

**2 bodies found in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of a female domestic worker and a rickshaw puller in separate incidents in the capital.

The deceased were Shilpi Aktar, 14, daughter of Golam Mostafa of Char Ilisha in Bholra, and Md Mamun, 35, a resident of Washpur in Hazaribagh.

Shilpi hanged herself from the ceiling fan of a flat in Bashundhara residential area Tuesday night, where she had been working as a domestic help, said police, quoting her employer Waliur Rahman Prince.

Bhatara police recovered her body from a private hospital in the area yesterday.

Meantime, Mamun, a rickshaw-puller, who went out of his house Tuesday night to collect money from someone, was found stabbed to death yesterday morning, said police, quoting his wife Kakoli Begum.

Police found the body with a mobile phone set in its possession on a road at Jatrabari around 7:00am.



**A large chunk of the road surface at TSC intersection on Dhaka University campus has sunk, posing a threat to vehicles and pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.**

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**MA Rouf Chy passes away**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



MA Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati

Manufacturers Association, died of cardiac arrest in London Monday night. He was around 60.

Mostafa Kamal, vice chairman of the association, confirmed his death to The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

Kamal said Chowdhury went to London a few days ago to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with his two sons and other family members. He fell sick there and was given life support in a London hospital, but he died Monday night, he said.

Chowdhury was also a former director of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Helal Uddin, a director of FBCCI, said his body might arrive in Dhaka on Saturday morning. The federation will hold a namaj-e-janaza for him in front of its office at the capital's Motijheel Saturday noon, he added.

**Brazilian support safeguards 2,000 lives**

REAZ AHMAD, back from Kurigram

A sandy road stretching little over a kilometre in a far-off Brahmaputra shoal is now a life-saver for an entire community of 2,000 people living in the impoverished Char called Barovita.

Construction of this road could not have been better timed. A flash flood struck the shoal in late July when some 500 rural poor, 75 percent of them women, had just completed construction of the 1.27km elevated road which doubles as an embankment, saving many lives and property from inundation.

The men and women, mostly landless poor and victims of recurrent erosions, who built the road in record 18 workdays, eventually safeguarded 40 hectares of cultivable lands from flash floods of the Brahmaputra river and protected the shoal from siltation and intrusion of sand in the arable land.

Now this road stands for testimony of resilience and only pathway for some 182 children who attend the only registered non-government primary school in Char Barovita in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila.

It has been possible for a Brazilian government donation channelled through the UN's World Food Programme (WFP), which helped the shoal's poor to form groups and work to build the road on the basis of daily wage. The Bangladesh government also chipped in cash to supplement the Brazilian food donation.

Chilmari and Char Barovita witnessed the official launch of the Brazilian contribution on Tuesday when its Charge d'Affaires in Bangladesh Fausto Godoy along with WFP Representative in Bangladesh Dr Christa Rader handed over the cash and food to the Enhancing Resilience (ER) programme participants at Fakirhat High School ground in Chilmari.

Emerging out from a queue of food and cash recipients, one Mosammat Sobeda told The Daily Star, "I am happy to have worked for the development of my own community and at the same time earning some wages. I

**The contribution signals the beginning of a new South-South partnership between Brazil and Bangladesh**

received today Tk 1,244 in cash and rice, oil and pulses too."

Mousumi Akhter, who works for an NGO that partnered with WFP in this effort, explained that they selected for the work the most vulnerable members of the community, who had no land to grow crops and very little assets to survive.

The participants were also given trainings on issues ranging from simple life skills to adaptation to climate change, she said.

Brazil is WFP's 10th largest donor. But a consignment of 7,000 tonnes of rice worth US\$3.3 million is Brazil's first contribution through WFP Bangladesh

and also a first time contribution to food security programme in Bangladesh. The contribution signals the beginning of a new South-South partnership between Brazil and Bangladesh.

Brazil has made enormous successes in reducing poverty and food insecurity through extremely successful government policies like its "Zero Hunger Campaign".

Talking to The Daily Star, Brazilian envoy Fausto Godoy said his country had emerged as the sixth largest economy of the world, and Brazil was willing to support Bangladesh's initiatives to achieve middle income

In partnership with the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), the WFP will use the contribution to provide employment to ultra poor people, 70 percent of whom are women.

Participants receive food and cash for work to build community assets such as dams and canals and other key infrastructure projects in coastal and flood-prone areas, which protect communities from the impacts of climate change and for training in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, life-skills, nutrition, and income generating activities.

Under ER programme, the households received 2kgs of rice, 200 grams of pulses, and 100ml of vegetable oil every day. LGED provided a complementary cash of Tk 58 per day on Bangladesh government's behalf.

WFP officials said the remainder of the rice will be distributed to participants in the ER programme for 2012 in 28 upazilas in Kurigram, Bogra, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Bagerhat and Khulna districts, benefiting around 2.5 lakh people.

The ER programme, which has been operating since 1975 to improve the country's transport through construction of roads, embankments and drainage, constitutes \$23 million of WFP's Country Programme budget annually. This is in addition to \$11 million annual contribution by Bangladesh.

**Justice delayed, justice denied**

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water resources minister, was also murdered at his Minto Road residence.

A mortar attack by another group of army personnel killed 14 others in Mohammadpur, taking the death toll to 34 on that fateful day.

Three separate murder cases in connection with these killings were filed in 1996, but those are still on the backburner.

Despite several attempts, Home Minister Shahara Khatun or State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haque Tuku could not be reached for their comments on the issue.

Talking to The Daily Star, Attorney General Mahubey Alam said he would take steps to get the cases disposed of.

The top state law officer said he would soon ask the government to provide him with necessary documents to revive the cases. All cases involving the August 15 killings should be disposed of to bring the perpetrators to book, he added.

In January 2009, five condemned killers of the father of the nation were executed after a Supreme Court verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case filed in October 1996.

**SHEIKH MONI KILLING**

A band of 25-30 army men surrounded Sheikh Moni's house on Road 13/1 in Dhanmondi at around 1:30am on August 15.

Eight to ten of them carrying firearms and wearing black uniform went up to the first floor and got down after firing shots.

Moni's close aide Mohammad Shahabuddin,

who was on the ground floor, immediately went upstairs and found Moni and his wife Arzu lying on the floor in a critical condition.

Sheikh Maruf, Moni's younger brother, turned up there. Arzu was crying out for help and requesting to save them and their two sons -- Sheikh Fazle Shams Porosh and Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh.

Moni and Arzu were pronounced dead on arrival at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, read the statement of the murder case filed by Shahabuddin with Dhanmondi police on November 20, 1996.

Sixteen people including former deputy minister Taheruddin Thakur were made accused in the case.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) gave the final report in the case on August 22, 2002 and had it secretly dismissed, ignoring legal bindings.

The Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on December 30, 2002 accepted the final report and acquitted all the accused without notifying the complainant. Neither the investigation officer nor the court concerned informed the complainant about the fate of the case.

**SERNIABAT MURDER**

A group of army personnel led by Maj Shahriar Rashid, Maj Aziz Pasha, Capt Majed and Capt Nurul Huda stormed into Serniabat's residence on Minto Road at about 5:00am.

The army personnel rounded up the residents at the drawing room and Shahriar

and Majed shot them.

Frightened Beauty Serniabat caught hold of her father Abdur Rab Serniabat. Shahriar Rashid, Aziz Pasha and Nurul Huda fired shots again and left the scene.

Abdur Rab Serniabat, his nephew Shaheed Serniabat, daughter Baby Serniabat, son Arif Serniabat, grandson Babu Serniabat, who was only four, domestic helps Potka and Laxmir Ma, and Abdur Naim Khan alias Rintu died on the spot.

Abul Hasnat Abdullah, son of Abdur Rab Serniabat, survived hiding behind a door.

Shahan Ara Begum, wife of Hasnat, her mother-in-law Amena Begum, brother-in-law Abul Khair Serniabat, sisters-in-law Beauty and Rina Serniabat, and domestic helps Rana, Rafiqul Islam, Lalit Das and Golam Mahmud were seriously injured, said the statement of a case filed by Shahan with Ramna police on October 21, 1996.

Eighteen people were charged with murder in the case.

However, proceedings of the case were stayed by the High Court in November 1999 following a criminal revision filed by Bazlul Huda, one of the accused, against the order of charge framing.

The stay order remains in force till date. The Awami League came to power in 2009 but did not take any initiative to vacate the stay on the case proceedings.

**MOHAMMADPUR MORTAR ATTACK**

Mohammad Ali, a resident of Sher Shah Suri Road in Mohammadpur, woke up with wounds in his left thigh

at about 5:30am on that day. He heard sounds of mortar blasts.

Hearing cries, he went to a nearby house on Road 9 and found Rezia Begum, wife of the house owner Musa, and their daughter Nasima dead.

He went to house 196 and 197 on nearby Shahjahan Road where he saw bodies of Habibur Rahman, Anwara Begum, another woman by the same name, Moyful Bibi, Sabera Begum, Abdullah, Rafiqul, Safia Khatun, Shahabuddin, Kasheda, Aminuddin and Honufa Bibi, all killed in the mortar attack.

Later he came to know that 14 people were killed by mortar shells fired by a group of military personnel.

He also learned that Bangabandhu and most of his family members were dead. Ali said in the statement of a case he filed with Mohammadpur police on November 29, 1996 accusing Syed Farooq Rahman and 10 others.

The CID pressed charges against the same accused on July 30, 1997.

On November 1, 2006, the court framed charges against 18 accused, including Taher Uddin Thakur, who later died, in connection with the Mohammadpur killings.

Trial of the case began with deposition of the complainant on March 19, 2007 and statements of only four out of 58 prosecution witnesses were recorded till May 17 this year.

The case now remains pending with the Court of Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka.



Charge d'Affaires of Brazil in Bangladesh Fausto Godoy and UN's World Food Programme Representative in Bangladesh Christa Rader, along with Local Government Engineering Department engineers and local representatives, are walking a newly constructed road doubling as an embankment at Char Barovita, a shoal in the Brahmaputra river, in Chilmari, Kurigram. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: WFP

**BNP now mulls**

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address public rallies before announcing the next course of the agitation programme.

Asked about its movement strategy, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they would not go for an oust-government movement immediately.

"We are in a movement now to restore the caretaker government system to ensure the next general polls is held in a free and fair manner," he noted.

Party's standing committee member Rafiqul Islam Mia said, "We cannot forge a movement overnight; we will go step by step."

The party is also planning to hold its national council, he added.

Talking to The Daily

Star, some senior leaders admitted the party was still struggling to reorganise itself. The chairperson has been working to reorganise the party's important front and associated bodies.

It would be tough for BNP to continue the movement for a long time if the party high command declares an oust-government movement, they observed.

The 13th amendment to the constitution had made the provision to hold the national elections under a caretaker government. But the parliament last year scrapped it by adopting the 15th amendment.

Since then the main opposition BNP and its allies have been demanding restoration of the system.

**Mother, daughter**

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The forensic expert team of the CID was informed of the matter. After they arrive from Dhaka, the bodies will be sent to Munshiganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Locals and police said Maria and Sadia had been staying at the flat at Amina Manzil. The flat belongs to one Abdul Karim Bhuiyan.

Abdul Karim Bhuiyan said Qawwali songs were heard being played at a high pitch at Maria's flat on Monday evening.

Maria's husband Ahmed Ali called his wife over cell phone several times from Saudi Arabia in the last two days but did not get any response. It raised suspicions in his mind. The couple had communicated for the last time on Sunday.

Yesterday morning, Ali

phoned his younger brother Jasimuddin, who lives at Nabiganj in Bandar area, to make inquiries. Going there, Jasim found the flat locked from outside but the door to the balcony open.

As he smelled a foul odour coming from the flat, Jasim called the police.

Police came to the spot and recovered the bodies lying on beds in two separate rooms.

Jasim told journalists that his brother Ahmed Ali had been living in Saudi Arabia for the last 18 years.

He said after seeing the flat locked from outside, he thought the mother and the daughter had gone out. But as he stood in front of the window, he felt the foul smell and became suspicious.