

'ROBBERY' AT A CTG HOUSE

Mother, daughter brutally killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman and her nine-year-old daughter were found murdered at their rented house in Sadarghat of Chittagong city yesterday morning.

The deceased were Nasima Akther, 40, a housewife, and Ria Akther, a class-four student at East Madarbari Girls School.

Nasima's husband Shah Alam, a butcher, claimed that robbers slit the victims' throats as they had recognised the criminals.

Apart from the three, Nasima's two school-going sons, Riad Hossain and Hridoy Hossain, her brother Alal Hossain and father-in-law Rashid Mia used to live on the third-floor of a six-storey building in Nalapara area.

Of them, only the victims were at the house during the incident, said neighbours.

Jamila Begum, their maid, was the first person to discover the bodies.

"Like every day, I came to this house around 10:00am but saw that the main door was slightly open. Later, I found the bodies lying in a pool of blood," she told this correspondent.

She rushed to Alam's shop, which is in the same area, and informed him about the matter.

Police went to the house around 10:30am and sent the bodies to

Chittagong Medical College morgue for autopsies.

Alam claimed that around five tolas of gold and Tk 1.3 were missing from their almira. Its door was open.

"The robbers killed my wife and daughter perhaps because they had recognised their faces," he said.

But, he could not name any suspect. "I had talked to my wife around 9:00am for the last time. She had told me to take the boys to school. I had no idea that the hell would break loose this way," Alam said and burst into tears.

Mobasher Hossain Mia, owner of the house, said several unknown people used to visit the house frequently.

"Whenever I asked, they said the people were either Alam's friends or workers at his shop," he said.

He suspected that any of those "visitors" had killed the two.

Police said they would comment on the motive behind the murders only after investigation.

"Our separate teams are working," said Assistant Commissioner Abdur Rouf of Kotwali Circle of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

CID Inspector Mitusree Barua said they had found a knife, believed to be the murder weapon, from the house.

A case was filed with Sadarghat Police Station.



Relatives mourn for Nasima Akther, 40, and her daughter Ria Akther, inset, who were found murdered at their rented house in Sadarghat of Chittagong city yesterday morning.

PHOTO: STAR

MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT

Malaysian firm under fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A technical committee consisting of the senior officials of the government yesterday again expressed frustrations over the Malaysian outsourcing company IRIS Corporation Berhad's dismal performance in enrolling the Bangladeshi migrants in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Malaysia to provide them machine readable passports (MRPs).

The government officials expressed their disappointment at a meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) with Principal Secretary to the PMO Abul Kalam Azad in the chair.

Although the IRIS has repeatedly failed to improve its performance, the government is yet to take any action against it.

At the meeting, the principal secretary asked the IRIS to come up with a complete plan to speed up its jobs in the three countries within the next seven days.

On April 9, the government gave the IRIS a one-month ultimatum to accelerate its performance of enrolling the migrants with a target of 9,000 in Saudi Arabia, 5,000 each in the UAE and Malaysia on a daily basis. But it failed to fulfil its minimum target.

At yesterday's meeting, Director

General of Department of Immigration and Passport NM Zeaul Alam placed a report, saying that only 4.6 percent of the target had been achieved so far in delivering MRPs to expatriates.

The government has been repeatedly asking the company to expedite its activities in Malaysia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia so that all the 45 lakh expatriates in those countries, carrying handwritten passports, can be given MRPs before an international deadline expires on November 24.

In the three countries, only 11 lakh expatriates were given MRPs among which IRIS delivered only a few thousands.

"I heard that IRIS doesn't listen to the government officers, which is very sad," said the principal secretary.

Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said, "I am seeing this situation for a long time. The company can't do anything." The company even lacks manpower to do the job, he added.

He said his ministry was purchasing equipment and engaging manpower to strengthen the capacity of its missions in different countries to issue more MRPs.

No IRIS official attended yesterday's meeting. Only a representative of the IRIS was present.

Dream comes true

FROM PAGE 1
identity crisis.

"We have no basic rights. We are living like animals in a cage," said Abu Bakar Siddique, 60, an inhabitant of Indian enclave, officially known as Enclave-27 but locally called "Chhoto Kanki", in Nilphamari.

However, Abu Bakar finally sees a ray of hope as the India's parliament yesterday passed the landmark constitution amendment bill to ratify the long-pending Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) with Bangladesh.

"We've heard that our long-cherished dreams will be fulfilled soon. We cannot explain how happy we are ... We will no more be known as stateless people ... We will have our own identities," he said.

There are 111 Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh -- 12 in Kurigram district, 59 in Lalmonirhat, four in Nilphamari and 36 in Panchagarh.

Visiting several enclaves in the four districts yesterday, The Daily Star correspondents found the enclave people were over the moon after hearing the news of passage of the LBA bill. In many of the enclaves, people brought out processions to celebrate the occasion.

With hopes for a speedy implementation of the deal, they believe they will soon be able to enjoy the basic amenities as citizens of Bangladesh.

"Now we hope to get the nationality very soon. We will be able to send our children to schools and colleges without hiding our real location and information," said Nur Hossain, 60, a resident of Garati enclave in Panchagarh.

Even educated people of the enclaves are left jobless since they do not have a national identity, he said. "Our daughters often suffer torture after marriage. But they cannot do anything as there's no marriage registration system for us."

Nur's neighbour Mariyam Begum was happy for a different reason. "Now we will get health service from the hospitals," she said after describing how they often would be denied medical services at local hospitals for not having a nationality.

Pregnant Kalpana Akhter of Dashierchhara enclave in Kurigram's Phulbari said, "I was not allowed in the hospital whenever I said that I live in an Indian enclave ... Now, I hopefully will get healthcare facilities."

Children in particular were very happy.

"I had to fake my identity to get admitted to the school. Now my father said we won't need to do so anymore," said Ayesha Siddiqi, a class-IX student of Gangarhat Girls' High School in Phulbari.

Milon Miah, a seventh grader of Gangarhat High School in Phulbari, said: "Now we can play and move

around freely."

Sixty-year-old Hasan Ali of Kuchlibari enclave in Lalmonirhat described this as a "new freedom", and said: "We hope that we will enjoy the taste of our freedom."

The enclave people now demand that the Bangladesh government immediately solve their problems.

Golam Mostafa, general secretary of the Bangladesh chapter of India-Bangladesh Enclave Exchanging Coordination Committee (IBEECC), said the enclave people are in immediate need of transportation, education, health and electricity facilities.

"We hope the government would meet our demands without delay," said an exalting Mostafa.

However, not everyone was as happy as him.

"We were happy in 1974 when Bangabandhu and Indira Gandhi had signed an enclave exchange agreement, but it was not implemented," Altab Uddin, IBEECC secretary told our correspondent.

"However, we sincerely believe that we won't be disappointed this time around," said Altab, also the president of Balapara enclave management committee in Nilphamari.

[Our district correspondents EAM Asaduzzaman, Quamrul Islam Rubaiyat, Abdul Wahed and S Dilip Roy contributed to the story.]

ILLEGAL WEALTH

Mannan, wife, AL lawmaker Bodi charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday pressed charges against former state minister Abdul Mannan Khan, his wife Syeda Hasina Sultana and Awami League lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi in corruption cases.

Three investigators of the ACC submitted three separate charge sheets against the trio to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The commission filed the case against Mannan with Ramna Police Station on August 21 last year on charges of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information about it.

The case statement said Mannan, ex-state minister for housing and public works, concealed information of his property worth Tk 4.59 lakh, and he could not produce documents in favour of his income of Tk 75 lakh.

According to his income tax returns and other related documents, Mannan has movable properties worth Tk 96.89 lakh. But his wealth statement submitted to the ACC on March 9 last year stated that he owned movable properties worth Tk 92.30 lakh.

The same day, the anti-graft body also lodged another case with the same police station against Bodi for hiding wealth information and discrepancies in his wealth statements and income tax returns.

The property value of Bodi rose to Tk 2.88 crore from Tk 47.78 lakh in the last five years, according to his wealth statements submitted to the EC before the 2008 and the January 5, 2014 elections.

Five years back, his yearly income was only Tk 2 lakh, which increased to Tk 15 crore last year.

On October 21 last year, the ACC filed a case against Mannan's wife Sultana with the same police station for illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 3.45 crore and concealing information about property worth Tk 1.86 crore.

The three accused later obtained bail from different courts on different dates.

Muggers shoot varsity teacher, loot Tk 8 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In broad daylight, muggers shot a teacher of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University and took away Tk 7.80 lakh from him in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday.

The victim, Prof Parimal Kanti Biswas of Agronomy department, is being treated at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

Three muggers on a motorcycle stopped Parimal on Mirpur road near Dhaka Residential Model College around 11:30am and snatched a bag containing the money after shooting him in his left thigh, said Jane Alam Munshi, inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station.

Parimal had withdrawn the money from the post office in Mohammadpur and was going to Sonali Bank's College Gate branch by rickshaw to deposit it in the bank, said Azizul Haque, officer-in-charge of the police station.

'Stalker' stabs a girl to death

Locals hand the suspect over to the police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged stalker hacked a girl to death in Narsingdi's Belabo upazila yesterday after he saw the girl talking to another boy.

The dead, Dipa Akter, was the daughter of Syed Shamsuddin Tarun in Baznabo Syed Para village.

Dipa was a university admission seeker.

Alamin, 28, the alleged stalker, stabbed Dipa in her head with a sharp weapon at Baznabo Syed Para around 4:45pm when she was walking with her female friend.

She died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night.

"Dipa was staying with one of our relatives in Tangail and taking preparation for this year's admission test in Dhaka University."

"She came home last week as her coaching centre was closed for summer vacation," Ashraful Islam Himel, a relative of the victim, told The Daily Star last night.

Badrul Alam Khan, officer-in-charge of Belabo Police Station, told this correspondent that locals caught Alamin from the spot and handed him over to the police right after the incident.

"Alamin is a day-labourer. He and the victim are neighbours. He admitted that he had been trying to develop an affair with Dipa for the last couple of years," he added.

Alamin was following Dipa. He hacked her yesterday when he saw Dipa talking to another boy, the police official mentioned.



Nazrul Islam, Gram Panchayet chief of Indian enclave Dashierchhara in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram, stands in front of his office with Indian flag hoisted. After the LBA agreement is implemented, the enclave will be part of Bangladesh territory.

PHOTO: STAR