

PROF REZAUL MURDER
Militant suspect
Anindo on
3-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday placed suspected militant Anindo on a three-day remand in a case filed over the murder of Prof Rezaul Karim of the English department at Rajshahi University.

The order came when detectives produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer, said



Prof Rezaul

Inspector Rezaus Sadik of the Detective Branch of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

On July 2, Mumtasirul Alam Mehedi alias Anindo, 26, son of BNP's Rajshahi city unit Vice President Shafiqul Alam Latku and an honours final year student of English at the Kadirganj, was arrested in the city's Kadirganj.

In primary interrogation, he confessed to being associated with two fugitive militants who allegedly killed Prof Rezaul, Sadik told The Daily Star.

Earlier, police claimed that the Islamist militants were behind the murder.

Meanwhile, JMB operative Maskawat Hasan alias Sakib alias Abdullah on May 16 admitted before a Rajshahi court that four JMB operatives, including him, carried out the killing.

On April 23, Prof Rezaul was hacked to death by unidentified assailants in the city's Shalbagan area.

His son Riyasat Imtiaz Shourav filed the murder case with Boalia Police Station accusing unnamed people. Later, police arrested a total of seven people.

FACILITY



High commode Ramp for wheel chair

People using wheel chair, crutch



Normal/flat pan Handrail ramp

Amputee, unable to use stairs, hearing impaired



Normal/flat pan Two step brick stair Ropes

Visually impaired, mental/hearing impaired



High commode Two step brick stair

Physically challenged (polio affected, difficulties in feet, knee)

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

Free accessible sanitation for challenged people

Specially designed toilets helping them establish their rights

MATHEWS CHIRAN with HASAN MEER

Life has not been easy for Forman Ali. After passing SSC in 2001, he had to quit school and start driving a three-wheeler to support his family.

Amid hardship and in pursuit of betterment, life went on for him. He got married and had two children.

In 2010, misfortune struck Forman again. He had a severe accident, which broke his spinal cord. Due to financial crisis he could not continue his treatment at hospitals and took refuge of herbal medicines. Eventually Forman lost his ability to walk.

"I had to undergo lots of sufferings after the accident. I couldn't do anything without someone's help. It was hard for me to accept since I had always been self-reliant," said Forman Ali, 31, of Nagarkanda in Faridpur.

"The worst would be to use the toilet. I had to constantly rely on my wife," he said.

Though Forman was provided with a wheel chair as part of a government programme, which substantially reduced his difficulty in movement, the predicament of using a toilet remained at large, he said.

Then in 2013, he came to know about ADD (Action on Disability and Development), an NGO working for the betterment of people with disabilities in 12 districts, which constructed a bathroom with an easy access for Forman on his house premises, after learning about his condition.

"That changed a lot for me. Ability to use a latrine by myself gave me a sense of independence and helped me to change my outlook," he said, adding that now he is spending his days teaching local children at his house. "I may not get back the past, but I don't have to depend on others also."

"ADD International took the initiatives to help people with special needs. We provide four types of house usable latrines from the project fund. The land is provided from the household and they provide some labour support," said Shafikul Islam, country director of ADD International.

He said according to the Centre for Disability in

A wide scale implementation of constructing accessible toilets for physically challenged people is a must. The government should take up the issue and offer their support

Development (CDD) 10 percent (16 million) of the overall population in the country is physically challenged and access to sanitation remains one of the major problems.

When asked, if he had any trouble using the toilet, Forman said, "The water tank needs to be filled manually; if there was a pump it would have been easier."

Contacted, Shafikul said they do not have any plan to set a water pump at this time.

"Hearing the news of my son's accident I went into a coma. When I woke up I couldn't see properly. I lost my vision after a few days," said Syed Aklima of Gerda union in Faridpur.

"I had to rely on my daughter-in-law all the time. Since ADD installed a disabled-friendly latrine in my house, I can use it on my own," said a grateful Aklima.

"Problems in access to sanitation for special needs people might change if the government takes necessary steps," said the country director of ADD.

There are two types of latrines apart from the household ones that ADD constructs, he said. Commode chair ones have been designed especially for children and the community latrine is a two chambered latrine for people to use, he added.

He said social stigma, lack of sanitation, awareness and getting land for community latrines were their initial predicaments. Also

constructing in remote coastal areas was a challenge but they have overcome those, he added.

"While using the latrine I had difficulties of even folding my legs," said Shahida Begum of Rampal in Bagerhat, who was attacked by a fever as a child and could not walk properly afterwards. ADD had installed a latrine with a high commode and a two step brick works stairs at her place recently.

ADD has constructed disabled-friendly latrines in around 480 households, nine community and one school latrines, of them, one is a community-cum-school latrine situated at Mukhail Government Primary School in Bagerhat, where people from the nearby bazaar also use the facility and another is at Bashtoli Polli Unnayan Nimmo Madhamic School at Rampal, said Shafikul. The rest are located in Shoronkhola, Gagerhat Sadar, Nagarkanda and Faridpur Sadar.

Shyamoli Mitra, principal of Mukhail Government Primary School in Bagerhat, said her school has around 181 students where ADD has constructed a community latrine two years ago, which has two chambers, one for people with physical disability and the other for general people.

She also mentioned that a motor-controlled water tank would have been much better for them to use as they constantly have to fill up the tanks manually. "Also the commode was constructed with cement, which is hard to clean. It they had used tiles then we did not have to face this issue," she said, adding, "We have also mentioned this to ADD; hopefully they will do something about it."

When asked, Shafikul said, "We will take those under consideration and try to implement them for the future projects. Also, at times it is not possible for us to resolve all the issues due to manpower and financial problems."

"We just took a step to offer better sanitation for the people with disabilities. A wide scale implementation is a must. The government should take up the issue and offer their support," he said, adding, "People involved in sanitary products and supply business should also get involved and start building these types of latrines."

GAZIPUR BAR ATTACK
HC starts
hearing death
reference,
appeals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday started hearing on the death reference and appeals in a case filed over a suicide bomb attack inside the Gazipur Bar Association office in 2005 that killed nine people and injured scores of others.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice JBM Hassan began the hearing with the statements read out by Deputy Attorney General Shaikh AKM Moniruzzaman Kabir.

The bench also fixed today for resuming the hearing.

On November 29, 2005, suicide bomber Md Nazir Hossain, also known as Shariat Ullah of Gaibandha, walked into the office on the ground floor of the Hall Building-2 at the Bhawal Rajbari court and detonated the bomb strapped to his body. The bombing was apparently a part of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh's attack on the judiciary.

On June 20, 2013, a Dhaka court sentenced 10 members of JMB to death for carrying out the suicide attack.

The death reference of the case reached the HC in seven days. The convicts in the same year filed 10 separate appeals with the HC.

The convicts are Enayet Ullah alias Walid, Arifur Rahman, Moshidul Islam alias Masud, Saidur Munshi, Abdullah Al Sohaieen, Nazam Uddin Reza, Taibur Rahman alias Hassan, Ashrafur Islam, Md Shafiullah alias Tarek and Adnan Sami alias Jahangir.

All the convicts are in jail, DAG Moniruzzaman told The Daily Star.



Pedestrians ignore a foot bridge to cross the Ashulia road in Narsinghpur area of Savar yesterday, putting their lives and that of others at risk.

Thailand keen
to import goats

THAI ENVOY TELLS PM

AGENCIES

Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Panpimon Suwannapongse said the Thai investors still consider Bangladesh as a potential investment destination, and showed interest to import Black Bengal goats from Bangladesh for milk.

She said this when she paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

The premier sought more Thai investment in Bangladesh, especially in its energy sector, and proposed for government-to-government negotiations.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

The Thai envoy condemned the Gulshan killings and terrorist acts in Sholakia and said her country stands in solidarity with Bangladesh during this challenging period.

Later, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of Saudi Armed Forces Air Marshal Fayyad Bin Hamed Aal Ruwaili also met the premier, where they discussed about united effort in fighting militancy.

Meanwhile, the newly appointed Russian ambassador in Dhaka has proposed to Bangladesh for using its own currency for the mutual trade aimed at reducing dependence on the dollar, reports BSS.

Alexander Ignotov made the proposal during a courtesy call on the prime minister at her Tejgaon office. In reply, the premier assured him of looking into the proposal, PM's press secretary said. The envoy also expressed condolences for the loss of lives in Gulshan terror attack and showed interest in providing support for security measures.

BLOGGER OYASIQUR MURDER
Hearing on
charge framing
deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court could not start charge framing hearing against five members of the banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) in the blogger Oyasiquur Rahman Babu murder case, as two of the accused were not produced before it yesterday.

Judge (in charge) Shamsunnahar of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set July 20 for the next hearing.

The court directed the authorities concerned to produce all the three detained militants before it on the next scheduled date.

Court sources said Zikrullah alias Hasan and Ariful Islam alias Mushfiq were not produced before

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GRAFT CASE
Two DoE officials, UP
chairman face arrest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday issued arrest warrants against four people, including former deputy director of the Department of Environment, in a case filed for corruption, court sources said.

The four are Zillur Rahman, former deputy director of DoE in Sylhet; Faruq Ahmed, former inspector of the department in the division and currently serving in Rangpur; Nurul Haq, chairman of Mullaagan Union Parishad in Sunamganj; and one Nuruzzaman Dudu.

According to the case, Abdur Rahim, a resident of Buristhal village in Sunamganj, established a saw mill in the village with environmental clearance from the deputy director on February 10, 2010.

Then Nuruzzaman, another villager, grabbed the mill and the former deputy director renewed the licence, said the case.

Abdur Rahim filed the case with the Sylhet court on April 4. Later, following a court order, the Anti-Corruption Commission after investigating the case submitted a charge sheet.

BCL leader sues
state minister's
brother for
'assaulting her'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Bangladesh Chhatra League central leader sued a state minister's brother on Tuesday night, alleging that she was assaulted by him in Rangpur city earlier in the day.

Sumona Akter Lily, 25, assistant secretary of BCL, in her case, also alleged that Mohiul Ahmed Mohir, 50, younger brother of Jatiya Party leader and State Minister for Rural Development and Co-operatives Md Mashur Rahman Ranga, looted Tk 20,500 and a gold chain from her, said Officer-in-

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France to continue its
support in dev: Envoy

UNB, Dhaka

France has reaffirmed its commitment to accompany Bangladesh in its march towards the future by sharing their experiences, technologies and cooperating for a better understanding of the environment.

"Supporting Bangladesh in some key projects is our way to accompany Bangladesh in its march towards the future," said French Ambassador to Bangladesh Sophie Aubert in a message on the occasion of French National Day today.

She said building a country needs embracing the diversity of the national sensibilities and perceptions, as they are all what Bangladesh is.

"Our own experience taught us that freedom of expression, diversity and strong institutions are key factors for development," said the ambassador.

Aubert said Bangladesh is also committed to its march towards the future and France is supporting Bangladesh in this project.

She said they are proud to say, after World War II and only two generations, their relation with Germany is a strategic relation and a force that they have developed within the European Union. "We have shown the world that the past is one thing, but the future is ours. We will build a new European Union," she added.

Tortured at the hands
most trusted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Degree College.

Now under arrest, he admitted to police of beating her with a metal pipe on Monday. The extent of the beating was so extreme that now she lies in Rajshahi Medical College Hospital's One Stop Crisis Center with fractures on her skull, rib cage, hands and one leg.

Samuil denies beating her for a dowry. He says it was over a "family feud". Rihah and her family have a different story to tell.

A couple of months after Rihah eloped and her parents accepted her

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Rihah in a Rajshahi hospital

PHOTO: STAR