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'Criminal' killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was killed in a "shoot-out" between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion members at the city's Pashchim Bhashantek early yesterday.

The deceased identified as Shahid alias Nera Shahid, 28, a resident of Bhashantek, was an accused in several cases including one for double murder filed with Kafrul Police Station, said Nurul Amin, senior assistant director of Rab-4.

He was a close associate of Ibrahim, a top criminal in the area, said Nurul.

Locals recently formed a committee to resist Shahid's criminal activities in the area and the committee yesterday informed Rab that

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ETP exists, but inactive

Savar dyeing factory slapped with hefty fine for pollution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The extent of air, water and land pollution in Kumkumadi village of Dhaka under Ashulia Police Station is too much to be lost sight of. Relentless dumping of untreated industrial waste has not only destroyed canals and paddy fields but also continued to expose villagers to serious health hazards.

Simtex Industries Ltd, a dyeing factory and one of the major polluters in the area, was taken by surprise when a team of Department of Environment went there to examine whether its Effluent Treatment Plant was functioning properly.

Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, the team leader, asked one of the company managers to show the ETP. The DoE team-- comprised of Rab personnel, a senior chemist and analysts from the laboratory testing unit-- were led to a concrete reservoir half-filled with waste.

Maj (retd) Abdul Hai, a company official, said, "We have not put the ETP on because yesterday was Friday and waste is yet to accumulate today."

DoE senior chemist Mostafizur Rahman then pointed out that as per rules ETP must operate round the clock. "There is no scope for you to keep this

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Toxic liquid released from the Mozart Knit Ltd at Savar. Inset, A Department of Environment team examines the Simtex Industries Limited's Effluent Treatment Plant which was found shut yesterday. The team along with Rab members at Mozart Knit inspect a drain through which huge toxic waste is discharged into nature.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Delhi nods to 3 lakh tonnes rice sale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India has agreed to sell Bangladesh three lakh tonnes of rice, and the two countries have finalised the price and quality of the staple and the mode of shipment.

The Indian commerce ministry has already instructed the authorities concerned to this end, said Bangladesh's food and disaster management ministry in a statement yesterday.

Indian Commerce and Industries Minister Anand Sharma informed Food Minister Abdur Razzaque about the developments when the two met in New Delhi.

The quality of the rice

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Killers out on bail

Panic-stricken daughters of slain Gulshan couple go into hiding

M RAHMAN

Two daughters of the couple slain at Gulshan in the capital are apprehending attacks from the alleged killers out on bail.

"We stay at our residence but as the sun sets, insecurity grips us and we take refuge somewhere else for the night," said Bithi, the lone witness to the brutal killing of their parents.

Two gunmen--Rubel and Mithun-- allegedly shot dead Sadequr Rahman, general secretary of Bangladesh Nursery Owners' Association, and his wife Romana Nargis, on March 24 last year at their Gulshan residence as they resisted Rubel from picking up their daughter Iti.

Both got bail from the High Court on January 23 in the double murder case by submitting a forged first information

report to it, court sources said.

The HC cancelled the bail on February 9 and also directed defence lawyers Munirul Islam and Monir Hossain to explain within a week their conduct over securing the bail.

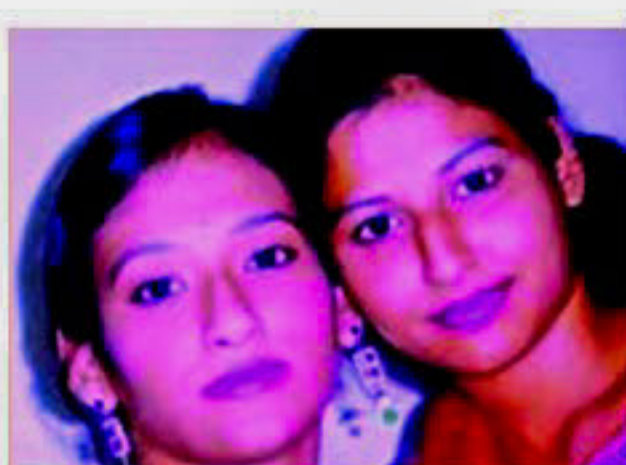
Police could not yet arrest the two accused released on bail.

Sub-Inspector Mostafizur Rahman of Gulshan Police Station said several teams were trying to track them down.

Bithi said on Thursday that a day after their release on bail, Rubel and Mithun stopped a rickshaw in which she and her sister-in-law Momtaj Begum were passing through Bhatar intersection in Badda around 5:30pm on January 28.

"If you give deposition before the court, we will be hanged. So, it will make no

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Bithi and Iti

Create proper atmosphere at Sangsad Urges Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia yesterday stressed creating proper atmosphere in parliament paving the way for playing role by all.

She expressed the views when the visiting US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the South and Central Asian Affairs Geoffrey Pyatt called on her at her Gulshan office at 7:40pm.

The meeting that lasted about an hour discussed bilateral relations between Dhaka and Washington, political situation and various development affairs between the two

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Check price spiral

AL leaders urge PM, demand steps against stock scammers

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

A number of ruling Awami League leaders yesterday asked the government to take immediate steps to bring down the prices of essentials, especially rice.

At a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee, they also demanded that the government identify and punish the persons responsible for the recent stockmarket debacle.

Held at Gono Bhaban, the meeting began at 4:30pm with Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

At the meeting, which lasted nearly five hours, the organising secretaries placed evaluation reports on last month's municipality polls.

They observed the party did not gain the expected results due to rebel candidates in most of the municipalities.

The ALCWC, however, did not endorse any disciplinary actions against the rebels.

Several leaders said the government has poorly handled crucial issues like the proposed airport in Arial Beel and the stockmarket scam. The opposition has been taking advantage of this to mislead the countrymen.

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Essentials' market being manipulated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of business people is creating an artificial crisis in the essentials' market by increasing the prices, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

"We are collecting information on such businessmen, and will take stern actions," she added.

She was addressing the Awami League Central Working Committee meeting at Gono Bhaban.

Hasina, also president of AL, said prices of food grains are increasing in the international market, which has an adverse

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WILDLIFE: UNSAFE, STILL



Jungle cats are rated endangered by IUCN Bangladesh and yet four of them -- a mother and her three cubs -- were beaten to death by villagers in Hail Haor area last weekend. Their crime -- they would sometimes prey on domestic poultry. The cabinet just approved the Wildlife Act last week. But it would do little to save the animals until a comprehensive plan is taken to reduce wildlife-human conflict. As long as the cats would feed on poultry, villagers would consider these beautiful animals as pests.

PHOTO COURTESY: WILDLIFE TRUST OF BANGLADESH

Bus crushes schoolboy

Protest erupts in Savar; mob blocks highway for 3 hours, set fire 5 buses, ransacks 50 vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rash driven bus crushed a school going boy under its wheels near Radio Colony at Savar when the child was returning home with his mother yesterday.

In protest, around 1,500 angry students of Radio Colony Model School, its teachers and several thousand locals of Savar gathered at the spot of the Dhaka-Aricha Highway, set fire to five buses, ransacked over 50 other vehicles and staged demonstrations.

They also put barricades on Dhaka-Aricha Highway forcing several hundred vehicles to remain stranded from Jahangirnagar University to Savar Bus Stand for three hours.

The agitating people also clashed with Rapid Action Battalion and police when the law enforcers rushed to the spot and tried to disperse the demonstrators.

Savar upazila TNO Rabbi Miah said, the law-enforcers fired around 200 rounds of rubber bullet and teargas canisters during the clash.

They also charged batons to disperse the agitators who also pelted with brickbats turning the area into a battlefield.

Witnesses said a passenger bus of Polash Paribahan on

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the prime minister that a vested quarter is conspiring against her government?

Yes (38.6%)
No (60.2%)
No Comments (1.2%)

TOTAL VOTES : 753

TODAY'S POLL

Do you find coordination between the judiciary's directives on social problems and response of the executive?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING February 13

Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-57	6-01
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation