

HABIGANJ 4-KID MURDER Accused killed in 'gunfight'

Rab says he was killed during arrest drive; family says he was picked up on Feb 17

MINTU DESHWARA, Habiganj

An accused in the Habiganj four-kid murder case was killed in a "gunfight" with the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the district's Chunarughat upazila early yesterday, eight days after law enforcers allegedly picked him up.



Bachchu Mia

The dead, Bachchu Mia, was a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver who had been traceless since being "detained by plainclothes officials" on February 17, according to his family members.

The family has been making this allegation since the day after his "detention".

Bachchu was one of the accused in the case filed with Bahubal Police Station in connection with the killing of the four schoolboys.

The kids, Monir Miah, 7, Zakaria Shuvo, 8, Mohammad Tajel Mia, 10, and Ismail Miah, 10, had gone missing from Sundrateki village in Bahubal upazila on February 12. Five days later, their bodies were found buried under sand at a place around a kilometre off the village.

Kazi Moniruzzaman, company commander of Rab-9, claimed that they had detained Shaheed, one of the

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The warped portion of a rail track at Bhanugach in Sreemangal of Moulvibazar after heavy rain washed away the soil underneath, below. Rail communications between Sylhet and other parts of the country were suspended for around 14 hours since 3:00am yesterday as the track was unfit for train movement. Story on page 6.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Homage paid to victims of BDR carnage

BSS, Dhaka

The nation yesterday mourned the death of 74 people, including 57 army officers, killed during the BDR carnage on February 25-26 in 2009.

Representatives of the president, the prime minister and the home minister, and chiefs of three services, senior home secretary and BGB director general paid tributes to the victims by placing wreaths at the capital's Banani graveyard for the armed forces officials.

Bangladesh Army organised the programme, said a BGB press release.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia also paid floral tributes to the victims.

An elaborate programme has been taken by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), the then Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), marking the 7th anniversary of the carnage.

A daylong programme began with recitation from the holy Quran at all the BGB mosques after Fazr

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Family voices dismay over probe pace

1 yr since Avijit murder, yet no charges pressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A year has gone by since the murder of writer-blogger Avijit Roy near Amar Ekushey Book Fair, but police are yet to press charges despite making repeated claims they have identified several people involved.



Expressing dismay at the pace of investigation, Avijit's father Ajoy Roy

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N'GANJ 7-MURDER HEARING Court riled at Tareque Sayeed's absence

Holds police officer in court custody for failure to produce the key accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Narayanganj court yesterday expressed discontent when it had to adjourn proceedings of the 2014 sensational seven-murder cases, as police failed to produce Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, a key accused.

District and Sessions Judge Enayet Hossain fixed February 29 for next hearing and ordered Ashrafuzzaman, the police officer responsible for bringing Tareque from the prison, to produce the accused at any cost on the day.

Lt Col Tareque was the commanding officer of Rab-11 in Narayanganj at the time of the crime. He and two other Rab officials were sacked after their alleged involvement in the crime surfaced.



Tareque

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Media was under pressure after 1/11, says Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star editor's recent comment revealed that the mass media was forced to publish lies and distorted and partial information during the tenure of the 2007-2008 caretaker government, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said yesterday.

"Through Mahfuz Anam's comment, it came out that pressure mounted on the mass media after the 1/11 changeover. It has now become clear how the mass media was forced to publish lies and distorted and partial information and reports on politicians and businesspeople to assassinate their characters," the minister said at a press briefing at the PID conference room.

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PABNA COURT SUMMONS STAR EDITOR -- PAGE 2

Dropout rate worrisome

40pc secondary students, mostly 8th graders, left school last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grade eight students accounted for almost half of those who dropped out at the secondary level in the country last year.

A draft of the government's latest educational statistical report presents a worrying picture as 40.29 percent of the secondary students dropped out last year with 19.11 percent of them leaving their institutions at class-VIII alone.

The report, however, shows that the number of dropouts has gradually been declining since 2008 when the rate was 61 percent.

Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis) prepared the report titled 'Bangladesh Education Statistics-2015' and held a dissemination work

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TOP QUOTE
 "Even if my son had been involved in the murders, court was there to try him. Why did he have to die without trial?"

E LAI BIBI
 MOTHER OF ONE OF THE HABIGANJ FOUR-CHILDREN MURDER SUSPECTS, KILLED IN A "GUNFIGHT" WITH RAB



This weird-looking structure is actually a residential building at Mia Khan Nagar of Chittagang city. It's hard to imagine how the building, partly made of concrete and partly of corrugated iron sheets, is still standing. Even a mild earthquake or a landslide may cause a major accident there. The photo was taken yesterday.



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