

Summit contract cancelled

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two sides, Summit could not make headway with its Bibiyana 1 power project. However, it raised local bank loans and gave its own funds to kick-start the Meghnaghat project. From last year, it also could manage international funds for the Bibiyana 2 power project.

The Meghnaghat power project is set to start partial operation (225 MW) from November next and full operation from April next year. The Bibiyana 2 plant will begin partial operation in March 2015 and full operation later that year.

The Bibiyana 1 project had an extra catch as the contract obligated Summit to set up gas pipeline and power evacuation system costing \$20 million. The contract for the Bibiyana 2 project did not include such

obligation, though its price offer is almost the same.

In June last year, Summit had verbally agreed to pull out from the Bibiyana power project where it had offered to sell power at a very low price of Tk 2.6 per kilowatt. In the present market, this price is considered as unusually low which the other bidders decline to match.

This prompted the government to try out a new venture there. In late last year, it had entered a memorandum of understanding with Advance Energy of Saudi Arabia. That company gave a price offer of \$3.8 cents per unit. The deal did not make much headway.

Meanwhile, the government had also awarded a third phase contract in Bibiyana to Japanese company Marubeni, making

the Bibiyana 1 project irrelevant as the government would not be able to ensure enough gas to run three plants there.

"Now we will follow the due legal course," Summit chief Aziz Khan said yesterday.

"In August last year, we had served a termination notice on the government and claimed \$45 million in compensation. But we didn't receive any response from the government. Last month we reiterated the notice requesting our bid bond and compensation. If there is any difference of opinion, they may go for arbitration," he added.

Operating power plants since 1998, Summit has recently set up three rental power plants ahead of schedules. It now produces 560 MW of electricity from a dozen plants.



Workers tear down billboards near Askona hajj camp in the capital's airport area yesterday for "beautification" as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will come to inaugurate the camp today. But only billboards of the opposition are reportedly being removed. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Rejected, he killed her

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the university campus, said teachers and students of the university.

The first-year accounting student was brought to the intensive care unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital by air ambulance around 1:30pm where she succumbed to her injuries around 5:30pm.

Russell fled the scene immediately after the attack and has been missing since.

However, he made a phone call to Saoda's classmate Salma, around 1:35pm, and warned her against rallying support for the girl.

He also allegedly threatened her with the same fate.

But how can it be that the man who loved her ended up killing her?



Saoda Russell

Dr Omar Rahman, a US board certified psychiatrist and formerly faculty at Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, seems to have an answer.

"Adolescents find it difficult to deal with rejections," said Rahman, now vice-chancellor of Independent University (IUB) in Dhaka.

"They are of an age where they do not think clearly about the future, and therefore react to stress in bizarre ways, even if it is given by

close ones," he said, adding that this, however, did not justify the killing.

He also recommended that Russell's mental condition be assessed to find out the state of mind he was in to have reacted the way he did.

Russell's mother Renu Begum told this correspondent that locals criticised her and also her son after the girl's family rejected Russell's proposal.

"We are poor farmers and we rear goats. That is why Saoda's family turned down the proposal. People criticised us a lot for this," she said.

The university authorities expelled Russell from the university following the incident and police were trying to catch him.

Tutor the killer

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abductor demanded Tk 50,000 ransom to let his son go free unhurt, Wajed said, quoting Shyamol.

Shyamol Majumdar filed a general diary with Kafurl Police Station the next morning and submitted the phone number of the unknown caller to the police.

Wajed told The Daily Star that he himself called the number that afternoon and introduced himself as Sajal's uncle. The person from the other side demanded Tk 2.5 lakh in return for the boy's life. Wajed agreed to this and insisted on being given proof that Sajal was alive and unhurt.

Though a child identifying himself as Sajal spoke to Wajed and Sajal's parents, the three could not be sure if the voice belonged to Sajal,

he added.

However, that very morning on August 29, Matikata police recovered the body of a boy who was later identified as Sajal.

Through an investigation, police discovered that the number belonged to Sabuj, and traced him in Feni. The arrest was made after he came back to Ibrahimpur.

Sabuj told police that he had abducted the boy and fed him with fruit juice mixed with five sedatives. Later, on the day of the abduction, he suffocated Sajal to death, put the body in a sack and dropped it at Matikata Bazar, police sources said.

So Sajal was dead before Sabuj negotiated the ransom with the uncle-in-disguise, Wajed, and his parents over the phone.

Sabuj admitted his guilt before police.

Azharul Haque, the school's chairperson, also said Sabuj had killed the boy as he had been a witness to the extra-marital relationship.

Sabuj identified the woman as Preeti. He also said Preeti had helped him do the abduction and murder.

However, when contacted by The Daily Star, Preeti, who is now in police custody with her two-month-old child, denied the accusation.

"I had no idea about Sajal's abduction, and I was not involved in the murder," she added that she used to contact Sabuj because "he was a friend of mine and more importantly, because he owed me Tk 1 lakh 90 thousand."

Preeti claimed she had given him the money in several phases to invest it in business and that Sabuj was supposed to pay her back with interest.

She said, "Sabuj used a photograph of us, taken three years back on the day we first met" to establish that she was having an illicit relationship with him.

But police said they had found several photographs of the two in a raid at the arrestee's house.

Meanwhile, the body has been brought back to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy to verify Sabuj's confession.

Local people will bring out a procession Saturday morning from Uttar Kafurl High School, protesting the gruesome murder, said the school's chairperson.

Muggers kill sales executive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
An official of mobile phone operator Banglalink was shot dead in Tongi of Gazipur yesterday.

The deceased, Ahmed Mostafa, 25, son of SM Abu Bakar under Kotwali Police Station in Barisal, was the sales executive of voice marketing department of the company at Tongi.

A gang of armed muggers numbering three to four intercepted Ahmed as he had reached Sataish Road area under Tongi Police Station around 1:30pm after collecting cash from different i-top-up agents of the company, witnesses and police said.

They tried to snatch the bag of money from him.

As he resisted, the snatchers shot him a few times before fleeing the scene with the bag, said Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station.

Critically injured Ahmed was rushed to Tongi Health Complex where the on duty doctor declared him dead.

The body bore injury marks on head and face, said Dr Sehab Uddin of the health complex.

He added that Ahmed had died due to heavy bleeding.

The body was sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy, the OC said.

Jafar Ahmed, manager of Banglalink's marketing office at Tongi, said Ahmed might have been carrying around Tk 3 lakh when he came under attack.

Pounding floor

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kinetic tiles and every footstep on them creates sustainable energy.

"The students really enjoyed trying to give them a right bashing -- running around and jumping up and down on them," said Matthew Baxter, headmaster of the 1,200-pupil Simon Langton Boys' Grammar School in Canterbury.

Over the period of a year, the energy expected to be generated from the 12m of tiles is expected to be enough to fully charge 853 mobile phones; power one mobile for two and a half years; keep a light bulb illuminated for more than two months or power an electric car to drive seven miles.

The tiles are the brainchild of Laurence Kembal-Cook, a former pupil at the

school, who is now chief executive officer of his own company, Pavegen Systems.

"What we're doing here is something quite different and quite creative and innovative," said Baxter.

The tiles were originally piloted at the school and in the Science Museum -- and also trialled at the Paris marathon and the Olympic Games -- before their installation at Simon Langton.

During busy times at the school they are expected to generate a peak of about 100 watts of power.

It allows the dancers to charge their mobile phones while on the dance floor, something else which could appeal to the students of Simon Langton.

Tonado kills one, injures 10

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona
At least one person was killed and 10 others were injured by a tornado at Nurullahar Char under Barhatta upazila of the district.

The dead is Sohag Rahman Rony, 12, said Sultan Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Barhatta Police Station.

The injured persons were taking treatment at Barhatta Upazila Health Complex.

The tornado hit the village around 6:30pm and continued for half an hour, also damaging about 80 houses, villagers said.

Soon after police, district administration and locals started a rescue operation that continued till filing this report around 8:30pm.

7 parties behind Hefajat mayhem

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inspector general of police (admin), told reporters at the police headquarters in Dhaka.

He claimed that Hefajat was in control of the leaders of the seven parties, and if the Hefajat leaders could keep a hold over their group, things would not have turned so bad that day.

Shahidul once again insisted that a total of 13 people died in clashes between Hefajat and law enforcers in Dhaka between May 5 and early hours of May 6 when the latter tried to resist Hefajat's unruly actions in the name of holding a peaceful rally.

The report of rights body Odhikar, which was published online on June 10, falsely put the death figure at 61, said the additional IGP.

He pointed out the anomalies and flaws in the Odhikar list found in the computers that police seized from the organisation's office after its Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan was arrested on August 10 for the publication of the false report.

Though the list showed 61 people as dead, actually 26 of them -- 13 in the capital and 13 outside it -- had died in clashes between law enforcers and Hefajat activists.

Terming Odhikar's report false and ill-motivated, Shahidul said police have the right to defend their position, as law enforcers had been irrationally accused of "genocide" in the early hours of May 6.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court transferred to the Dhaka Cyber Tribunal the case against Odhikar Secretary Adilur and its Director ASM Nasiruddin Elan.

The CMM court said the cyber tribunal will decide whether an arrest warrant will be issued against Elan, as he was shown as a fugitive in the case.

Gulshan police filed the lawsuit under ICT Act, 2006 on August 10 in connection with the Odhikar's publication of a distorted report on police action on the May 5 Hefajat rally.

Speaking at yesterday's press conference, Shahidul said Hefajat initially wanted permission for its May 5 Dhaka programme but later came up with a new request.

"They said they will hold a peaceful doa programme presided over by Hefajat chief Allama Shafi at Motijheel's Shapla Chattar after Zohr prayers, and it will end by 2:00pm."

But Hefajat changed the schedule thrice, he said.

"They had permission to stay at Motijheel's Shapla Chattar till 5:00pm. And their programme became illegal after that," he said.

Asked whether police would take action against Odhikar as an organisation for publishing a distorted report and photoshopped images, he said, "It is up to the NGO Affairs Bureau to decide."

He said they didn't arrest Shafi for Hefajat's rampage as he was not present in the May 5 rally.

Correction

Our report headlined "BTCL boss, 3 others denied bail" published on September 3 mistakenly mentioned Asif Zahid as the country manager of Ericsson Bangladesh Ltd. It should actually be contract manager. The error is regretted.



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Muhith hopeful of talks before polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg
Finance Minister AMA Muhith has expressed the hope that dialogue will take place between the ruling party and the opposition to tide over the current political standoff before the coming general elections.

"I think dialogue will be held in due time to resolve the country's ongoing political uncertainty, and the solution will come," he said, adding that, "The election will be held before January 24, and the change of government will also happen in the usual way."

The minister was replying to the queries from journalists after attending a discussion on "Direction for Collecting Revenue" organised by Chittagong Customs House at its conference room yesterday.

Political instability usually arises in each election year, and it hampers the country's economic growth of that year, said Muhith.

"We have not actually known yet about how to hold an election in the parliamentary system after its re-establishment in 1991, and vote rigging has occurred even after re-establishment of the system," he lamented.

This time the incumbent government's aim is to arrange an election that is usually held in countries run under the parliamentary system, the minister added.

Shipping Secretary Syed Manjurul Islam and Chittagong Port Authority Chairman Rear Admiral Nizam Uddin Ahmed were also present on the occasion.

Girl Commits

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Station.
"It was her family members responsibility to ensure her security after the untoward incident," he added.

Her alleged stalker, Kawar Ahmed Roni, 19, however, was caught red handed from near her school at Molamgari Bazar. Later Abdul Barik, the headmaster of the school, reported the incident to Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mostaque Ahmed.

After talking with the girl and some witnesses, the UNO picked up the boy to his office.

A mobile court led by the UNO and also the executive magistrate of the court, sentenced the boy to a year's imprisonment as he confessed his guilt.

"The girl admitted that the boy stalked her but she was absent at the court," added the UNO.