

6 'kidnappers' held; victim rescued

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Rapid Action Battalion claimed to have detained six alleged kidnappers and rescued a victim yesterday evening, around eight hours into his abduction from Ashulia in Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

Amanullah Nur Aman, an engineer at a private firm, was kidnapped around 10:00am from Ashulia after he came out of his office.

The kidnappers asked for a ransom of Tk 2 lakh over the phone, said Additional Superintendent of Police Mohiuddin Faruki, of Rab-10, quoting the victim's family.

On information, a team of Rab-10 raided a tin-roofed house around 6:00pm. Sensing presence of the Rab members, the abductors held the victim at gunpoint, forcing the Rab members to fire gunshots, the police official added.

The criminals also returned fire, triggering a "gunfight". Four of the kidnappers were hit by bullets, he claimed.

They were admitted to Savar Upazila Health Complex.

PM's visit

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during his meeting with the Bangladesh PM on Thursday discussed the ensuing visit and issues to be addressed in future.

Hasina and Jaishankar had a one-to-one discussion for over an hour following the about 15-minute meeting in presence of high officials from both the sides, he added.

According to sources at the Prime Minister's Office, the Bangladesh state minister for foreign affairs, the foreign secretary, the Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh and other high officials came out from the meeting around 5:15pm.

A diplomat said Jaishankar conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Hasina.

A highly placed source in New Delhi said a high-profile Indian delegation will fly to Dhaka next month to work out a way for making Hasina's upcoming visit a success.

UN urged

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of support from the secretary general," said Simon, CPJ's executive director.

"We look forward to working with him to move this commitment forward," he added.

David Callaway, board nominee for president of the World Editors Forum, part of WAN-IFRA, an early supporter of the campaign, also attended the meeting.

Statistics show that despite various UN resolutions related to safety of journalists and combating impunity, there have been few concrete results on the ground.

In fact, the past five years have been the deadliest on record for journalists, with hundreds of journalists killed and many more attacked simply for doing their jobs. RSF reported that 78 journalists were killed in the year 2016 alone and impunity remains the norm, with full justice in only 3 percent of journalist murders in the past decade, according to CPJ research.

Murder is the ultimate form of censorship, and when a journalist is killed, the right to information for the broader public is also imperiled. The world's major problems, from environmental issues to extremist violence, cannot be resolved without the work of journalists, the release said.

The goal of the #ProtectJournalists campaign is to establish a concrete mechanism that enforces international law and thereby finally reduces the number of journalists killed every year in the course of their work, it added.

A worldwide coalition of NGOs, media outlets, journalists and prominent public figures are supporting RSF's initiative for the creation of a journalist protector.

Last week, several coalition members, such as the James W Foley Legacy Foundation, the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression, and the Pakistan Press Foundation, sent letters to UN Secretary General Guterres, echoing the call for the appointment of a special representative.

Gas price hike

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22.7 percent and decided to implement the increase in two phases.

Households using double burners will have to pay Tk 800 each from next month compared to Tk 650 now, while those using single burners will have to pay Tk 750 each against Tk 600. The prices would be increased again on June 1 by another Tk 150 for each gas stove.

Barely a day after the gas price hike, State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid yesterday hinted that the electricity price could also be increased soon.

"We want to adjust electricity prices, as costs of power generation from gas have gone up," he told reporters after a programme at Bangladesh Shishu Academy.

"We will have to invest on infrastructure for ensuring uninterrupted supply of electricity in rural areas... We have already sent a proposal [on adjustment for electricity prices] to the BERC. Now it all depends on the BERC."

On the gas price hike, he said the government is giving a huge subsidy on gas.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Amanul said, "I am struggling to run my family. I have been trying to supplement my income, but I have not succeeded."

"The government is only thinking about its benefits from the price hike... What is more troubling is that the gas price would be increased further in June. Will we get uninterrupted gas supply even after paying the extra amount?" he said.

Some other city dwellers feared that the gas price hike would push up transport costs.

Murad Mia, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver at Farmgate, said they would be left with no other choice but to increase the fare, as they have to buy gas at a higher price.

PROTEST, HALF-DAY HARTAL

Several left-leaning political parties yesterday called a half-day hartal in the capital for Tuesday, protesting the gas price hike.

The parties include Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Biplobi Workers Party, Gonotantrik Biplobi Party and Gonotantrik Bam Morcha.

CPB President Mujahidul Islam Selim told The Daily Star that the hartal would be enforced from 6:00am to 12:00pm in the capital. Demonstration and protest rallies would also be held across the country.

He mentioned that the vehicles carrying the Secondary School Certificate examinees would be outside the purview of the hartal.

In a statement, Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon and its General Secretary Fazle Hossain Badsha demanded scrapping of the government decision to increase gas prices.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal made a similar demand.

Meanwhile, at a press conference at its Nayapaltan office, the BNP protested the increase in gas prices, and demanded that the government cancel its decision.

At a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, leaders of leftist parties termed the hike undemocratic and a move against people's interest.

It is illogical to raise gas prices, as all gas distribution companies are making good profits, they said, adding that the government decision would adversely affect people's livelihood and push up transport and production costs in the agriculture and industrial sectors.

Saiful Haque, general secretary of Biplobi Workers Party, and Moshrefa Mishu, general secretary of Gonotantrik Biplobi Party, among others, spoke.

Pak says gas leak, not bomb, behind Lahore blast

AFP, Lahore

An explosion that killed seven people and caused panic in the Pakistani city of Lahore was caused by a gas leak and not a bomb as police had earlier stated, according to officials yesterday.

The blast on Thursday wounded dozens in the provincial capital, already on edge after a suicide attack just ten days earlier killed 14 people, part of a deadly wave of militant violence that has rippled across Pakistan this month.

Multiple police and administration officials had earlier stated on the record that the explosion in a posh area of the eastern city, which blew out windows and crumpled cars, was a bomb.

But amid rumours and speculation, authorities revised their assessment at a press conference in Lahore yesterday.

"Yesterday's explosion was an accident. It was not caused by explosives or a result of terrorism," Punjab provincial law minister Rana Sanaullah said yesterday.

"The presence of gas cylinders and leakage has been confirmed on the site," he continued. "We got the forensic report this morning and the results and conclusions are that there was no indication of explosives or related materials."

'Robber' killed

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around 2:30am, said Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Harintana Police Station.

Sensing the presence of police, the robbers opened fire on law enforcers, prompting them to retaliate with gun shots.

At one stage, Zia was caught in the line of fire and injured critically. The others, however, managed to flee, the OC said.

He was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Police claimed four of their members were also injured.

Law enforcers recovered a pistol, four bullets and 50 pieces of Yaba tablets from the spot.

According to police, Zia was wanted in 10 cases filed with different police stations of Khulna city.

Nerve agent used for killing

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He suffered a seizure and was dead before he reached hospital.

An autopsy revealed traces of VX -- a fast-acting toxin that sparks respiratory collapse and heart failure -- on the dead man's face and in his eyes.

Tiny amounts of the poison are enough to kill an adult, whether it is inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

"I am outraged that the criminals used such a dangerous chemical in a public area," said Environment Minister Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar.

It "could have caused mass injuries or even death to other people".

One of the two women arrested after the attack fell ill in custody, police said, adding she had been vomiting.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar has previously said the woman who attacked Kim from behind clearly knew she was carrying out a poison attack, dismissing claims that she thought she was taking part in a TV prank.

"The lady was moving away with her hands towards the bathroom," Khalid said earlier this week.

"She was very aware that it was toxic and that she needed to wash her hands."

QUIT LYING

Malaysia warned North Korea's outspoken ambassador yesterday he would be thrown out of the country if he continues to "spew lies" over the investigation into the assassination of Kim Jong-Nam.

Malaysia Foreign Minister Anifah Aman lashed out at Kang Chol, the envoy of the Stalinist state, who has said "we cannot trust the investigation by the Malaysian police".

Kang has also claimed the probe is politically motivated and that Malaysia had conspired with South Korea to frame the North.

But Anifah cautioned Kang he should watch what he says. "He must enjoy the confidence of the government of Malaysia," Anifah said.

"I hope he understands by what I mean by he must enjoy the confidence of the government of Malaysia."

Anifah added: "The ambassador has been informed of the process involved (in the police investigation) but he continues to be delusional and spew lies and accusations against the government of Malaysia."

A senior Malaysian government official said Kang had been shown a "yellow card", adding: "If he repeats the baseless allegations, he will be expelled."

The only known function of VX is as a chemical warfare agent and the US government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes it as the "most potent" of all nerve agents.

VX was used by Japan's Aum cult in the 1994 murder of an office worker in Osaka, and in the attempted murder of two other people.

Is it all about power?

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In the 2014 elections, Kader lost to Liton by over 1,00,000 votes.

After arresting Kader on February 22 from his Bogra residence, police claimed that he "masterminded" the killing of Liton to become an MP again.

Police are now questioning Kader in custody.

Other arrestees are Kader's driver Abdur Hannan and caretakers Shaheen Mia and Mehedi Hasan. Kader was arrested based on information gleaned from them.

Police earlier said Kader lured them into the killing by offering them money and even had them trained on shooting firearms at a warehouse for six months.

Kader had collected a nomination form after the Election Commission announced the schedule for the by-polls in the seat that fell vacant after Liton's death. Law enforcers cordoned off his house soon after he collected the form.

Kader was so desperate to become an MP that he was also planning to kill JP candidate Shamim Haider Patwary who is contesting the March 22 by-polls, Khandker Golam Faruq, deputy inspector general of police of Rangpur range, told the media a day after Kader's arrest.

Abdur Rashid Sarkar, former lawmaker and also president of the district JP, said Kader's rise in politics was sudden. "After being becoming an MP, he never visited the district party office nor did he maintain any relations with the party leaders. He started doing everything all by himself."

After the 2014 elections, Liton tried to discredit Kader in various ways, locals said.

Although from Gaibandha, Kader used to live in Bogra where he ran a private clinic.

Law enforcers and ruling party lawmakers initially blamed extremists for Liton's murder. But Kader's name came up in the course of the investigation.

Meanwhile, Atiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sundarganj Police Station in Gaibandha, yesterday said the name

of a union-level AL leader also came up in the murder.

Into the abyss

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"The two of them started wandering here and there around the locality," says Nazma. "The parents were frantic with worry about their security, knowing that anybody might harass the girls. Ultimately they found no other way to avoid some embarrassing situation than to chain them."

At the time, in 2007, Papri was 23 and Ananya was 20. Since then, the two have been confined in unhygienic conditions, in a dirty, stinking room within the family's basic household. Day after day holds nothing for them but torment and repetition.

"In 2010 their father Mannan died," says Nazma. "Shahina, feeling unable to cope, was gripped by depression. Later the mother became physically sick in addition to her mental anguish and in 2013 she, too, died."

That left responsibility for the girls' care to their younger brothers, Samrat and Pathik, who were just 15 and 11 years old at the time. "Their situation is horrific," Nazma says.

Since then, Samrat has done his best to provide for the family. "I really struggle to keep the four of us alive," he says. "I do farm work as well as the household chores like cooking. With the income from our land I can't even manage good food for my sisters or proper nursing. I am trying to pay for my younger brother Pathik's education."

"It's beyond my capacity to help my sisters back to health," he continues. "I wish some kind-hearted individual or institution would take the initiative in this regard. Those who are sick can return to health even my sisters, whose current feeble state is the result of both mental illness and malnutrition."

"If fortune never comes to smile upon them, and our family, I will continue with my plan to have Pathik complete his science education so that hopefully he can become a doctor. Then one day on behalf of all of us he might be able to serve other devastated families like ours."

পাওয়ার গ্রিড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (New), 3rd & 4th Floor, 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000
Web : www.pgcb.org.bd
Ref. No.: PGCB/AMM/SS/e-Civil-01/2017/98 Date: 20/2/2017

জমি উন্নয়নের e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পিজিসিবি'র "আমিনবাজার-মাওয়া-মংলা ৪০০ কেভি সঞ্চালন লাইন" প্রকল্প এর আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

e-Tender ID	Reference No.	Name of work
87670	PGCB/AMM/SS/e-Civil-01/2017/89	Land filling, Slop protection works and Construction of guide wall at proposed 400/230kV Aminbazar Grid Substation.

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ আব্দুল মোনামেম চৌধুরী
প্রকল্প পরিচালক
আমিনবাজার-মাওয়া-মংলা ৪০০ কেভি সঞ্চালন লাইন প্রকল্প

Cash handler held over toy notes in India ATM

AFP, New Delhi

Indian police have arrested a cash handler after notes in a state bank ATM were replaced with children's toy bills, an officer said yesterday.

Mohammad Isha is accused of stealing the real cash and substituting it with fake bills earlier this month when he was refilling the State Bank of India machine in New Delhi.

"After entering the ATM with the cash bag, Isha removed the notes from the ATM tray and replaced them with the dummy cash," the officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of The Principal
Khulna Technical Training Centre, Khulna
Web: www.khulnattc.gov.bd
e-mail: ttckhu@gmail.com

Invitation for Tenders (Goods)

IFT Ref. No. 49.01.4700.003.14.233.14.191 Date: 23-02-2017

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment.
2	Agency	Bureau of Manpower, Employment & Training.
3	Procuring entity name	Principal, Khulna Technical Training Center.
4	Procuring entity district	Khulna.
5	Invitation for	Tender, Goods.
6	Invitation Ref. No.	49.01.4700.003.14.233.14.191
7	Date	23-02-2017
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)/National Competitive Bidding (NCB).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and source of funds	International Development Association (IDA).
10	Development partners	IDA (World Bank).
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11	Project/programme code	5-2551-5030
12	Project/programme name	Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP), DTE.
13	Tender package No.	KTTC/GD-08, KTTC/GD-09 & KTTC/GD-10.
14	Tender package name	KTTC/GD-08: Supply and installation of different Equipments and Machineries for Welding & MTO Trades of Khulna TTC. KTTC/GD-09: Supply and installation of different Equipments for Electrical Trade of Khulna TTC. KTTC/GD-10: Supply of Computer and Related items for different Trades of Khulna TTC.
15.	Tender last selling date and time	15-03-2017, up to 02:00pm.
16	Tender closing deadline	16-03-2017; 12:30pm.
17	Tender opening date and time	16-03-2017; 01:00pm.
18	Name & address of the office(s) Selling tender document Receiving tender document Opening tender document	Office of the Principal, Khulna TTC, Teligati, Khulna. Office of the Principal, Khulna TTC, Teligati, Khulna. Office of the Principal, Khulna TTC, Teligati, Khulna. Office of the Principal, Khulna TTC, Teligati, Khulna.
19	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Place: Office of The Principal, Khulna TTC, Teligati, Khulna. Date: 09-03-2017, Time: 11:00am.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
20	Eligibility of tenderer (Detail stated in TDS)	(a) The tenderers should be the manufacturers/distributors/sole agents/suppliers of machineries for workshop. (b) Shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. (c) The tenderer must have successfully completed minimum (1) One number supply contract of BDT 12,00,000.00 (twelve lakh) for Package KTTC/GD-08, BDT 15,00,000.00 (fifteen lakh) for Package KTTC/GD-09 and BDT 21,00,000.00 (twenty-one lakh) for Package KTTC/GD-10 in specific/similar goods and related services within last 3 (three) years. (d) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is Tk BDT 13,00,000.00 (thirteen lakh) for Package KTTC/GD-08, BDT 17,00,000.00 (seventeen lakh) for Package KTTC/GD-09, and BDT 24,00,000.00 (twenty-four lakh) for Package KTTC/GD-10.
21	Brief description of goods	Mentioned in tender document.
22	Brief description of related services	N/A.
23	Price of tender document	Tk 1500.00 (one thousand & five hundred) only.
24	Package No.	Identification of package
	GD-08	Supply and installation of different Equipments and Machineries for Welding & MTO Trades of Khulna TTC
	GD-09	Supply and installation of different Equipments for Electrical Trade of Khulna TTC
	GD-10	Supply of computer and related items for different trades of Khulna TTC
		Location
		Office of The Principal, Khulna TTC, Khulna
		Tender security amount (BDT)
		48,000/-
		60,000/-
		82,000/-
		Completion time after contract signing (weeks)
		08 (eight)
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
25	Name, designation, address and contact details of official inviting tender	Muhammad Mahedi Hasan, Principal, Khulna TTC, Teligati, Khulna, Phone: 041-2870047, email: ttckhu@gmail.com
26	If it is not possible to receive and open the tenders on the fixed date due to unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time same venue.	
27	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

GD-417

Muhammad Mahedi Hasan
Principal
Technical Training Centre, Khulna