

'Gunfight' with Rab: One killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspected criminal was shot dead in a 'gunfight' between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday near National Zoo in the city's Mirpur area.

The deceased Md Mintu, 30, is a resident of Ahmednagar, Paikpara in Mirpur.

Rab claimed a team from Rab-4, acting on a tip-off, raided Shah Ali Kumir Shah Mazar area around 11:30pm on Tuesday when a gang of criminals gathered there for committing crime.

They fired bullets at Rab when they were challenged and then Rab also fired in return, hitting Mintu, said Rab officials.

Later, the Rab team found bullet-injured Mintu while all his associates managed to flee the scene, said Walid Md Saifullah, deputy director of Rab's Legal and Media Wing.

Mintu was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries around 1:30am Wednesday, the Rab official said.

The Rab men recovered a pistol and three sharp weapons from his possession, said Saifullah.

Mintu, son of Bishu Miah, was accused in 10 cases including five for murders filed with Mirpur Police Station, said officer-in-charge of the police station, Kazi Wazed Ali.

The OC claimed that Mintu was a close associate of top listed criminal Shahadat of Mirpur.



Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, middle, with guests at a mobile application launching event at the newspaper's office in the city yesterday to provide readers access to Prothom Alo on Nokia cell phones. PHOTO: STAR

Now Prothom Alo on Nokia cell phones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on, readers will be able to read the contents of Bangla daily, Prothom Alo, on cell phones.

Only Nokia cell phone users will get access to the news contents. To do so, readers will have to download an application from prothom-alo.com/nokia or store.nokia.com/content/253728 address.

The new service was launched at the Prothom Alo office yesterday. Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman and General Manager of Emerging Asia of Nokia Abu Daud Khan, among others, were present.

Multimedia Content and Communications is providing the technical assistance to the service, says a press release.

ZIA ORPHANAGE CASE Hearing on Khaleda's appeal June 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed June 12 for hearing an appeal filed by the BNP chairperson against a High Court verdict which cleared the way for proceedings on the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case against her at a lower court.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain set the date after Khaleda's lawyers moved a leave to appeal petition to fix the hearing date.

The High Court on December 14 last year, in a verdict, rejected a petition submitted by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to stop the proceedings against her in the case.

Khaleda filed the leave to appeal petition on March 6 with the SC through her lawyers challenging the HC verdict.

Equal rights for women a far cry, say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While women's participation in the country's development process has increased, their effective role and equal rights for them remains a far cry, said noted speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the discussion on the role of women representatives in ensuring good governance at local level, on the eve of International Women's Day, in the city's Brac Centre Inn.

TIB Senior Manager Md Shariful Haq, presenting the findings of a research, said over 14,000 women representatives were present in the country's union parishads and pourasabhas (municipality).

But they cannot play an active role and deliver the desired service due to non-cooperation from their male counterparts, legal constraints, lack of congenial atmosphere and awareness, he said.

Dalia Khatun Rikta, a councillor of Bogra municipality, said women could not play an effective role due to non-cooperation from their male counterparts, financial inability and lack of minimum logistic support.

TIB Board of Trustees Chairman Sultana Kamal said women had been taking part in development activities since time immemorial but the problem lies with the patriarchal mindset of not ensuring equal partnership.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said though participation of women in governance system had increased remarkably, it did not occur in a meaningful manner.

Lawmakers Shagufta Yasmin Emily and Nilufar Chowdhury Moni, National Institute of Local Government Director Akramul Haq, Prof Zerina Rahman Khan of Dhaka University and Somnilito Garments Sramik Federation President Nazma Akter also spoke at the discussion, chaired by Sultana Kamal.

Road crashes take three lives in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three persons were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday.

The victims are Mohammad Jasim, 45, a security guard of a factory, and two other unidentified persons aged about 30 and 17.

A speeding truck hit Jasim, security guard of a rolling mill near Dhaka Match factory at Kadamtoli, while he was crossing the road in front of the factory at around 4:00am, leaving him injured critically.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where on-doctors declared him dead.

He lived at Nama Shyampur Boroitola in the city, said police.

Meanwhile, an unidentified pedestrian was killed when a truck hit him in Jurain area at around 4:00am.

The man, around 30 years old, died on the spot, said Shyampur police.

Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

An unidentified youth, aged about 17, sustained serious injuries when a microbus hit him near Bangladesh China Friendship Bridge-1 at Postogola at around 5:00pm.

He was taken to the DMCH, where on-duty doctors declared him dead, the DMCH sources said.

SAMIUL KILLING Father's tears disrupt deposition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A man demanded exemplary punishment before a Dhaka court yesterday to his six-year-old son Samiul Azim's alleged killers - his wife Ayesha Humaira and her alleged paramour Shamsuzzaman Arif.

KM Azam, father of the minor boy, yesterday appeared before the Special Judge Court-4 of Dhaka and started giving his deposition about the incident of killing his son.

But he could not complete his deposition as he broke down in tears and could not speak any more. A pin-drop silence prevailed at the courtroom. Lawyers and other litigants there also shed tears.

Judge Jesmine Anwar of the court then fixed April 9 for recording his rest statement.

Ayesha, 25, and Arif, 38, now in jail were produced before the court yesterday.

On February 1, the same court framed charges against the duo, but the two denied their involvement in the killing.

The body of Samiul Azim, son of KR Azam and Ayesha, was found in a sack near their Nabodai Housing residence in Adabar on June 24 last year.

His mother Ayesha and Arif were arrested after the boy's father filed a case with Adabar Police Station.

Obituary

METRO DESK



AK Fazlul Haque, sponsor of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, passed away at a city hospital on Monday at the age of 85.

He left behind his wife, a daughter, a son and a host of relatives to mourn his death, said a press release.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held in Karnaphuli Garden City and the second one at his village Bajitpur, Kishoreganj.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Bajitpur.

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BDR CARNAGE

Witness tells court that he guarded abandoned arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness in the BDR killings trial told a Dhaka court yesterday that he had, at risk of his life, guarded firearms abandoned by his colleagues at a guardroom at Pilkhana during the bloody mutiny on February 25, 2009.

The prosecution witness Havildar Abu Taher, who was acting as guard commander at entrance no. 3 of Pilkhana at the time, also said his associates had abandoned their firearms and left the room as soon as the mutiny broke out.

Taher was one of six witnesses who gave their deposition yesterday before the Metropolitan Session Judge's Court, set up at the capital's Alia Madrasa playground in Bakshibazar. The witnesses were later cross-examined by defence lawyers.

While cross-examining Taher defence lawyer Aminul Islam put up the inconsistency of witness's deposition with the statement given earlier under section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The witness Taher specifically named sepoy Reaj at the court yesterday, but had

made no mention of that name in his prior testimony to the magistrate under section 161, Aminul said. The defence lawyer pleaded with the court to present the original copy of the deposition.

However, the original copy could not be produced at the court at the time.

The court agreed with the defence lawyer's plea that the original copy of Taher's testimony should be present at the court during the recording of depositions.

The court sought explanation from the prosecution panel regarding the whereabouts of the original copy of the statement. In response, prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajol asserted that the original statement lay in the custody of the court and not with the prosecution.

The court was able to record only the initials of the accused after failing to decipher the exact name from the copy.

The court was adjourned till March 15.

Seventy-four people, including 57 army officers, were brutally killed in a carnage by disgruntled soldiers of BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh-BGB) at Pilkhana on February 25-26, 2009.

6 hospitals to get special neonatal care facilities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Facilities to provide special care to newborns will be set up at six hospitals of the country through a newly adopted project launched yesterday.

Apart from strengthening monitoring and supervision, the facilities will improve both the quality and safety of newborns' healthcare and survival and the capacity in clinical care for sick neonates.

The project will be implemented at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, Chittagong Medical College Hospital and four district level hospitals of Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Cox's Bazar and Bandarban.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, assisted by Unicef, will implement the over US \$ 1.15 million-project, "Quality Improvement Initiative for Newborn Health Care", says a press release. Japan is funding the project.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Shiro Sadoshima expressed hope that the partnership will further strengthen the ongoing efforts of the country's government.

Japan International Cooperation Association's representative Shigeki Furuta gave the commitment to work in partnership through sharing experiences and lessons of different projects.

Trader shot by miscreants dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A garments accessories trader yesterday succumbed to his injuries, six hours after he was shot by unidentified criminals at Shekherdek in Adabar of the city.

The deceased, Anwar Hossain, 32, a resident of Shekherdek, was shot in his chest, said police.


Shamim Ur Rashid, officer-in-charge (OC) of Adabar Police Station, said a gang of criminals shot Anwar near Shekherdek Balur Math around 10:45pm on Tuesday.

Locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died around 5:00am yesterday.


The motive behind the killing could not be ascertained, the OC said adding, none was arrested in this connection.

World Kidney Day
8 March, 2012


APOLLO HOSPITALS DHAKA



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