

ASSAULT ON MAN Cops save minister's brother from mob

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A minister's brother indiscriminately beat up the driver of a covered van for hitting his rickshaw at the city's Shaheb Bazar zero point yesterday.

The merciless beating led to public wrath, requiring police to shield Naimul Haque Babu, brother of State Minister for Power Brig Gen (retd) Mohammad Enamul Haque.

The victim, Tawheed Shikdar, driver of a pharmaceutical company, Biopharma Ltd, received bruises all over his body. He took medical aid at his office.

Babu started beating Tawheed up soon after the covered van hit the rickshaw. Babu, also owner of a petroleum pump in the city, did not stop despite Tawheed repeatedly begging pardon.

After a 20-minute beating, he dragged Tawheed to the courtyard of Chilies Kabab and Restaurant and unleashed another round of beating, closing the collapsible gate.

Resented by Babu's conduct, stick-wielding locals tried to break open the gate and wanted to teach Babu a lesson, a witness said. Later police rescued Babu from the restaurant and took both Babu and Tawheed to Boalia Police Station.

Khan M Shahriar, the officer-in-charge, said police freed the two following "reconciliation" and claimed they did not force Tawheed into the reconciliation.

"From whom will I seek justice?" said Tawheed, hailing from Barisal. "Police blamed me. How can I seek justice in this situation?" Contacted, Babu said, "I forgive him [the victim], and he too did not make any complaint".



Grameenphone in association with SSL Wireless launches a unique dialling number--22000 at a hotel in the capital yesterday to provide news service to its subscribers from twelve news media in Bangladesh. Taimur Rahman, director regulatory affairs and Azizul Abedin, DGM content and application, from Grameenphone along with Syed Mohammad Kamal, CEO and Anisul Islam, GM from SSL Wireless were present on the occasion.

PHOTO: GP

News service from single GP number

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on subscribers of Grameenphone will get news service of twelve mass media in the country by dialing only a single number--22000.

The new service was launched at a city hotel yesterday. Grameenphone will provide the service with assistance of content application developer, SS Wireless.

Subscribers will get news service through Interactive Voice Response (IVR) machine.

Subscribers will have the option of choosing one media house by selecting the respective number. 22000 is the unique short code for the twelve media houses, said a press release.

The media houses are The Daily Star, Prothom Alo, bdnews24.com, ATN Bangla, Channel i, Ntv, Rtv, BanglaVision, Maasranga Television, Boishakhi TV, Independent TV and BBC Bangla.

Grameenphone will charge Tk 2 for per minute news service, said Taimur Rahman, director regulatory affairs of the operator.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

SQ Chowdhury's two petitions rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday rejected BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's review petition seeking discharge from the charges he is facing for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War of 1971.

The three-judge tribunal headed by Justice Md Nizamul Huq also turned down his another petition, in which he sought some changes to his indictment order.

The trial against the BNP leader will formally start on April 29.

The Chittagong lawmaker was produced before the court yesterday.

He is facing 23 specific war crimes charges, which include murdering civilians, collaborating with the Pakistani occupation army to kill and torture unarmed people, looting of valuables and

torching of houses and other properties, persecuting people on religious and political grounds, and committing atrocities on Hindu community members.

Fakhrul Islam, a defence counsel of Salauddin Quader, prayed for permission so that his client could visit a physician at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on the way to Kashimpur Jail, as he (Salauddin) was "having teeth problems".

Prosecutor Zead Al Malum opposed the prayer on security concerns.

After discussing the matter with the defence and prosecution, the court rejected the plea but directed the jail superintendent to take immediate steps so that the BNP leader could visit BSMMU by today.

CROSS-EXAMINATION OF WITNESS AGAINST SAYEDEE
The defence of Delawar Hossain

Sayedee yesterday began cross-examining the 28th and last prosecution witness against the Jamaat-e-Islami leader.

Mohammad Helal Uddin, also the investigation officer of the case against Sayedee, faced some primary questions, including that of the dates and places of filing the case.

Defence counsel will continue cross-examining him today.

Earlier yesterday, Sayedee's defence counsels prayed for a one-month adjournment for preparing the cross-examination of the investigation officer, who had finished his nine-day deposition on Tuesday.

Mizanul Islam, a counsel for Sayedee, argued that they had received a huge number of documents during the deposition by the investigation officer, and they were yet to receive 13 new documents from the prosecution.

"For the sake of fair trial, we need the time for preparation", he said.

The tribunal said it realised that the defence needed time for preparation, but rejected the prayer saying that it did not want to waste time.

The tribunal chairman, however, assured the defence counsels that the proceedings would be adjourned if they faced difficulties during the cross-examination.

The defence counsels also prayed for privileged communication with Sayedee.

The tribunal observed that the defence counsels received adequate opportunity for privileged communication with their client, and went on to pass an order fixing 10:00am to 1:00pm on May 1 for the privileged communication at Kashimpur Jail in Gazipur.

The Naye-e-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami was produced before the court yesterday. He is facing 20 charges of crimes against humanity committed in the Liberation War of 1971.

TRANSFER OF MOJAHEED'S CASE TO ICT-2

After the three-member tribunal-1 began yesterday's proceedings, Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo appealed for transfer of the case against Jamaat secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed to the newly formed second tribunal.

The court accepted the petition and allowed the case to be transferred, Mukhlesur Rahman Badal, the conducting prosecutor of the case, told the Daily Star.

The tribunal also fixed April 29 for hearing the defence's arguments on the charges brought against Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami.

Oman to recruit more Bangladeshi doctors

UNB, Dhaka

Oman has expressed its desire to recruit more doctors from Bangladesh and set up its full fledged embassy in Dhaka early next year.

Omani Foreign Minister Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah expressed his government's intention during an official meeting with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni in Muscat yesterday.

Dipu Moni proposed to set-up a joint training centre for technical and vocational education so that the Bangladeshi youths can get employment opportunities in Oman.

Both ministers agreed to set up a joint business council to increase bilateral trade and investment between the two countries, according to a release of the Foreign Ministry.

The Omani foreign minister appreciated the role of Bangladeshi workers in Oman who contributed towards the economy of both countries.

Dipu Moni handed over an invitation letter from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressed to Sultan Qaboos bin Said to visit Bangladesh.

During a meeting with Omani IGP Hassan bin Mohseen Al-Sheraigi, the IGP assured Dipu Moni of protecting the rights and welfare of Bangladeshi workers.

During a separate meeting, the foreign minister urged Omani Minister for Commerce and Industry Engineer Ali bin Masood Al Senidi to import Bangladeshi quality products such as pharmaceuticals, jute and jute products, leather, readymade garments and ceramics.

Teen kills himself at rehab centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenager allegedly committed suicide yesterday while undergoing treatment at a drug rehabilitation centre in Shah Ali area of the capital's Mirpur, said the centre's officials to police.

The body of Raihan Suman Rakib, 18, was found hanging by the neck with a lungi (a traditional men's garment) from the bars on a kitchen window, said Officer-in-Charge Anisur Rahman of Shah Ali Police Station.

Raihan was admitted to the centre, "Paribartan Madakasakti Susthata Poroborti Poramorsho O Poricharja Kendra", on Tuesday. He and his sister used to live with his uncle Tamijuddin Milon in Uttar Bishil of Mirpur.

Raihan's father, Billal Hossain, is a drug addict serving jail term at Kashimpur Central Jail for the last two years while his mother left them and remarried, said Tamijuddin.

Raihan started taking drugs with his school friends about two years ago and was earlier admitted at the centre for five months, he added.

One dies in fall from truck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg


A worker was killed after falling from the roof of a running truck at Udalia village area under Hathazari upazila in Chittagong early yesterday.

The deceased Monsur Ali, 35, son of Nobibur Rahman hails from Notunpara village under Fatikchari upazila of the district.

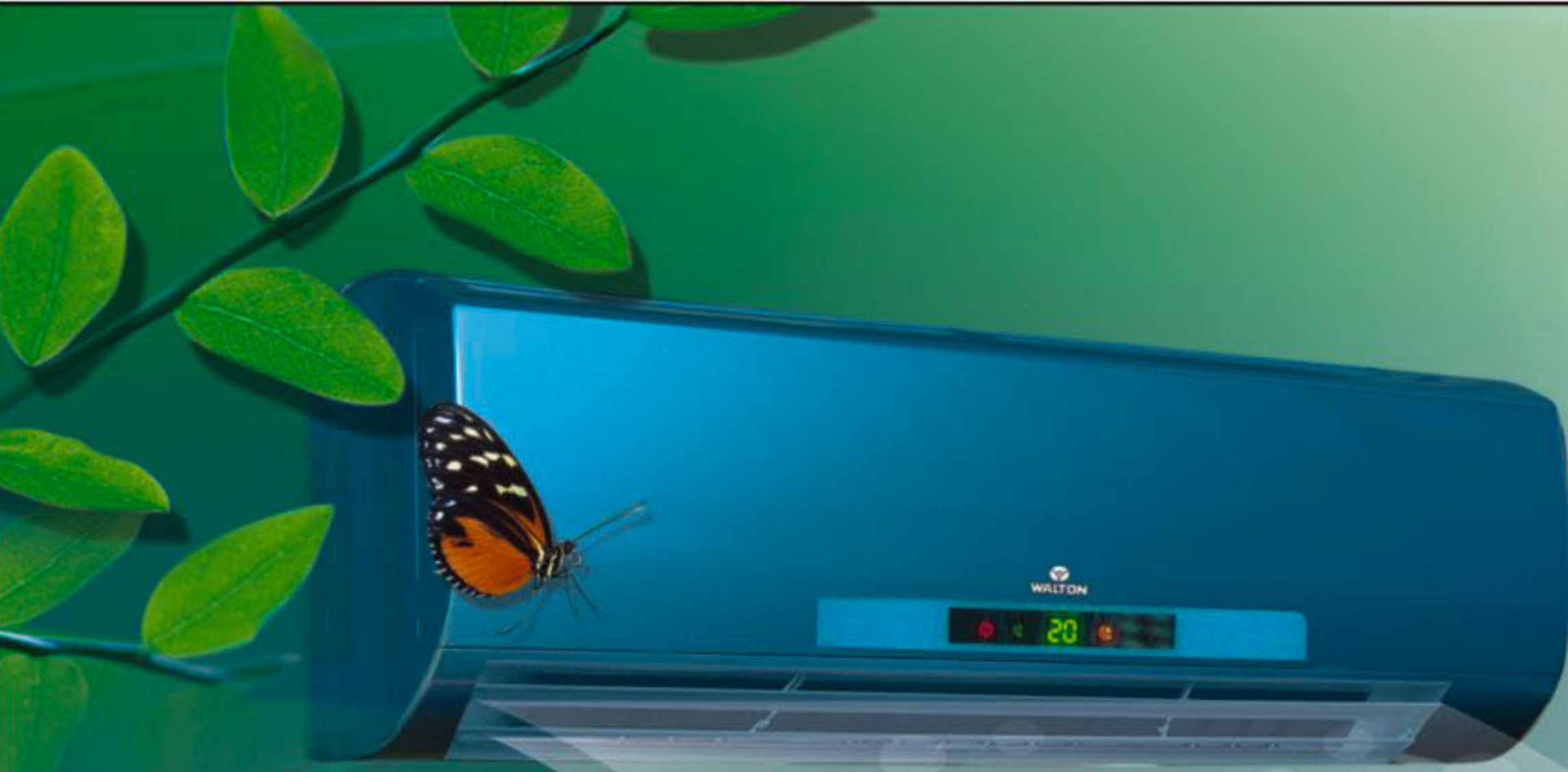
Mizanur Rahman, Nayek of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) police box said, some workers numbering ten to twelve were going to Chittagong from Hathazari sitting on the roof of a timber-laden truck.

Suddenly two of the workers -- Monsur and Karim -- fell from the running truck on the road at the Udalia village area.

They were rushed to CMCH where on-duty doctor declared Monsur dead.



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