



This electric pole on Islambagh Beribadh road of Lalbagh area in the city was rammed down by a truck on Sunday evening, injuring two people and severing power connection to the area. Power was still to be restored till 4:00pm yesterday when this photo was taken.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

RUSSELL KILLING CASE Prime accused gives confessional statement

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Natore

Jotirmoy Sarkar Joy, the main accused in Mahbub Alam Russell killing case, gave confessional statement before the Judicial Magistrate's Court in Natore on Sunday.

In the statement, Joy said his friend Sabbir Hossain planned the murder of Russell a few months ago and discussed it with him, but he refused to kill Russell then.

Meantime, Russell pressed Sabbir and Joy to return the money (Tk 4.5 lakh) he lent the two. At one stage, Joy agreed to murder Russell and fixed April 4 for the killing.

According to the plan, Sabbir and Joy killed their friend Russell behind Charu Mama's canteen in Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) around 1:00am on April 5.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police recovered the decomposed body of Russell, 24, behind a bush near Charu Mama's canteen on April 22.

Joy was arrested Friday, but Sabbir has still been fugitive.

Saarc common standard to strengthen trade Say speakers

BSS, Dhaka

Introduction of "Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Common Standards" will strengthen further the regional economy by removing existing technical barriers to expand trade and commerce, speakers told a seminar here yesterday.

In addition, Bangladesh would benefit if an identical standard system is introduced for South Asian nations, they said.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and industries ministry jointly organised the seminar on "Experiences of developing South African and African quality and conformity assessment infrastructure: Lessons for Bangladesh", held at the ministry's conference room.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua attended the function as the chief guest. International expert and UNIDO Technical Advisor Dr Franz Hengstberger presented the keynote paper with the ministry Secretary KH Masud Siddiqui in the chair.

The ministry Additional Secretary ABM Khorshed Alam, UNIDO Chief Technical Advisor David Holbourne and BSTI Director General AK Fazlul Ahad took part.

Speakers said law-enforcing services related to implementation of legal metrology and conducting mobile courts should be given to an independent organisation.

Meanwhile, BSTI would conduct technical services like testing the standard of commodities, examination, preservation and development, helping to protect consumer

rights, they said.

Introduction of Saarc common standards in light with South African experiences will strengthen socio economic development through industrialisation, they observed.

The speakers also said African system may also be useful for Bangladesh to initiate the required changes to earn international recognition in testing, certification, inspection and conformity assessment to facilitate trade and industrialisation.

Industries minister said modern, transparent, efficient and dependable management is needed to ensure sustainable industrialisation in Bangladesh.

He said Bangladesh is lagging behind in modern standard management despite remarkable growth in its industrial sector due to prudent policy of the past government.

Dilip stressed on time-befitting reform of existing laws and regulations to get international recognition for Bangladesh products. In this respect, he urged all concerned to forget about small individual and institutional interest, giving priority to greater national interest.

He said the present government is working hard to make BSTI a modern standard institution to ensure supply of standard products both at local and international markets while ensuring rights of consumers.

Experts from home and abroad including the EU, NORAD, FAO, BSTI, Bangladesh Accreditation Board and leaders of different leading chambers also took part in the discussion.

Trial of graft case against Alamgir starts

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Trial of a graft case against Awami League (AL) lawmaker and former state minister for civil aviation and tourism Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and five others began with deposition of the complainant at a Dhaka court yesterday.

The other accused are Air Commodore (ret'd) M Manzur Alam, former chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab), Zakiruddin Ahmad, member (administration) of Caab, Group Capt M Iqbal Hussain, member (planning) of Caab, Mohammad Abdus Salam, and former AL lawmaker MA Sattar.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Special Court for Dhaka division recorded statement of the complainant Mohammad Zahirul Huda, assistant director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Later Dr Alamgir crossed the complainant on behalf of all the accused. The court then fixed May 15 for the next hearing.

Now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case on April 26, 2003.

Nadia killed for protesting husband's extramarital acts Suspect police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qamrun Nahar Nadia, a private university student, was tortured to death by her husband, as she protested her husband's extramarital relations and attempt to grab her father's properties, suspect Nadia's relatives and police.

Shahbagh police recovered Nadia's body from her husband Shafiqur Rahman's car parked in front of Roads and Highways Bhaban and arrested him Sunday evening.

Shafiq allegedly killed his wife on Sunday morning at his mother's Rayerbazar house in the city and tried to take the body to his village in Gouranadi of Barisal to hide it.

Meanwhile, Hazaribagh police placed Shafiq on a 2-day remand after Nadia's brother Sharif filed a case accusing Shafiq, his mother Nurjahan, and brother Jewel.

Rafiqul Islam, OC of Hazaribagh, said, Shafiq admitted he had beaten up his wife Nadia following a family feud. But Shafiq claimed Nadia died, as she took sedatives.

Dhaka Medical College morgue sources, however, said severe torture resulted into the death of Nadia.

"So far we learned that Nadia was Shafiq's third wife and he had extramarital affair with other women", said the OC.

Nadia's brother Sujon said, "As we lost our parents earlier, Shafiq killed my sister Nadia as



Shafiq



Nadia

part of his attempt to grab a piece of land in Barisal and also some ornaments of our late mother."

"As my sister was not agreed to hand over the land and ornament, Shafiq had been torturing her and finally killed her."

Nadia's cousin Dr Md Rafiqul Islam said Nadia and Shafiq got married following an affair in October 2010.

Syed Nurul Islam, ADC of Ramna division, said Shafiq tried to take the body away from Dhaka just to hide it.

Shahbagh OC Rezaul Karim said they seized two passports, stimulator tablets and a toy pistol from his car.

A Correspondent from Barishal adds: Police and locals said Shafiq was a leader of JCD.

He is an accused in his father's killing case and three other cases.

Newborn baby killed, dumped through window Mother, her boyfriend arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help killed her newborn baby and threw him out the bathroom window of her employer's residence in the city's Uttara yesterday.

Police yesterday arrested the help Nargis Aktar alias Buri, 27, and her boyfriend Nafis, 30, a security guard, both employed at a house on Road No-13 of Sector 12 in Uttara, and filed a murder case in this connection.

Sub-Inspector Aatur Rahman of Uttara Police Station said some locals informed police over phone of a newborn boy lying dead on an empty plot. On reaching the spot, police saw suspicious bloodstains outside a

bathroom window on the sixth floor of an adjacent six-storied building.

Police entered the house and found more bloodstains all over the bathroom and Nargis lying sick. On query, she confessed to giving birth in the early hours, killing the baby and dropping him through the window, he said.

Nargis, employed at the house for several years, also confessed to having a relationship with Nafis, he added.

Police filed a murder case in this connection while Nargis was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Their employee Abdul Halim and his family claimed that they did not know anything about past proceedings, he said.

ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST CASE Hearing deferred till June 23

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the hearing on charge framing till June 23 against BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, her elder son Tarique Rahman and four others in connection with Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

With this, the court had adjourned the hearing on charge framing for seven consecutive dates following time petitions on behalf of the accused.

Judge Mohammad Moazzam Hossain passed the order after defence lawyer for Khaleda and Tarique submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition advocate Sanaullah Mia told the court that his clients had earlier in 2009 filed writ petitions with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the case.

After the hearing, the HC issued a rule upon the government to explain why the proceedings of the case should not be declared illegal.

The matter of the rule is yet to be disposed of. So the lawyer prayed for an adjournment of the charge on hearing charge framing against the accused.

Khaleda could not appear before the court, as she was busy with organising party activities while lawyer of represented Tarique Rahman who has gone abroad for medical purposes.

Two other accused former BNP lawmaker Kazi Salimul Haq Kamal and Sharfuddin Ahmed were present at the court while principal secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddique and president late Ziaur Rahman's nephew Mominur Rahman have been absconding since filing the case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) pressed corruption charges against Khaleda, Tarique and four others on August 5 of 2009. The ACC on July 3, 2008 filed the case.

Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Natore

Cursed by cancer Shiraju Islam now stands undone after running out of money to continue his fight against the lethal disease.

His poor parents already ended in a debt of over Tk 150,000, and cannot afford the medical cost any longer.

Shiraju is a third year student of English department in Natore Nawab Sirajud-Doulla Government College. He got with cancer in October 2010. Recently, Shiraju underwent treatment at Mahakhali Cancer Hospital in Dhaka.

Doctors there say that for further treatment, he needs about Tk 4 lakh, an amount impossible for his family to afford.

With no way out, Shiraju has appealed to the generous and affluent people to extend a helping hand to save his life.

Any contributions can be sent to Shiraju Islam, savings account no. 5401202011027001, Brac Bank, Natore branch. He can also be contacted at 01196114097 or 01814101000.

Policy for balanced use of fertilisers stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some agriculturists yesterday stressed the need for policy interventions and creating awareness among farmers in Bangladesh to ensure balanced use of organic and inorganic fertilisers to maintain soil fertility.

They cautioned on the rapid depletion of organic matter in soil due to imbalanced use of chemical fertilisers and high cropping intensity.

They were speaking at a seminar styled "Soil fertility, raising awareness on the use of balanced fertiliser and role of media" at Dhaka Reporters' Unity organised by Centre for Media and Communication Studies (CMCS).

Over 50 stakeholders, including agriculturalists, present and former agro-research executives, seed and fertiliser producers of private sector, marketing representatives and newsmen specialising in agriculture attended the seminar.

Keynote of the seminar said against the standard level of 3 percent organic content required in healthy soils, most farmlands now contain only 1 to 1.5 percent.

Speakers drew government attention to subsidise organic fertilisers to bring a balance in application of inorganic and organic nutrients.

Addressing the seminar, Prof Dr Bahadur Miah of Bangladesh Agricultural University said farmers should be trained on maintaining a balance in the use of fertilisers. "Such balance can protect soil fertility and increase produce."

He also emphasised on conducting more research to fix cropping zones for optimum utilisation of farmland.

Dr Shahidul Islam, former director general of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute, said not only farmers but also stakeholders should be trained for proper management of this sector.

About media role, he said newsmen should disseminate agriculture related information in simple language so that farmers can easily understand it.

Former director general of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Dr Firoz Shah Sikder focused on narrowing the gap between experts, media and farmers for the sector's development.

The organisers said the seminar's recommendations would be forwarded to the concerned ministry.

BFA Chairman Salauddin Ahmed, CMCS Chairman Sohel Manzur, FIDA President Kawsar Rahman and General Secretary Khwaza Mainuddin also spoke.



Rapid Action Battalion-7 seizes around 2,500 sacks of rice meant for open market sale (OMS) and vulnerable group development programme from five warehouses at Pahartali rice market in Chittagong yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

Implement women policy Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded immediate implementation of the National Women Development Policy.

Under banner of Nari Samaj, hundreds of women and activists from a number of social, cultural organisations and NGOs joined the rally in the city.

Barendra Unnayon Forum Secretary Fayezullah Chowdhury presided over the programme while Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman

Liton, journalist Mostafizur Rahman, social activist Shaheen Akhtar Reni, Mahila Parishad Secretary Kalpana Roy, Khela Ghar Rajshahi unit convener Dr AFM Zahid were present.

They said some so-called Islamic political parties who are power mongers in the name of religion, are creating confusion among general people by wrong interpretation of the policy.

The fanatics do not want development of the country rather they want to destruct the country.

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