

Murdered by 'same outfit'

Suspect detectives probing blogger killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The similarities in the way Niloy and three other bloggers were killed suggest that the same militant outfit might be behind all the four murders, detectives said yesterday.

Separate groups claimed responsibility for the killings of bloggers Avijit Roy, Oyasiqur Rahman and Ananta Bijoy Das this year, but detectives suspect those groups are offshoots of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesperson Monirul Islam.

A group named Ansar Al Islam has admitted through e-mails that it killed Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy. In this case too, detectives suspect Ansar Al Islam is an offshoot of Ansarullah Bangla Team, he said at a press briefing at the DMP media centre.

Niloy, 28, was hacked to death by four suspected Islamists in his rented flat in the capital's Goran on Friday.

According to the autopsy report, he was hacked 14 times, mostly at the upper parts of his body, including neck, throat and head. Avijit, Oyasiqur and Ananta were also hacked at the upper parts of their bodies.

The gruesome killing of Niloy has drawn condemnation from all around the globe, including the United Nations, United States, United Kingdom and rights body Amnesty International.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police took the charge of SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Some of the 159 Bangladeshi trafficking victims, who were rescued by the Myanmar navy around three months ago from the Bay of Bengal, are brought back to Bangladesh yesterday.

PHOTO: MUHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT

HUMAN TRAFFICKING 159 victims return from Myanmar

STAR REPORT

A total of 159 Bangladeshi trafficking victims who were rescued by Myanmar authorities from the Bay of Bengal were brought back home from the neighbouring country yesterday.

The fortune seekers were brought back through the Bangladesh-Myanmar Friendship Bridge at Ghumund point along the border around 1:00pm following a flag meeting between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BGP) at Muangdaw immigration camp.

Cox's Bazar BGB-17 Battalion Commanding Officer Lt Col Robiul Islam led the 18-member BGB team while Sue Nayent, deputy director of Myanmar Immigration Department, led the Myanmar BGP team, reports our Cox's Bazar SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Bring back key accused from KSA

Rajon's father urges PM's directive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Over a month into the brutal killing of Rajon, his father yesterday sought the help of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to bring back key accused Kamrul Islam from Saudi Arabia. Rajon's father Azizur Rahman Alam submitted a memorandum to the PM through the deputy commissioner of Sylhet, urging the premier to intervene in the matter. SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Real test ahead

With HSC results out, students now face tough competition for higher studies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Niloy Mahmud was over the moon after getting his HSC results on Sunday. His parents were also delighted as their son achieved the highest distinction, GPA-5.

A student from science group, Niloy wants to study engineering and his first choice is Buet. But whenever he thinks of getting into the university, a sense of worry takes over.

Because to secure a spot there, he will not only have to fight against most of the 26,556 students, who got GPA-5 like him from the science group, but also many others who cherish the same dream.

The Bangladesh University of Science and Technology (Buet) can accommodate around 1,000 freshers only.

"Despite getting GPA-5, no-one is certain about the admission. A hard competition is coming up and I will have to make it," Niloy said.

The situation is the same for thousands of students who passed the HSC and equivalent examinations.

Although the number of GPA-5 scorers dropped this year, landing a spot at a public university, which remains on top of students' wish list, still remains a big concern as the spots at these institutions are small compared to the number of students who have passed.

As many as 738,872 students - 389,363 boys and 349,509 girls - have passed the HSC and equivalent exams this year. Of them, 42,894 got GPA (grade point average)-5, while more than 2 lakh others scored GPA-4 or higher.

But the number of spots at the 37 public universities is around 43,000, according to the education ministry. Of the spots in public universities, Dhaka University has nearly 5,000 and Jahangirnagar University about 1,350. The public and private medical and dental colleges offer around 10,000 spots.

Sources in the ministry said unlike previous years, the public universities might see a fewer GPA-5 achievers getting in, as their number fell by 28,000 this year. SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Khaleda goes to London this week

RASHIDUL HASAN

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will be reunited with her family members when she visits London this week.

"The chairperson is going to the UK for medical treatment.... The date of her departure depends on a doctor's appointment in London," BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon told a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office yesterday.

Party insiders said Khaleda during the weeklong trip will discuss with her elder son Tarique Rahman some crucial issues, including reorganisation of the BNP, its failure in anti-government movement and the next course of action.

She might address a few meetings of Bangladesh expatriates in London. Besides, Tarique and some top BNP leaders are trying to arrange meetings between Khaleda and some leaders of the ruling Conservative and opposition Labour parties.

Some BNP leaders loyal to Tarique have already reached London to work on Khaleda's ensuing trip. SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Napoleon's hair sold in auction

MAIL ONLINE

A house clearer who found a lock of Napoleon Bonaparte's hair in a gold locket at a terraced house in Surrey is celebrating after it sold for £9,000.

The snip of greying hair was taken from the French emperor during his exile on the South Atlantic island of St Helena following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

The locket was unearthed by the unnamed house clearer who had been called in to remove the contents of a terraced house before it was to be demolished following the death of its owner.

An inscription on the back of the case reads: "Hair of Napoleon 1st St Helena 1816."

And a handwritten note inside states: SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



ENCLAVE SWAP Residents must relocate to India Nov 1-30

STAR REPORT

Residents of the erstwhile enclaves seeking to relocate to India will have to do so between November 1 and 30.

The decision came at a meeting of the Bangladesh-India joint working committee on the implementation of enclave exchange in Mekhliganj, Cooch Behar yesterday, said meeting sources.

The committee will sit soon to find out through which border check post those aspirant Indian citizens would cross the border.

During a survey conducted last month on the erstwhile 162 enclaves, a total of 979 dwellers said they wanted to go to India, according to officials.

Yesterday's meeting also discussed applications of 19 people out of the 979 who now aspire to stay in Bangladesh and also 51 new applications of as many SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Vehicles ply a dusty road under the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover near the capital's Jatrabari intersection. Locals as well as commuters suffer as Dhaka North City Corporation authorities fail to properly maintain the road. Inset, a man covers his nose with a handkerchief to protect against dust. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSIAN



Verdict today in Bagerhat war crimes case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 is set to deliver verdict today in a case against two Bagerhat "Razakars" in connection with genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

Sheikh Sirajul Haque alias Siraj Master, 73, and Khan Akram Hossain, 62, face seven charges for their alleged involvement in war crimes committed in the southern district.

After hearing the closing arguments from the defence and the prosecution, the tribunal on June 23 kept the case waiting for verdict and on August 5 fixed the date for delivering the judgement.

The case was filed against three accused, but Abdul Latif Talukdar, 68, one of the three, died on July 28 and the tribunal on August 5 excluded him from the case.

Of the seven charges, four have been brought SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Turkey hit by series attacks

US consulate, police station targeted; 6 security personnel killed

AGENCIES

Assailants have opened fire at the US consulate building and carried a bomb attack on a police station in Istanbul, as two different attacks killed six security personnel in south-eastern Turkey, according to local media reports.

Turkish media said no consulate staff members were hurt in the attack in the Sariyer district, while at least 10 people, including seven police officers, were wounded in the blast at the police station in the Sultanbeyli district.

Both attacks occurred yesterday morning, reports Aljazeera. The far-leftist Revolutionary People's Liberation Army-Front (DHKP/C) claimed responsibility for the attack on the US consulate.

One of the assailants of the attack at the consulate, a female who was wounded during the shoot-out with police, was later captured in an apartment nearby, media said, adding that police was searching for a second suspect, who was reportedly male.

Meanwhile, two suspected police station attackers and a police officer were killed in an exchange of fire at another point of the city later in the morning.

A vehicle laden with explosives was used in the attack that targeted the police station at approximately 1am, police said, adding that a fire following the blast collapsed part of the three-storey building.

In a separate incident, five police officers died in their vehicle in a mine blast in the southeastern province of Sirmak, Turkish media reports said. SEE PAGE 10 COL 5