

BADDA TRIPLE MURDER Mastermind AL leader held in capital

Main target was Gama,
other two became
bystanding victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mastermind behind Badda's triple murder case who planned the gun attack to kill Mahbubur Rahman Gama, a Swecchhasebok League Dhaka city's (north) leader, for taking control over the jhut (garment industry waste fabric) business in the neighbourhood, has been arrested, said detectives.

After getting charge of the case on Sunday, DB police on that night arrested the mastermind, Faruq Milon, leader of Awami League's Badda unit, and one of his cohorts Noor Mohammad, a Chhatra League activist, said Monirul Islam, joint police commissioner of the Detective Branch of Police, at a press conference yesterday. Gama was the target as he used to control the business in the area, said Monirul, but he could not confirm Faruq's post.

Eight assailants including Noor, on directives of Faruq with three firearms launched the attack in the capital's Adarsha Nagar Water Pump area where AL supporters and leaders were discussing a programme of National Mourning Day. Two other deceased, including an AL leader, were the victims of the indiscriminate firing, he added.

In a primary probe, police found no political motive but the feud over control of the business emerged as the main reason, Monirul said, adding that they are also investigating other possible motives like leasing of the cattle market or family feud, and checking whether there were more masterminds. DB police have identified all the other killers as well, he added.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Defying the instructions on a notice board of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, buses continue to stop near the Saarc Fountain intersection in Karwanbazar and pick passengers. The practice is going on although DMP says violators will be penalised. The photo was taken on Saturday.

CABINET APPROVES DRAFT MONEY LAUNDERING ACT

ACC to investigate only corruption, bribery now

Bangladesh Bank's intelligence unit to become more powerful

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday gave the final approval to the draft of the Money Laundering Prevention (Amendment) Act-2015, which limits the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) authority to investigate only corruption and bribery related cases.

As per the proposed law, other agencies like police, the customs department, and the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) have got the direct authority to deal with all other offences including cheating, forgery, illegal arms trade, drugs trade, and

abduction.

There are a total of 28 offences stipulated in the Money Laundering Prevention Act-2012, and it had given the commission the full authority to investigate all offences under the law. Even no court could take cognisance of any offence under this act, without ACC's approval.

ACC will now investigate only corruption and bribery related cases, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters after the cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat.

The proposed law has provisions

that joint teams of police, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and DNC will investigate money laundering offences in complex situations or when more than one of such crimes are involved.

Besides, it was proposed to strengthen the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) as it will have the operational autonomy or functional independence under the Bangladesh Bank.

Its head will be appointed through a government search committee and have the status of a deputy governor.

The governor will appoint skilled

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Denied bribe, RHD engineers holding back dues

Alleges road construction firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A road construction firm yesterday alleged that the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Patuakhali had been declining to pay the company its dues of Tk 3.5 crore as the company did not give bribes to RHD's two engineers.

At a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club, Omar Faruque, managing director of The Rupsha Engineers Ltd, said their chief engineer Aminur Rahman Laskar and co-engineer Arifur Rahman had demanded Tk 50 lakh in bribes for signing the bill.

"But our former managing director Mohammad Ali declined to give the bribe," he claimed.

Omar said the engineers blocked the payment after forming a technical committee to inspect the road, which was repaired by Rupsha Engineers.

The engineers also allegedly changed the original design of the road and mentioned some "unspecified" mistakes in the work, he added.

But Arifur Rahman, now additional chief engineer in Chittagong zone, denied his involvement in any work with the firm and cited two probe reports of the government that raised allegations of "very low quality" work and "corruption" against the company.

The other engineer, Aminur Rahman Laskar, was not available for comment.

Patuakhali's RHD issued the work order to Rupsha Engineers and Khan Engineers for renovation of 21.5km of the road from Kalapara to Kuakata for Tk 53.96 crore,

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Returnee domestic workers from KSA speak of torture

BMET director general takes allegations lightly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven female migrants returned in the last two weeks while another 24 are seeking government assistance to be repatriated after quitting jobs as domestic helps in Saudi Arabia alleging they fell ill after facing abuse and excessive workload.

However, Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) Director General Begum Shamsun Nahar, without elaborating, said "five or seven" migrants returned for "illnesses" and that "one or two" might have faced beatings "common in Bangladesh".

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, she said over 3,000 females went to the Middle Eastern country following the agreement the two countries signed last February for 12 types of workers.

The seven, who had gone between June and July, said they themselves bore the

return costs, which was supposed to have been provided either by the Saudi employer or recruiting agency as per the agreement.

Some of the returnees told The Daily Star yesterday that after quitting, they took shelter in a camp of the Saudi recruiting company, Maharan, in Riyadh where the 24 have taken refuge.

The 24 alleged they were not provided proper meals regularly and could not cope with the excessive workload, Mizanur Rahman, first secretary (labour) at the Bangladesh embassy, said over the phone yesterday.

"So they quit and want to come back," he said, adding that they would soon be shifted to the embassy's shelter home and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has been informed.

One returnee, Dewan Nargis of Khulna,

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Scores of scaly-breasted munias, known as Tila Munia in Bangla, have found a sanctuary on a jackfruit tree in Patuakhali sadar upazila. Amid continuous destruction of forests and green patches, birds are being forced to migrate looking for habitats and, therefore, are rarely sighted in localities other than in the wild. The photo was taken on Sunday night.

PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH

University student gang raped in Savar

Four arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A female student of a private university was gang-raped at Nishchintopur in Ashulia Saturday night.

Police arrested four people in this connection yesterday.

Quoting the victim, Dipok Chandra Shaha, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Ashulia Police Station, said the 22-year-old victim hailing from Mirpur went to Ashulia with one of her friends.

When she was returning home on Saturday evening, her friend and three of his associates forcibly took her to a house, said Shaha.

"They raped her throughout the night and took away two of her mobile phones and Tk 25,000 in cash," said the OC.

The victim filed the case on Sunday.

Shaha said police in separate drives arrested the four, including the friend, and recovered the two mobile phones and Tk 15,000. The victim is under treatment at One Stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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ONE MONTH INTO NEWBORN THEFT AT CMCH Police yet to trace whereabouts

Family wants DB to investigate

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Over a month has passed since a newborn was stolen from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), but police are yet to trace its whereabouts.

Meanwhile, parents of the baby demanded that the investigation be taken over by the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police as they were not "happy" with the investigation conducted by Panchlaish Police Station.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Shafiqul Alam, father of the baby, expressed his frustration over the investigation's "slow progress".

Contacted, Mohiuddin Mahmud,

The 14-day-old baby boy was stolen within the few minutes his mother and grandmother left him alone in the hospital bed to look for his three-year-old brother on July 15.

Shaiful, driver of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, said he filed a case with Panchlaish Police Station and went there many times, but he has been disheartened by the officials' attitudes toward the incident.

"They say the investigation is going on but how long will we have to wait? When will they find out where my baby is?" asked Shaiful.

He added that he wants DB to take over the investigation.

officer-in-charge of Panchlaish Police Station, said two persons were arrested at CMCH following the incident, but no information was gleaned from them.

The OC said they are trying to find the baby.

CMP Commissioner Abdul Jalil Mondol said the police station concerned is investigating the case and he believes that they will get a breakthrough soon.

"Guardians and the hospital authorities should be careful so that such incidents do not occur," he said, adding, "If the CMCH authorities took preventive measures, the baby would not be stolen."