

RAWSHAN MURDER

Two security guards confess to crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two security guards arrested early yesterday confessed to strangling lawyer Rawshan Ara after looting her house at Mirpur-6 in the capital on December 31 last year.

Solaiman alias Robin alias Tajul, 19, was arrested at Lama in Fatullah of Narayanganj and Russell alias Saqib, 19, at Charpara in Mymensingh.

Quoting the arrested persons, Mashiur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of DB (west), said after killing Rawshan they looted US\$ 500, Tk 20,000, several watches and some blank cheques from the house.

"Solaiman was arrested with US\$ 300 while Russell with US\$ 200, Tk 6,500 and a knife," he added.



Discussants at a roundtable, "Role of Social Media in Advancing Peoples' Right to Know", jointly organised by The Daily Star and London East Bank College Chittagong in the daily's Chittagong office yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Bodies of two Bangladeshis due home today from South Africa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The bodies of two Bangladeshis, who were shot dead in South Africa on Monday, would reach home today.

The dead are Salik Uddin, 38, and Ruhul Amin, 32, both hailing from Rustompur village of Golapganj upazila of Sylhet.

Salik and Ruhul were shot dead in Salik's grocery shop in the North West province of South Africa.

Arms factory unearthed in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) unearthed an illegal arms factory and arrested seven people with some firearms at Bhagaban Tila in Sitakunda yesterday.

They are Sadek, Kashem, Nur Islam, Badsha, Osman, Jashim, and Al-Amin Sagar. The arms included seven light guns, one single barrel gun, one revolver, six cartridges, five machetes.

A Rab-7 team cordoned Jangal Salimpur area, where two terrorist groups, "Yakub Bahini" and "Sadek Bahini", were holding clandestine meetings, said Lt Commander Nuruzzaman of Rab-7.

During the eight-hour drive, the battalion arrested them, including Sadek, the leader of Sadek Bahini, and recovered the arms from their possession, he said. Later, the force unearthed the makeshift arms factory and recovered some gun making materials, Nuruzzaman added.

Five hurt in gas burner explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five members of a family sustained severe burn injuries in a fire explosion caused by accumulated gas in their residence on the sixth floor of a building in the capital's Rampura yesterday.

The injured are US embassy official Pinkon Banik, 35, his wife Pinky Banik, 30, and two sons Piku, 3, and Pinon, 1, and Pinky's mother Geeta Rani Banik, 50.

They were admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Rampura police said the explosion occurred around 6:15am when Geeta was trying to ignite the gas burner in the kitchen.

The explosion caused considerable damage to the kitchen and its adjacent room in the house, police said.

On information, two fire fighting units from Khilgaon Fire Station rushed to the spot and doused the fire.

According to residents, no gas was available in the building till 1:00am.

Police suspected that the victims might have accidentally left the gas burner open during this time and, when the gas later returned, it accumulated in the kitchen leading to the explosion.

Arrest Tazreen's owner

Demands 40 RMG organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty Garment Workers Federation yesterday submitted a memorandum to the home minister demanding immediate arrest and trial of Tazreen Fashions Ltd owner Delwar Hossain for the fire incident at the factory in Ashulia on November 24 last year.

The federation organised a workers' rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital at 11:00am and later brought out a procession till the home ministry.

A six-member delegation from the federation submitted the memorandum to the ministry officials, as the home minister was absent at the time, said Sirajul Islam Roni, coordinator of Bangladesh Garments Workers Unity Council.

Law enforcers barricaded the protesters on their way to the ministry, he added.

The owner's negligence was found in the government probe report of the Tazreen fire incident, which killed at least 112 workers, and a criminal case was filed against Delwar Hossain, the memorandum said.

Besides, the High Court ordered and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour Ministry also recommended to arrest Tazreen's owner, it said.

But, Delwar has not been arrested and is threatening the workers, it added.

The federation leaders also urged the government to publish DNA test results of the unidentified deceased fire victims and to compensate the victims' families with Tk 10 lakh each.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asfia Khatun Pia, wife of Monzur Hussain Choudhury, a retired director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), died in Fort Myers, Florida, USA, on Tuesday, after prolonged illness. She was 74.

She left behind her husband and four sons, says a press release.

Pia, the only daughter of ex-minister late Abdul Matin Choudhury of Sylhet was buried at Lee Memorial Park in Fort Myers yesterday.

Ali Azam Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ali Azam Khan passed away due to old age complications on Wednesday. He was 100.

He is the father of Ilias Khan, general secretary of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) and daily Amar Desh's sports section in-charge.

Azam left behind four sons and a daughter, says a press release. DRU condoled the death of Azam.

Death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal



Today is the fourteenth death anniversary of the great revolutionary activist Biplabi Debendra Nath Ghosh.

He was imprisoned in different times for a total of 26 years for protesting against the colonialists, imperialist and autocrats in the British and Pakistani regime period and afterwards.

Biplabi Deben Ghosh Smriti Sangrakkhon Committee will hold a discussion in the city.

GERMAN, NORTH KOREAN ENVOYS MEET PRIME MINISTER

Hasina seeks more German investment

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought more German investment in the power and energy sector, including renewable energy, of Bangladesh.

She made the request when German Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Albrecht Conze paid a courtesy call on her at her office in Dhaka.

At the meeting, Sheikh Hasina thanked Germany for its \$ 420 million funding for the 450 MW combined cycle power plant in Ashuganj.

She said Germany is the second largest destination of Bangladesh's exports after the USA.

She stressed the need for more exchange of trade and investment delegations between Bangladesh and Germany for further enhancing the bilateral trade.

She said Dhaka deeply values Germany's role in shaping the European Union policies towards the Less Developed Countries (LDC) and the countries vulnerable to climate impacts like Bangladesh.

The premier also said her government

has strengthened all democratic institutions, including Election Commission and Human Rights Commission, in the country.

She said over 6,000 elections were held under the incumbent government in a free, fair, neutral and credible manner.

In response, the German ambassador highly praised the Bangladesh government for its achievements, saying that the current regime is successful in all development sectors.

The PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed journalists following the meeting.

He also said North Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Sing Hol Chol paid a farewell call on Sheikh Hasina at her office earlier yesterday.

During the meeting, the PM said Bangladesh attaches high importance to its relations with North Korea.

She said both the countries share common perceptions and aspirations for the socioeconomic emancipation of their people.

SPELLING BEE

Rangpur teachers join Champs21.com meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Champs21.com, an initiative of The Daily Star, organised a views exchange meeting with English teachers of 35 Rangpur schools in Raza Ram Mohan Club in the district yesterday.

The English spelling contest, participated by class VI to class X students, was launched for the first time in the country in 2012 by Champs21.com with Horlicks as the sponsor.

Mohammad Ashraf Ullah, assistant manager, Business Development of Champs 21.com, said

online registration for the second season of Spelling Bee will start on January 15 and continue

till February 28.

He said the main target of the contest is to help students improve their English spelling, increase vocabulary, learn concepts and develop correct English usage.

He said students have to register at

www.champs21.com to play free online games

and that they can play the game as many times as they wish.

Only the best score will be taken into consideration, Ashraf Ullah

said, adding that top spellers from the first round will move to the division level round.

From the division level round the top 72 spellers will move to a TV based round, he added.

Seventy teachers, who participated in the meeting, said they would start preparing their students for the contest.



Two women, Nazmun Nahar Polly and Kamrun Nahar Sonia, being married off at Tejgaon Shorkari Shishu Poribar, a state-run orphanage, in the capital's Tejgaon yesterday. The orphanage and the Department of Social Services organised the wedding for the duo, who were admitted to the orphanage some 12 years ago.

PHOTO: STAR



Locally-made fire-arms, machetes, knives and materials used in manufacturing that recovered during a raid by Rapid Action Battalion-7 at Bhagaban Tila of Jangal Salimpur area of Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ZUBAIR MURDER
JU teachers, students demand punishment of killers

JU CORRESPONDENT

Demanding punishment of the killers of Zubair Ahmed, a large number of teachers of Jahangirnagar University yesterday criticised the law and order situation in the country.

The teachers under the banner "Shikkhak Samaj" organised a protest programme on the campus, saying that although a year has passed since Zubair's death, the culprits are still free.

Zubair Ahmed, a final year student of the university's English department, was beaten up by activists of a rival faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on January 8 last year and he died the following day.

The teachers also held a protest rally on the premises of Shaheed Minar.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the university's Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr

Anwar Hossain to form a judicial probe committee and take action against the culprits responsible for Zubair's death.

In the memorandum, the teachers expressed anxiety over the role of the university administration as, according to them, the culprits are still roaming the campus and even staying in the residential halls.

Earlier, students of the university under the banner "Jahangirnagar against Harassment" also staged different protest programmes on the campus and submitted a memorandum to the VC.

The agitating students threatened to go for tougher movements if the JU authorities do not take any action.

"If the allegations about the culprits roaming the campus are true, we will take action against it," VC Anwar Hossain told the teachers.

36 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

At least six people, including two children, were injured as a bus collided head-on with a truck on Dinajpur-Dhaka highway in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur yesterday morning, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Our Narail correspondent adds, at least 30 people were injured when their bus fell into a roadside ditch after the driver lost control over the steering on Narail-Lohagara road at Dhopakholra village in Narail municipality area yesterday afternoon.