

3 of a family picked up by 'detectives'

Allege relatives at Ctg press confce; whereabouts still unknown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A group of people identifying themselves as detectives has picked up three persons of a family from their house in Chittagong city's Khulshi area, alleged relatives yesterday.

Even after six days, the relatives did not know the whereabouts of Shafiqur Rahman, 42, his brothers-in-law Moajjem Hossain Sathi, 18, and Hasan Tarek, 21, they told a press conference at Chittagong Press Club.

Around 2:00pm on March 24, six plain-clothes individuals came to their house at Alfalah Goli, said Soltana Razia Tumpa, wife of Shafiqur Rahman, who runs a fishing trawler rental business.

"They also took away eight mobiles and asked my husband to sign a paper. As he refused to do so, they detained him saying he would be sent back after two hours," she said.

"When my brother Sathi tried to take photos of the six, they held him too and got them in a white microbus that had no number plates. As Tarek followed them by a motor-bike, they also caught him."

On March 25, Shafiqur called Tumpa over the cellphone saying they were taken by a "special team of the government" to Dhaka, said Tumpa. He, however, could not say the exact place, she said, adding, they could not contact him again as his cellphone is found switched off.

They are going through severe torture, she quoted Shafiqur as saying.

On that night, Shafiqur's wife filed a general diary with Khulshi Police Station. Tumpa, however, said they do not

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A boy carefully touches a colourful flower structure while two of his family members share a smile. A three-day Bangladesh Flower Fest has started on the capital's Bangla Academy premises yesterday, organised by Innovation and Incubation Center for Enterprises and Bangladesh Flower Society in association with USAID, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Bangladesh Photographic Society and deshiphool.com.

Japan to provide \$2m for Rohingya refugees

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan will provide 2 million US dollars as emergency aid to the Rohingya refugees who recently entered Bangladesh in the face of persecution in their home state of Northern Rakhine in Myanmar.

More than 70,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since the violence erupted in Rakhine on October 9, 2016.

This emergency grant is to provide the newly arrived refugees with humanitarian assistance such as shelter, non-food items, health services, water and sanitation, and protection through the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Children's Fund and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a press release of Japan Embassy said yesterday.

Trader gunned down in capital

Cops suspect it might be a planned murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trader was gunned down by unknown miscreants in the capital's Swaminbagh area yesterday afternoon.

Zakir Hossain, 28, a proprietor of Zakir Enterprise, used to live in a flat near his shop with his wife and a daughter.

When Zakir was talking to his customer standing in front of a tailor's shop beside his shop, all of a sudden four-masked youths opened fire on him around 12:10pm, leaving him critically injured, victim's brother, Rasel Haque, told The Daily Star.

Zakir was rushed to a nearby hospital. Later, he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors pronounced him dead around 2:00pm, said Bacchu Mia, sub-inspector of DMCH police outpost.

Victim's brother said Zakir, son of Enadul Haque, had no enmity with anyone.

Mahbub Alam, inspector (investigation) of Gendaria Police Station, said it might be a planned murder.

The inspector said Zakir had five injury marks on his body.

Police recovered four bullet shells from the spot.

The body was kept at the DMCH mortuary for an autopsy.

Appear before court or face music

Judge warns Khaleda

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday warned that legal order would be passed if BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia fails to appear before it on April 13 for placing her self-defence statements in connection with the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.



Judge Abu Ahmed Jomard of the Special Judge Court-3 of Dhaka passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Jamiruddin Sircar submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition, Sircar said their client Khaleda, accused in over 25 criminal cases, could not appear before the court due to her illness.

Meantime, another Dhaka court yesterday set April 6 for placing Khaleda's self-defence statements in connection with the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing was filed by Khaleda, said Zia Uddin, one of her lawyers.

Earlier on March 8, the High Court ordered to transfer the Zia Orphanage case to the court from the Special Judge Court-3 after Khaleda filed a writ petition.

The HC also asked the trial court to complete the trial proceedings in 60 days from receiving the order.

In both the cases, the court during the trial recorded statements of 32 prosecution witnesses including complainant of the cases.

GRAFT CASE AGAINST BABAR

HC asks lower court to finish trial in 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court to resume trial proceedings of a corruption case against former BNP state minister Lutfozzaman Babar.

The HC also directed the Senior Metropolitan Special Judge's Court of Dhaka to finish the trial proceedings of the case in the next six months.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case with Ramna Model Police Station on January 13, 2008 against Babar for amassing wealth worth Tk 7.6 crore beyond a known source of income, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

The commission submitted charge sheet against Babar to the lower court on July 16, 2008 and the court accepted the charges on July 23 the same year, he said.

Following a petition filed by Babar, the HC on August 25, 2008 stayed the trial proceedings and issued a rule asking the ACC and the government to explain why the case proceedings against Babar should not be scrapped.

After holding hearing on the rule, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim yesterday scrapped the stay order and the rule and asked the lower court to finish the trial proceedings in six months, Khurshid said.

Babar, who is now in jail custody, was convicted and sentenced to death in "10 truck arms haul" case and to 17 years' imprisonment in an arms case.

35 years on, deer breeding centre still limping

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The state-run deer breeding centre in Madhupur upazila of Tangail has been gripped by numerous problems including acute fund crisis, shortage of manpower and logistics.

The breeding centre, which started with four pairs of spotted deer, was set up on 37 acres of land in Luhuria beat under Sadar Range of Madhupur National Park in 1982 for raising wild population in the natural Sal forest, officials of the forest department said.

In the last 35 years the number of spotted deer stood at 65 which is poor comparing to the total time span, they said.

The forest department, which is in-charge of the centre, can provide only 12kg to 15kg of food -- rice dust and mustard cake -- for the animals once a day, which is insufficient for the animals, said Manjurul Alam, forester of the beat.

When the animals remain hungry, they eat grass, fresh leaves and fruits of different trees, he said, adding, but there are a few fruit trees inside the centre.

The forester said he along with three others -- a forest watcher and two forest guards -- are assigned to take care of the animals apart from supervising the

forest in the beat area.

"What can we do? We get only Tk 5,000 per month to maintain the breeding centre whereas we need at least Tk 15,000 a month," said Khasru Alam, Sadar Range Officer. "Oftentimes we have to buy food on credit

fawns, said Khasru.

"There are also animals like civet that get inside the centre climbing large trees to catch fawns. We have no way of preventing these animals from entering the centre," he added.

Admitting all the prevail-



Some of the spotted deer at the Madhupur deer breeding centre.

PHOTO: STAR

for the animals," said the range officer. "We don't even have any wildlife expert in the breeding centre and the four men are not trained well enough to handle the animals," he further said.

"When any of the animals get sick, we are unable to provide proper treatment. We also don't have sufficient cages for catching and keeping the sick animals," he said.

Though the centre is surrounded by concrete boundary walls to protect the deer from poachers, but animals like foxes and jackals enter the area easily by digging tunnels under the walls and kill the

ing shortcomings at the centre, Masud Rana, divisional forest officer in Tangail, said he has already written to the higher authorities regarding the problems.

The forest department has already taken a plan to appoint trained personnel for the centre, provide necessary logistics, increase the height of the boundary walls and strengthen its foundation underneath the walls to prevent animals digging holes below, he said.

It has also adopted a plan planting trees -- both fruit-bearing and wild -- inside the centre to ease food crisis of the animals," he added.

Sheepa Hafiza new ASK executive director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheepa Hafiza, a renowned human rights activist, is going to be the new executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra. She will join the post on April 1.

Nur Khan Liton, a director of ASK, has been discharging as acting executive director of the organisation since February last year after prominent right activist Sultana Kamal left the post.

Sheepa Hafiza is a seasoned executive widely

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PHOTO: STAR

Managing Director and CEO of IPDC Finance Limited Mominul Islam, third from left, and The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, fourth from left, at a signing ceremony at IPDC's head office in the capital yesterday. The newspaper, in association with IPDC Finance Limited, has taken up an initiative to honour the women change makers for their contributions to building a better Bangladesh.

Star, IPDC to honour unsung women nation builders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star in cooperation with IPDC Finance Limited has taken up an initiative to honour the unsung women nation builders for their outstanding contributions to building a better Bangladesh.

"To honour these women heroes for their silent and unrelenting contributions in building a better Bangladesh, The Daily Star and IPDC Finance Limited have introduced the Unsung Women Nation Builders Awards 2017," said Mominul Islam, managing director and Chief Executive Officer of IPDC Finance Limited, at IPDC's head office in the capital's Gulshan yesterday.

Nominations will be based on their contributions in entrepreneurship, health, education, art, agriculture, courageous act, self-development and readymade garment sector, he said.

The Daily Star and IPDC Finance Limited will bring the lives of these change makers to the forefront and share their stories with the world.

People can nominate women nation builders from their surroundings and share their success stories at unsungwomen@gmail.com or on +8801785444111.

The selection of the awardees will be done by an independent panel of judges.

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