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KILLING AT RU HALL Family, friends question role of BCL men

ANWAR ALI and MA SAYEED, Rajshahi

The masterminds themselves have filed a murder case over Friday's killing of a Chhatra League leader at Rajshahi University to divert attention from the real perpetrators, said the victim's family and close friends.

Some RU unit BCL leaders were involved in the murder of Rustam Ali Akand, 22, a fourth-year student of political science, in his room at Suhrawardy Hall, said the victim's elder brother, Rowshan Ali Akand. "When attacked by fellow Chhatra League activists, Rustam called up one of his close friends. He could not talk over the phone, but his friend could hear all his yells, killers' conversations and the gunshot."

Selim Reza, an RU BCL activist and second-year student of history, shot Rustam in the presence of Abdullah Al Galib, RU BCL publicity secretary, Rowshan said quoting his brother's friend who had heard their names over the phone.

Rustam was a joint secretary of the hall unit BCL and was supposed to vie for the

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Workers dump sandbags in the Padma at Mawa in Munshiganj yesterday. Under the Padma bridge project, the army is supervising the job to prevent river bank erosion. At least 2,000 labourers are engaged in the work beginning on March 25. Right photo, a portion of the bank damaged by the Padma.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NUTRIENT-RICH CROP DEVELOPMENTS

Focus on Bangladesh's feat

REAZ AHMAD, back from Rwanda

Bangladesh's back-to-back success in breeding zinc-enriched rice varieties came under the spotlight at a global agricultural conference held in the Rwandan capital last week.

The Bangladeshi rice breeders have developed the world's first biologically fortified (biofortified) zinc-enriched rice -- BRR1 dhan62 -- in August last year and are currently at the last stage of developing another rice breed with even higher zinc content.

The BRR1 dhan62, capable of fighting diarrhoea and pneumonia-induced childhood deaths and stunting, contains 20 parts per million (ppm) zinc content as against an average 14 to 16 ppm available

in non-fortified rice varieties. Another biofortified rice variety developed by the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) is in the pipeline for release that would contain 24 ppm zinc.

More than 300 high-level stakeholders from different governments, businesses and civil societies converged on the Rwandan capital of Kigali for the Second Global Conference on Biofortification and took into cognisance the Bangladeshi breeders' efforts in developing biofortified crops.

The HarvestPlus, a Washington-based global programme to improve nutrition and public health, organised the Kigali conference from March 31 through April 2 with an aim to scale up production of biofortified crops to address

the 'hidden hunger'.

Nearly one in three people globally suffers from a lack of essential vitamins and minerals such as vitamin A, zinc and iron in the diet. This condition, known as hidden hunger, increases the risk of stunting, anaemia, blindness, infectious diseases, and even death. Women and children are especially vulnerable to this situation.

The HarvestPlus has worked with partners to develop new varieties of nutritious food crops that provide more vitamin A, zinc, or iron. These crops, already being grown by around 1.5 million farmers, have been conventionally bred. They include cassava, maize and orange sweet potato for vitamin A; beans and pearl millet for

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Left photo, the world's first biologically fortified (biofortified) zinc-enriched rice BRR1 dhan62. Developed by Bangladeshi scientists, it will go to farmers in large scale from coming Aman season. Right photo, biofortified beans, first released in Rwanda in 2010. Half of 1.2 million Rwandese farm families now grow this bean which is rich in iron content.

PHOTO: BIRRI, REAZ AHMAD

Azhar, Pak army abducted college teacher in '71

Victim's sister testifies at war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday said she saw war crimes accused ATM Azharul Islam with the Pakistani army while they were picking up her brother Chitta Ranjan Roy, Professor of Rangpur Carmichael College, in a car on the night of April 30, 1971.

Professor Kalachand Babu and his wife Monjushree, Professor Sunil Chandra Baran and Professor Ram Krishna Adhikary of the same college were also picked up that night, said ninth prosecution witness Shova Kar at the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

All of them were later killed.

"My brother and other teachers were intellectuals and had been killed in a planned way. I want justice," she said.

Shova, 62, was a student of class XII of Carmichael College in 1971 and Azharul was her classmate.

The witness said she used to live with her brother Chitta, a professor of mathematics, on the college campus.

Around 11:00pm of the fateful night, the Pak army came to their house, she told the tribunal. "The Pakistani army

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Unfreeze Khaleda's accounts

BNP asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday demanded that the government unfreeze all eight bank accounts of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, saying those were frozen "illegally" during the last caretaker government's tenure.

Nazrul Islam Khan, member of BNP standing committee, made the demand at a press conference at party's Nayapalton office in the capital.

The eight bank accounts that Khaleda maintains for her family and party purposes were frozen following the 1/11 changeover in 2007, he said.

"Transactions are done mainly through two of her [Khaleda] bank accounts.

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Shouting at kids counter productive

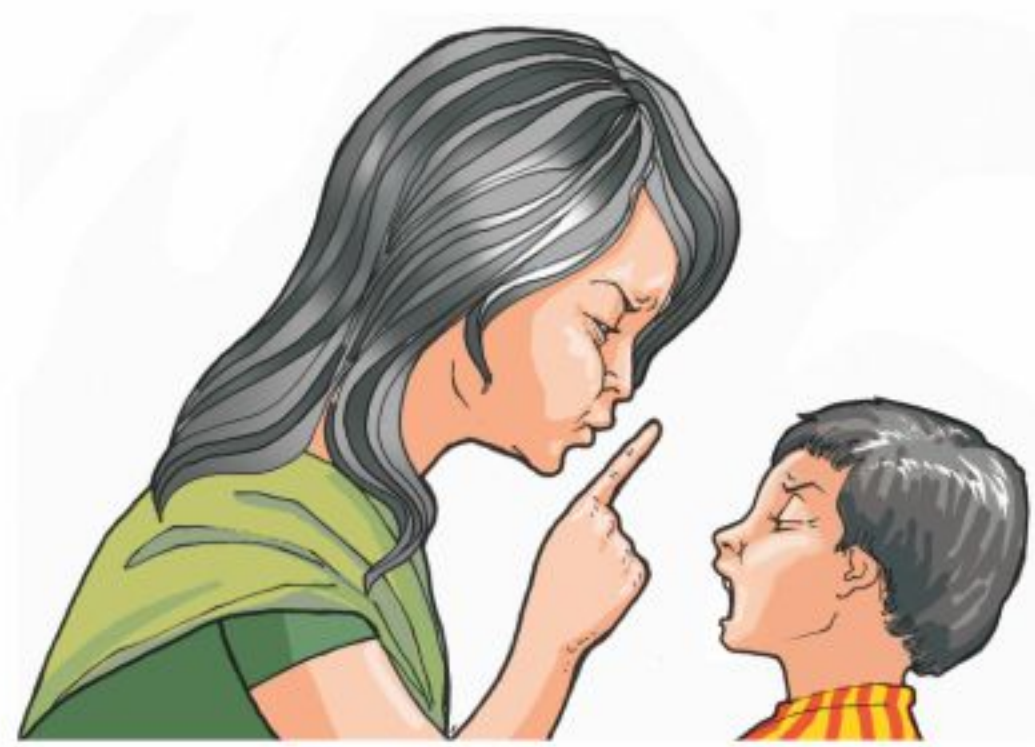
THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

Mothers who angrily tell off their children when they step out of line may be making behaviour problems worse, according to research.

A study by the London School of Economics found that excessive shouting and meting out hard-line punishments was counterproductive.

Ignoring naughty children also appeared to

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The Daily Star
 Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
 Do you think the authorities will be able to probe killings at Bangladesh Agricultural University and Rajshahi University without any influence?
 Yes (07%)
 No (93%)
 TOTAL VOTES: 250
TODAY'S POLL
 Do you agree with Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran that his country's policy towards Bangladesh would remain unchanged in case of changes in Indian government?
 PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING April 9

Azan	4-40	5-15
Fajr	12-45	1-15
Zohr	4-45	5-00
Asr	6-21	6-24
Maghrib	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

14 killed as Pak train bombed

50 injured

REUTERS, Quetta

Fourteen passengers were killed and about 50 wounded yesterday when militants bombed a train in Pakistan's Baluchistan province, hospital sources and officials said.

The blast came a day after Pakistani security forces said they had killed 30 separatist militants in one of the biggest clashes in months in the gas-rich province.

The separatist United Baluch Army claimed responsibility, saying in a text message to Reuters the bombing was retaliation for the raids by security forces.

The bomb went off on the Rawalpindi-bound Jaffar Express in a carriage reserved for men, in the town of Sibi, 120 km (75 miles) southeast of the provincial capital of Quetta.

"Fire engulfed the (carriage) following the blast causing most of the deaths," said a rescue worker. Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique confirmed the death toll.

The low-level separatist insurgency in Baluchistan is one of the chronic security problems undermining stability in nuclear-armed Pakistan.

The separatists accuse the government of stripping the province's natural resources and leaving its people mired in poverty. They say government-backed death squads routinely abduct, torture and execute ethnic Baluch, accusations echoed by human rights campaigners.

The security forces deny violating human rights.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

আমরা শোকাহত

আলহাজ্ব আফজাল হোসেন

ফারইষ্ট ইসলামী লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানীর উদ্যোক্তা পরিচালক বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি ও সমাজসেবক **আলহাজ্ব আফজাল হোসেন** গত ০২/০৪/২০১৪ ইং বুধবার ভোর ৪ ঘটিকায় রাজধানীর ইউনাইটেড হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেছেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তার বয়স হয়েছিল ৬২ বছর। তিনি স্ত্রী, চার ছেলে, এক মেয়ে ও নাতি-নাতনীসহ অসংখ্য শতানুধ্যায়ী রেখে গেছেন। তাঁকে রাজবাড়ী জেলার কালুখালী থানার বোয়ালীয়া গ্রামে পারিবারিক কবরস্থানে দাফন করা হয়েছে। তাঁর মৃত্যুতে আমরা কোম্পানীর পরিচালকমণ্ডলী ও কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীসহ ফারইষ্ট পরিবারের সকলে মরহুমের শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর শোক প্রকাশ ও সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন এবং মরহুমের রুহের মাগফিরাত কামনা করছি।

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