

REFUSAL TO MARRY Schoolboy to die for killing college girl

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy was sentenced to death yesterday for killing a college girl who declined his proposal of marriage.

Menoka, 22, a masters' student of Eden College, was stabbed to death by Tariquzzaman Kabir, an SSC student, on July 15 last year for her refusal to marry him.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 handed down the sentence in presence of the convict Tariquzzaman Kabir at a packed courtroom.

Victim's parents -- Mohammad Tufte Rabbani and Hasina Rabbani -- expressing satisfaction over the verdict urged the government to execute the penalty immediately. If the penalty is executed immediately, their daughter's soul will be at peace, they added.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments while the court recorded statements of 22 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, Kabir, a distant relative of the victim, proposed to Menoka which she refused as the youth was her distant maternal uncle. Besides, Kabir was an SSC student while Menoka a student of masters at Eden College.

Angered by refusal by Menoka, Kabir he went to the victim's Paikpara residence in the city's Mirpur area and knifed her to death at about 1:45pm on July 15 last year.

After committing the crime, Kabir asked the victim's mother to inform it to police. Later, Mirpur police arrested him from the spot.

Victim's father Lutfe Rabbani, an accounts officer of Sinha Textile Group, filed a murder case against Kabir the same day.

The investigation officer pressed charge against the accused on September 27 the same year.

UPDF activist shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

An activist of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) was shot dead in Jurachhari upazila of Rangamati yesterday morning allegedly by the members of a rival faction.

Bijoy Singh Chakma, 37, an inhabitant of Duttang village in Rangamati Sadar, came under attack at about 7:30am, said Ataur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Jurachhari Police Station.

Some UPDF men were hiding in a jungle as usual fearing attacks from their Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) rivals on Saturday night, he said.

"In the morning, Bijoy came out of the jungle and went to the residence of Danteda Chakma at Ghilatoli village. A few minutes later, a group of alleged PCJSS activists, who were hiding in a nearby jungle, stormed into the house and opened fire on him," he added.

Masud-ul-Hassan, superintendent of police of Rangamati, told this correspondent that the killing took place over establishing supremacy in the area.

Police will take the body to Rangamati Sadar Hospital for an autopsy today, the OC said.



PHOTO: STAR

Disregarding suffering of commuters, BNP holds a rally blocking the road in front of its Naya Paltan office in the city yesterday.

CG: Govt move to lead country towards uncertainty, says BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday said the government move to scrap caretaker government system in the name of amending constitution may lead the country towards uncertainty.

The party leaders also asked the government to refrain from doing it.

Addressing a rally in front of party's central office in Nayapaltan protesting repression on the opposition men, the BNP leaders said scrapping caretaker system was not among the electoral pledges of the government but they want to do it showing a court verdict.

The court, however, itself did not disclose the full text of the verdict to this day, they observed.

"No election will be held in the country under the Awami League (AL) government. Bangladesh will be thrown into deep uncertainty if the government continues its effort to scrap the caretaker system," said Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, member of BNP standing

committee.

"Chaos and anarchy will grip the country which pro-democracy people do not expect," he said.

Bangladesh has turned into a land of torture in the last two and a half years. It is now one of the seven countries which are being highly criticised for torture and repression, Mosharraf claimed.

Party's acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the government is trying to amend the constitution only to establish one-party rule in the country.

But people will resist this ill-effort by forging a movement, he observed.

"Accept the people's demand by keeping the caretaker government provision as it is in the constitution," he urged the government.

Party leaders Amanullah Aman, Rafiqul Islam Mia, Abdullah Al Norman, Fazlur Rahman also spoke at the rally organised by party's Dhaka city unit with its unit convener Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in the chair.

BGB website launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new website of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was launched yesterday.

BGB Director General Maj Gen Md Rafiqul Islam inaugurated the website in the auditorium of BGB headquarters at Pilkhana in the city.

The address of the website is: www.bgb.gov.bd, said a press release.

BGB DG directed the concerned officers to keep the website up-to-date and stressed the need for analysis of visitor's opinion.

Hotel boy dies in rooftop fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A worker of a restaurant at Malitola in the Bangshal area died after he fell from the rooftop of a two-story building yesterday.

The dead was identified as Shahadat Hossain, 21, an employee of New Piyashi Hotel and Restaurant. Staffs of the restaurant rushed seriously injured Shahadat to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where on-duty doctors declared him dead around 6:00am.

Ali Hossain, owner of the restaurant, said Shahadat had been working at the restaurant for the last one month. He used to sleep on the ground floor of the building with other employees.

Ali said it was not clear why Shahadat went to the roof of the under-construction building which had no railings.

Other employees said they went to the spot after hearing a bang of something and found Shahadat in critical condition.

Bangshal police said they are investigating the matter.

Involve youths in creative works Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youths should provide with chances to take part in creative works and sports to root out drug addiction from personal, family and societal life, said speakers at an open discussion yesterday.

Prothom Alo Trust arranged the discussion titled 'Need an Addiction Free Healthy Family' at the newspaper's office in the city marking the International Anti Drug Day.

Addressing the discussion, Law Minister Barrister Shafiq Ahmed said lodging cases against drug addicts and peddlers couldn't stop spread of illegal drugs. Youths should be kept busy doing creative works, he added.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said those who don't take part in social works and sports, are more vulnerable to drug addiction.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Director General Md Mokhslesur Rahman, joint editor of Prothom Alo Abdul Kaiyum, AP Bureau Chief Farid Hossain spoke at the programme.

Prothom Alo Trust awarded six journalists of print and electronic media for their reports on drugs.

Politics serving party's interest, not people's Says Badruddoza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpadhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said politics in the country is being practised for the interest of person and party, not for the people.

Even hartal is being enforced for personal interest, he said while presiding over a presidium meeting of the party at its Kuril office in the city.

Badruddoza said politics of vindictiveness is growing while politicians are making statements in non-political language.

Worried citizens must be informed about the country's situation and explained that political confrontation can not be avoided without election under a caretaker government, he said.

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Traders pile their metal pipes blocking a major portion of the road in front of the shops at Matherbari in Chittagong, obstructing free flow of traffic. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Tk 1,332.36cr for public universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grants Commission (UGC) yesterday approved a budget of Tk 1,332.36 crore for 2011-2012 fiscal year for itself and the country's public universities.

Of the total, Tk 1,315.26 crore would be spent for the 35 public universities while the rest for UGC, says a press release.

The budget was approved at its 124th meeting with the full commission at UGC Bhaban with its Chairman Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

The meeting also approved the revised budget of Tk 1,270.78 crore for the

universities and Tk 12.38 crore for UGC for 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Planning Commission Member Sabah Ullah; Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Pran Gopal Dutta; National University VC Dr Qazi Shahidullah; Additional Secretary Finance Ministry Imdadul Haque; and UGC members were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Azad said UGC would closely monitor all public and private universities but it would not be an alternative of proposed Accreditation Council.

He said UGC role would be strengthened to ensure quality education and

make higher education timely and up to the international standard.

The meeting observed that public universities can take initiatives to logically and legally increase tuition and other fees of students to ensure quality education.

Some speakers opined that although quality of education in some private universities is encouraging, the admission and other fees are not in harmony with the country's middle and lower-middle class families.

The meeting suggested that private universities can fix their fees considering the socio-economic perspective of the country.

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