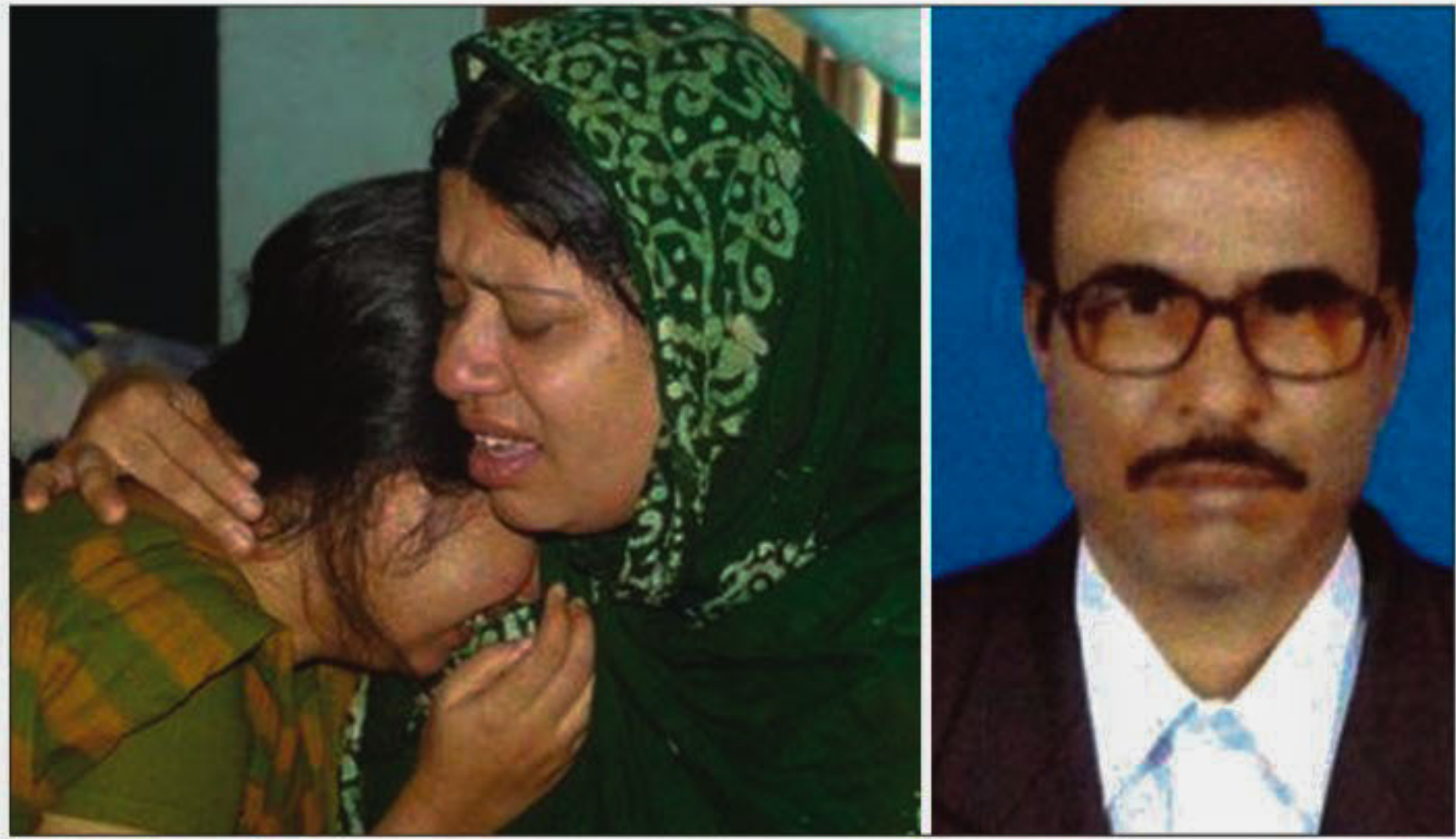


PHOTO: STAR

Wife and daughter wail the death of slain CBA leader Md Abu Taher.

Jafrabad of Sitakunda in Chittagong, Taher worked at the company's regional (south) office at Kodomtali in Sylhet city. He took over as president of the CBA about four months ago.

Hearing the tragic news, Sylhet city Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran and several leaders of local Awami League and Jalalabad Gas company CBA rushed to the hospital.

"Fazlul Bari could give some important information

as he went to Taher's flat yesterday morning and accompanied him on the bike. We could not quiz Bari much as he is staying in a hospital," said an official.

It is a pre-planned murder but the cause could not be ascertained, said acting officer-in-charge of Sylhet Kotwali police station Narayan Dutta.

Sources claimed there had been serious internal feuds in the ruling party backed CBA of the state-run

company and it might have a link to the murder.

"A week ago, a few colleagues met Taher at his quarters and threatened him," Taher's wife told this correspondent.

But she could not identify the people.

The body was to be sent to his village house in Chittagong after janaja at Hajrat Shahjalal (RA)'s shrine mosque in the evening, said an official of the company.

Insane mother kills her 3 children, attempts suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A deranged mother strangled her three children to death and attempted suicide at Khudrakati village of the district yesterday.

The dead were identified as Mariya, 13, Mainul, 8, and Maryam, 4, children of Hafez Abdul Malek and Renu Begum of the village under Rahamatpur union of Babuganj upazila.

Hafez, 38, the imam of Saat Mile Mosque of the upazila, said he was at the mosque Wednesday night and upon returning home yesterday morning found the doors open with no one inside the house.

After a search locals found the bodies in a ditch near the house and informed police.

Meanwhile, they were informed that a female jumped off the nearby Birshrestho Mohiuddin Jahangir Bridge on Barisal

Dhaka highway the night before. She was rescued by local fishermen who took her to the house of Abdul Berek at Rakudia village under the same upazila.

Later, she was identified as Renu Begum, 31, mother of the children.

The police arrested Renu who admitted to the murders. She also said she herself threw the bodies into the ditch.

Renu's husband and locals said she was taking treatment for mental disability for a long time.

The police sent the bodies to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The bodies were taken to the village home after the post mortems were done.

A case was filed with Airport Police Station in this connection.

High officials of Barisal Metropolitan Police and the district police administration visited the spot.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Election officials receive a special training at National Primary School centre in Chittagong city yesterday as the Election Commission has taken initiative for e-voting, first of its kind in the country, at 14 polling centres in Ward No 21 in the Chittagong City Corporation elections scheduled for June 17.

Buddha statue stolen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A statue of Goutam Buddha was stolen from Buddha Bihar at Biakhara village under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila early yesterday. Police and locals said criminals took away the statue weighing about 250Kg by breaking grill of a window of the Buddha Bihar. Laxmi Narayan Urao, president of Thakurgaon Buddha Bihar Samity, lodged a complaint with Sadar Police Station yesterday noon. Officer-in Charge Feroz Khan said police is conducting drive at different places at the village and its adjacent areas to recover the statue.

Two injured in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'naubaganj

Two cattle traders were injured as Indian Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire on them at Masudpur frontier under Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj district Wednesday night. The injured are Sohel, 28, and Tofazzal, 40 of Tarapur village under Injorakasha union of the Shibganj upazila. BDR and local sources said the Indian border guards opened fire on the cattle traders when they reached near pillar no 4 at around 11:00pm, leaving Sohel and Tofazzal injured. They are now undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). BDR sent a protest note to its Indian counterpart yesterday morning, said major Nazrul Islam, operation officer of 39 Rifles Battalion.

5 arms, extortion cases dropped as 'political' ones in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Five arms and extortion cases were dropped in the name of political cases in hill district Khagrachhari.

As a result many criminals became free and started wrongdoing using political banners, sources alleged.

At least 41 cases were marked as political cases and finally dropped since the present government started the process of dropping 'cases filed on political considerations', said sources at district administration and police.

But a recent investigation by The Daily Star correspondent found that at least five of the dropped cases had been filed for crimes like extortion and keeping arms and the accused were not involved with any political party.

Sub Inspector Mohammad Iqbal filed case No 239/07 accusing Bolash Tripura for keeping illegal arms under Arms Act. Bolash Tripura is not leader of any political party. The same official also filed another case No 240/07 against Shaktipodo

Tripura under of Special Powers Act, for importing foreign currency and illegally keeping it to himself. Shaktipodo was not leader of any national level political party.

Aysha Aktar, wife of Ruhul Amin, filed a case for extortion and attempted murder accusing Teko Chakma and his 10 associates. But the case was dropped as a political one although he is not a member of any political party.

Businessman Abdus Salam filed an extortion case against Brajo Kishore Tripura on May 27 in 2004.

The accused was not member of any political party but the case was dropped as a political one.

Asked about dropping of the cases, Public Prosecutor Bidhan Kanungo said 41 cases were dropped as those were political.

Contacted over cell phone, Deputy Commissioner Anisul Haque Bhuiyan said, "I am not aware of the matter of dropped cases. I will take proper initiative and stern action if arms and extortion cases are dropped in the name of political cases."

SURJO DIGHOL BARI EXPLOSIVES CASE Arrest warrant against ex-Sylhet DC, 5 others for skipping court as PWs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday issued warrant against a former deputy commissioner and five others as they failed to appear before the court even on repeated notices to give evidence in the explosives case filed after the arrest of outlawed JMB chief Shaikh Abdul Rahman four years ago.

They are the then DC SM Faisal Alam, the then ASP Mosih Uddin of CID, Abdul Latif, assistant vice president of Islami Bank, and officer of the bank Mahbubur Rahman, Md Alam Miah of Shaplabag, Iqbal Mansur of Shahjalal Uposhahar, all prosecution witnesses.

Additional District and Sessions Judge-VI, Sylhet, Manzurul Haque Khan passed the order as the recording of deposition is being delayed due to their absence even on repeated notices, court sources said.

The judge also fixed the next date on July 22.

The judge so far recorded the deposition of the 23 PWs out of the total 50.

Accused in the case, Shaikh Rahman's close aide Moyezul Islam Chowdhury alias Sona alias Hridoy, his wife Chameli Begum alias Sabina Yasmin, Shaikh's bodyguard Abdul

Aziz alias Hanif and Sabbir Ahmed alias Dulal were produced before the court yesterday.

Shaikh Rahman's wife Nurjahan Begum Rupa and daughter Afifa Rahman, who had been on bail, also appeared before the court.

But the JMB's present chief Moulana Saïdur Rahman, who was arrested recently from the capital, was not brought to the court although he is one of the seven accused in the case.

The case was filed after the arrest of Shaikh Abdul Rahman (later hanged in the case for murder of two judges in Jhalakathi) and his men along with family members from a house in Sylhet on March 2 of 2006.

Additional District and Sessions Judge in Sylhet Ferdous Ahmed, also the judge of arms and explosives court, framed charges against seven accused on January 3 of 2008.

Huge explosives were recovered and seized from 'Surjadighol Bari' at the city's Shaplabag area after the surrender of Shaikh Abdul Rahman, his family members and a few aides on March 2 of 2006.

Immediately a case was recorded under explosives act against them with Sylhet Kotwali police station.

BOAT TRAGEDY Death toll rises to 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

With recovery of one more body yesterday, the death toll from Tuesday's boat capsizing the Shoilchakra haor in Dharmapasha upazila of Sunamganj district rose to 16.

The body found yesterday is of Zaria Begum, 15, daughter of Abdul Quddus of Balijuri village. She was a student of Badshaganj Girls' High School.

Separate mourning processions were brought out yesterday by the students of Badshaganj Boys and Badshaganj Girls High schools. They also arranged condolence meetings, milad and doa mahfils.

The small engine boat with over 50 passengers aboard sank in the haor at around 9:30am due to overloading and strong current in the haor.

All the passengers were from Balijuri heading towards Shelborosh of the upazila, said Upazila Chairman Awal Talukder.

About 30 students of Badshaganj Girls' High School and Badshaganj Pilot High School were on the boat on their way to school, said Shamsuddin Ahmed, principal of Badshaganj Degree College. The boys managed to swim ashore, he said.

Clashes over land dispute, cattle market leave 55 hurt

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Clashes over capture of a disputed land and a cattle market in Netrakona and Lalmonirhat districts yesterday and on Wednesday night left at least 55 people injured.

Our Netrakona correspondent reported that at least 40 people were injured as two groups of villagers clashed over capture of a disputed land at Bazidpur village under Madan upazila yesterday morning.

Police and locals said two groups—one led by Bachchu Mia and the other by Majibur Rahman-- have been claiming the ownership of the land for long.

The trouble began at around 9:00am when Majibur group equipped with lethal weapons attacked Bachchu

and his men who went to the disputed land to cultivate crops. Bachchu and his men made a counter attack.

At least 40 people from both sides were injured during the clash that continued for an hour. On information, police rushed to the spot, dispersed the clashing groups and brought the situation under control.

Serious injured Soharab Ali, Ujjal Mia, Mujibur Haque, Jamila Khatun, Kasim Uddin, Abdul Khalaque, Hazrat Ali, Abdur Kadir were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while the rest to the upazila health complex.

Two separate cases were filed with Madan Police Station, but no one was arrested as of filing of this report at 5:00pm.

In Lalmonirhat, Jubo

League and Jubo Dal activists clashed over taking control of a cattle market near Burimari land port on Wednesday night, leaving at least 15 people from both sides injured, according to a correspondent.

Police and locals said Jubo Dal leader Faruque Ahmed has been controlling the cattle market for the last three years. Local Jubo League leader Tuhin and his men went to capture the market at around 11:00pm, attacked Faruque and damaged his motorbike.

Hearing the news, Jubo Dal activists rushed to the spot and swooped on Tuhin and his supporters. The clashing groups used sharp weapons and chased each other during the clash that continued for half an hour. They also ransacked a house and two shops belonging to BNP men.

13 rescued while being trafficked to India

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) rescued 13 people while they were being trafficked to India through Shirkarpur border, Benapole, yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a patrol team of Shirkarpur border outpost launched an operation in Muchibari area and rescued 13 people, including

two women, four men and seven children.

Sensing the presence of BDR personnel, the traffickers fled the scene.

Those rescued from traffickers are Kanchan Mala, 35, Archana Biswas, 16, Sadhana Sarker, 8, Kakoli Sarker, 7, Basona Sarker, 6, Lopa Biswas, 5, Monisha Biswas, 6, Rothin Biswas, 9, Sohag Biswas, 7, Orshik Sarker, 45, Nipu Sarker,

27, Devashish Sarker, 17, and Sanjay Biswas, 30, They all hail from Jodevpur Village under Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj district.

Of the rescued, Nipu Sarker said traffickers took money from them, promising good jobs in India.

A case was lodged with Sharsha Police Station in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Rajshahi University bring out a procession on the campus yesterday demanding cancellation of the authorities' decision to start evening course under social science faculty of the university.

Advertisement for Alliance Française de Dhaka, featuring text about French learning, session dates (July 5, 2010 and June 2, 2010), and contact information for Dhanmondi, Uttara, and Baridhara locations.