

Woman killed at home in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Unidentified persons stabbed a woman to death in her residence in the capital's Nikunja area yesterday.

Lima Akhter, 40, was found lying in a pool of blood around 5:00pm by his husband Rakibul Islam, a lawyer of the Supreme Court, Khilkhet police said, adding that there were cuts in the head.

They were the only residents living on the ground floor of their four-storey building which has no security guard. Rakibul had to climb over the boundary wall to enter as he found the collapsible gate locked. Police recovered a knife and an iron rod from the spot.

Rakibul said he married Lima, who had been a schoolteacher in Khulna, four months ago. He has been getting death threats from unknown persons over the phone for several days, and his passport has been missing since the incident, he added. No case was filed till filing of this report at

BB to rationalise foreign currency regulations

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bank will take an initiative to rationalise the foreign currency rules, aiming to facilitate foreign investment, particularly in the 22 proposed economic zones.

The central bank took the decision after a meeting of its officials with those of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA). They also decided to simplify the procedures of trading and exchange of foreign currency to facilitate foreign investment.

The meeting, chaired by Bangladesh Bank Executive Director Ahsan Ullah, was attended by BEZA Secretary Abdus Samad and other officials of the two organisations.

22 drug addicts flee from rehab centre in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Twenty-two out of 30 patients of Holy Care Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts in Barisal city yesterday escaped from the centre, injuring three of its staff.

According to one of the injured, Sabuj Chandra Ojha, the 22 patients suddenly attacked the staff when they were serving breakfast in the kitchen on the ground floor of the building and they fled away by breaking the window grilles.

However, five of the 22 returned at noon, said the director, Mustafizur Rahman Sumon.

There are four rooms which can hardly accommodate 20 persons, said police, adding that the accommodation problem and scorching heat might have prompted them to flee.

One of the returnees, Kazal Hawlader, said Manik and Kabir forced him to escape with them but he returned after realising that leaving treatment halfway would be a complete waste of money.

Two of the injured are undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Compensate Gazipur worker

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along with a rejoinder from the company and a correction saying that some information of the May 10 report was not correct. The report also said statements about birth of the baby in the toilet and disapproval of the leave were not found true.

However, following the May 10 report, the HC in the suomoto rule asked three Apex officials to explain about the incident before it on May 24.

The three Apex officials, including Managing Director Syed Nasim Manzur, appeared before the HC on Sunday and said that they had taken proper measures for Hamida's treatment. They also told the court that Hamida did not apply for any leave and the factory had earlier given her maternity benefits before she had given birth to her first child.

The court later exempted them from appearance before the court.

Meanwhile, the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Kaliakoir upazila submitted a probe report before the HC yesterday saying that Hamida did not give birth to any child. She was pregnant and she accidentally had an abortion.

Based on the clarification from the daily and the probe report, the HC passed the order.

Unregistered

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registered auto-rickshaws is 13,000, said CNG-run Auto-rickshaw Malik Chalak Oikya Parishad's district and city unit President Haider Azam Chowdhury.

The Daily Star ran a story on unregistered CNG-run auto-rickshaws on March 23 in 2015.



From left, Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, Justice Iman Ali, Advocate Sigma Huda, and Advocate Fawzia Karim Firoze at the launch of a book, "Landmark Judgments on Violence against Women of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan", published by MJF in the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CJ Sinha calls for ending abuse of women in justice system

Seeks help from rights activists; launches MJF's book titled *Landmark Judgments on Violence against Women of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Young women awaiting trials are being sexually assaulted at a shelter home in Gazipur, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha said yesterday.

He said that visiting the centre he found out a number of women were not produced before the court.

"They have been confined there year after year and sexually assaulted," he said, adding that he informed the chairman of the National Human Rights Commission about the matter but nothing had happened so far.

The chief justice urged women's rights leaders and activists to help these women, at the launch of a book, "Landmark Judgments on Violence against Women of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan", published by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

At the event in the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium, the chief justice also asked activists to help women wrongly convicted

and serving terms at Sylhet Central Jail and women who were trafficked to India, Thailand and Malaysia.

He urged lawyers to help at least one poor woman, who cannot afford legal support, every six months, as part of their civic responsibility.

Talking about the link between education and women's vulnerability and repression, Justice Iman Ali talked about the prevention of child marriage.

Mentioning that people come up with different tricks to bypass the law that restricts the minimum marriageable age for females at 18, he said, "They produce affidavits increasing the age and the government is now thinking to decrease the minimum age from 18 to 16. This will be like hacking one's own foot with an axe," he said.

Citing a rape case of a 13 year-old girl where the accused was acquitted for a lack of evidence, he stressed the need for sensitisation of judges.

"Sensitisation does not happen overnight but it has to be done," he said.

Chairing the programme, Executive Director of MJF Shaheen Anam said the book would help to strengthen people's trust in the legal system about getting justice.

"A judge's attitude and perception play an important role in deciding whether the victim women would get justice or not," she said.

Supreme Court lawyer Fawzia Karim Firoze, who conducted the study for the book, presented a summary of the 633-page book with about 50 judgments on rape, marriage, murder and special nature cases, which upheld the honour and dignity of women.

The book is the second volume on such judgments from 2006 to 2011. The first volume was published on similar judgments from 1972 to 2005.

Barrister Amir-Ul Islam said such a book should also be taught at educational institutions so that it helped change values.

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, SC lawyer Sigma Huda and



Jouno Nipironbirodi Nirdolio Chhatra Jote brings out a torch procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding arrest of those who gang raped a 21-year-old Garo woman inside a moving microbus in Kuril area on Thursday night.

PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH

New Dhaka mayors move into action

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four wards, said a press release.

Annisul also ordered necessary renovation of President Shahabuddin Ahmed Park in Gulshan and effective measures to evict illegal structures from the car parking areas and footpath adjoining Banani Supermarket.

Annis sought help of the ministry concerned to provide them land to set up secondary transfer stations to manage the waste properly.

He said they did not have land to set up the transfer stations.

"There are many lands of different organisations remaining idle for years. We want two to three kathas from those for two years so that we can fulfill our electoral pledges," he said.

About the drainage system, Annis said the storm water drainage system was not in a good state in Gulshan and sought help from Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to make the drainage system more effective.

In Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), a nine-member committee headed by Joint Commissioner (traffic) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Mohammad Moslehuddin Ahmed was formed to reduce traffic congestion from Shahbagh to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The decision came at a meeting with DMP, chaired by DSCC Mayor Sayeed

Khokon, at Nagar Bhaban yesterday, said a release.

The committee will submit its report within 15 days, identifying the key reasons of the traffic congestion after conducting a field survey.

'NO EVICTION, PLEASE'

Jatiya Hawkers Federation yesterday urged the authorities concerned not to evict the street hawkers without rehabilitating them first.

The authorities should uphold the rights of hawkers and let them use a part of the footpath, its leaders told a rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The federation submitted a memorandum to DSCC with its demands following the rally.

Asked whether footpaths should be given exclusively to pedestrians, President of the organisation Arif Chowdhury said hawkers should get only a part of the footpath.

Addressing the rally, he said, "Hawkers should be given identity cards by the city corporations. The corporations can also generate revenue from hawkers in return."

He also claimed that there was a law and policy on hawkers' rehabilitation in India.

"Enacting a similar law in Bangladesh can save hawkers from harassment. Professional hawkers would work within a system," he said.

He is liable

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continuing placing arguments today.

Earlier in the day, Mojaheed's lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain finished placing arguments, claiming innocence of his client and saying the prosecution had failed to prove all charges brought against him at the tribunal.

He said the ICT-2 sentenced Mojaheed only because he was a leader of the Al Badar and Chhatra Sangha, and the sentencing was not lawful.

Khandker Mahbub also said the prosecution witnesses against Mojaheed were at the tender age, biased and evasive, and their statements were unbelievable; so the conviction and sentencing should be scrapped. ICT-2 sentenced Mojaheed to death for abducting and killing journalist Serajuddin, and merged this offence with the charge of killing intellectuals and professionals.

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NEWS IN brief

BNP leader Rafiqul gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted BNP standing committee member Rafiqul Islam anticipatory bail for four weeks in seven separate vandalism and arson cases after hearing bail petitions filed by him.

The cases were filed with Mirpur and Pallabi police during the hartals and blockade enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance after January 5.

Rafiqul, who had not been seen in public for a few months, appeared before the court yesterday.

Deputy Attorney General Fazlur Rahman Khan told The Daily Star that they would appeal to the Supreme Court against the HC orders.

CU teachers wear black badges protesting proposed payscale

CU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday wore black badges protesting the new proposed payscale terming it "discriminatory" and "disrespectful" to university teachers.

The teachers also urged the education minister to play an active role in meeting their demand, said a press release of Chittagong University Teachers Association (Cuta).

The teachers demanded a separate payscale for university teachers and for senior professors to get the same pay as that of senior secretaries.

They will wear black badges today as well, said the release.

GTCB, BEI sign deal to help govt's social development programmes

CITY DESK

Grant Thornton Consulting Bangladesh (GTCB) and Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) have signed an agreement to support the social development programmes of the country's government.

BEI President Farooq Sobhan and GTCB Managing Director Dewan Nurul Islam signed the deal, says a press release.

GTCB, a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd, focuses on a range of advisory services including social policy, human resource management and governance.

BEI is a non-profit, non-political research centre and focuses on different issues like foreign policy and security, corporate social responsibility, migration and development, and media liberalisation. Nigel Ruddock, global leader, Grant Thornton advisory services, expressed satisfaction with the initiatives taken by GTCB.

Man kills cousin over land dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed allegedly by his cousin following a land dispute in the capital's Sutrapur early yesterday.

The deceased Sheikh Monir Hossain Shaheed, 41, of the area with several stab injuries was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 2:00am where doctors declared him dead.

The alleged killer Wahid Hossain Baddu, also Monir's step sister's husband, went into hiding after the murder.

Expatriate from Singapore dies in capital after train hits him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An expatriate succumbed to his injuries hours after a train hit him in the capital's Dakshin Khan yesterday as he arrived in the country from Singapore in the early hours.

Touhidur Rahman, 30, of Jhenidah, returned home without any notice to surprise his wife whom he married only two months ago, his nephew Zillur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Locals said Touhidur, who was found with a severed arm and injuries on his head and neck on the railway track, to a Uttara hospital and, later, to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

He died on the way to Square Hospital, said Zillur.

A case was filed with Dhaka Railway Police Station, said Dakshin Khan police Sub-inspector Md Shahjahan.

Road crashes kill 3, injure 3

CITY DESK

Three people were killed and three others injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday.

In Narsingdi, two unidentified people were killed and three others injured when a bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Amtola on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Shibpur upazila.

Meanwhile in Noakhali, Golam Mowla, 75, of Kashipur village was killed when a three-wheeler hit him on Chaumhani-Laxmipur road near Dofadar Bridge in Begumganj upazila.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Secretary Syed Monjurul Islam; Senait Begrebiabher, PIB country director; Nur Hossain Talukdar, director general, DGFP; and Heather McBride, deputy director Planning/Lead Analyst, Canadian High Commission, among others,

Plan International Bangladesh, DGFP discuss maternal, child health

CITY DESK