

# Man burns wife for money

Victim fights for life with 41 percent burns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife is fighting for her life at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after her husband allegedly set her on fire at their residence in Gaibandha Sadar upazila on Sunday.

Afroza Begum, 25, wife of Jahangir Alam, with 41 percent burn injuries was shifted to DMCH from a local hospital on Monday night.

Talking to The Daily Star, she said her husband began beating her when she asked him for money to pay an instalment of her microcredit loan.

At one stage, he poured kerosene over her body and set her on fire, she added.

The couple has a five-year-old daughter.

"He used to torture me often. I only put up with his torture considering the wellbeing of my daughter," she said in tears.

Jahangir is on the run, said Gopal Chakraborty, officer-in-charge of Gaibandha Sadar Police Station, adding that they are trying to arrest him.

# Legality of Shirin being Speaker challenged at HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of parliament's action that elected Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury as its Speaker.

Eunus Ali Akond filed the petition as public interest litigation with the High Court praying for staying the operation of the gazette notification on electing the Speaker.

Citing the petition, Eunus told The Daily Star that the Speaker of parliament should be elected from the lawmakers who are directly elected by the people as per the constitution.

But Shirin who is not an elected lawmaker, has been elected as the Speaker, which is contrary to the constitution, said the petitioner adding, she was a member of the reserved seat for women in parliament.

The petition prayed to the court to declare her (Shirin) being elected as Speaker illegal.

The Speaker (Shirin) and secretaries to Jatiya Sangsad, the cabinet and the law ministry have been made respondents to the petition.

Shirin was elected, unopposed, as the country's first female Speaker by parliament on last April 30.

She succeeds Abdul Hamid, who assumed the presidency on April 24 following the death of President Zillur Rahman.

Writ petitioner Eunus Ali told The Daily Star that he will pray to the HC to hold hearing the petition tomorrow.



Awami League-led 14-party alliance holds a rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday protesting the ongoing political violence during the shutdowns and blockades enforced by BNP-led 18-party combine.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

# ICT-1 denies Mahfuz Ullah exemption from personal appearance

Deposition of two prosecution witnesses in case against Khokon recorded; proceedings in case against Mobarak, hearing on show cause notice on Khandaker Mahbub adjourned till Jan 7, 23 respectively; cross-examination of two prosecution witnesses in case against AKM Yusuf held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-1 in a contempt of court notice hearing yesterday denied journalist Mahfuz Ullah exemption from personal appearance for finding his conduct "inappropriate" and called him over, threatening to issue an arrest warrant.

Following a September 24 petition by the prosecution in the war crimes case against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, the ICT-1 on September 26 issued the notice asking why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against seven persons.

The seven are Mahfuz, also secretary general of the Centre for Sustainable Development; Zafrullah Chowdhury, trustee of Gonoshasthaya Kendra; Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna and four Channel 24 officials.

The petition drew attention to the September 18 episode of Channel 24's talk show "Muktobaak" where Zafrullah and Mahfuz had claimed that war criminal Salauddin's rights had been violated for not being allowed to produce witnesses.

Before yesterday's date was fixed, the

hearing of the seven's replies had been deferred at different times and except for compliance with an exclusive court order to appear on December 1, Mahfuz had appeared in none.

Yesterday, Tarikul Islam, representing Mahfuz, could not give a satisfactory reply to his absence.

Pointing at Zafrullah who appeared on each scheduled date, Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim said, "Both Mr Zafrullah and Mahfuz Ullah are renowned persons in society. For you (Tarikul's client), he (Zafrullah) is suffering."

The tribunal asked Tarikul to call him over and Mahfuz duly complied at 2:00pm. The tribunal then rejected his petition where he sought exemption from personal appearance citing the country's ongoing volatile situation.

The tribunal also fixed January 28 for hearing the seven's replies after accepting a petition from Tarikul which sought a two-week adjournment to the hearing amid senior defence counsel Zainul Abedin's absence due to "personal difficulty".

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# Protests go on

SHUIJAN demands trial of 195 repatriated Pakistani military officers; DU teachers demand mounting pressure on the country through UN, OIC for apology; Gonojagoron Mancha for not allocating stalls for Pakistani products in trade fair; expatriates in New York stage protest outside Pakistani consulate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protests continued on Monday and yesterday against the December 16 Pakistan National Assembly resolution criticising war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah's execution while demands were also raised for severing diplomatic ties till Pakistan apologises.

At a human chain before the capital's Bangladesh National Museum, Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (SHUIJAN) demanded that Pakistan bring to justice the 195 Pakistani military officers who committed war crimes in 1971.

The officers were repatriated to Pakistan after being freed by the Bangladesh government under the April 1974 tripartite agreement.

"We are deeply concerned that although Pakistan promised to try those war criminals, they never did so in four decades," said SHUIJAN Secretary Prof Badiul Alam Majumdar.

"The Bangladesh government should ask Pakistan to commence the trials and ensure maximum punishment," he said, urging the international community to put pressure on Pakistan in this regard.

Badiul observed that while different individuals and organisations of Pakistan apologised to Bangladesh for the atrocities committed in 1971, their government had never done so.

"I hope our government as well as the international

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# Counterfeit notes worth Tk 5 lakh seized from Brac Bank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police seized Tk 5 lakh in counterfeit notes from the Tongi branch of Brac Bank on Monday night.

Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station, said a client of the bank informed police of the matter after he withdrew counterfeit notes from the bank.

Accordingly police informed the bank's manager, M Sabbir Hossain, who after an investigation found the matter to be true, said Ismail Hossain, adding that police found counterfeit notes amounting to Tk 5 lakh in the cash section of the bank.

When police were searching the bank, Maruf Hasan, cash and credit service officer of the bank, fled the scene, said Ismail.

Sabbir Hossain, manager of Brac Bank's Tongi branch, filed a case against Maruf Hasan.

# Man confesses to raping niece in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The man, who raped his niece in the capital's Khilgaon Monday, which led to the 10-year-old girl's death due to excessive bleeding, confessed to the crime yesterday.

Amir Hossain, 38, is a maternal uncle of the victim, Antara.

Khilgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sirajul Islam said arrested Amir told them that he pressed his hands over Antara's mouth and nostrils and then raped her in their house around 2:00am.

Antara's father Ali Hossain, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver filed a murder case with Khilgaon Police Station accusing Amir.

A Dhaka court sent the accused to jail when police produced him before it.

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Christmas is an occasion for decorations!

And a time for color and joy for all



এই বড়দিনে আনন্দোৎসবে মেতে উঠুন আপনজনদের সাথে

বড়দিন ও নতুন বছর উপলক্ষে আনান ও জেরিনের সাথে আমরাও সবাইকে জানাই অনেক অনেক শুভেচ্ছা



স্মারফন্য আমবেই

# এদের ধরিয়ে দিন



১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা পুরস্কার

ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন এলাকায় গাড়িতে অগ্নি সংযোগ ও ভাংচুর সংগঠনকালে হাতেনাতে কোন অপরাধীকে গ্রেফতারে পুলিশকে সহায়তা করলে তাকে ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা পুরস্কৃত করা হবে।

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# যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা

ডিবি কন্ট্রোলরুম : ৯৩৬২৬৪০, ০১১৯১-০০১১০০, ০১৬৭৮-০২৪৬৫২  
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