

## Cop stabs wife, in-laws, kills mother-in-law

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A police constable allegedly stabbed his mother-in-law to death and wounded his wife and brother-in-law in Chuadanga's Alamdanga upazila yesterday.

Deceased Sefaly Adhikari was the wife of Sadananda Adhikari from Madrasapara area, said Kalim Ullah, additional superintendent of police in Chuadanga.

The accused Ashim Bhattacharya is a resident of Khulna's Daulatpur, said Kalim, adding that he married Sadananda's daughter Falguni Adhikari eight years ago.

Falguni used to live with her parents in Madrasapara area until recently when Ashim was transferred to Alamdanga Police Station, Kalim said, quoting Falguni's family members.

Since then, the couple, who have a five-year-old daughter, had been living in a rented house adjacent to Falguni's paternal home.

They often used to have heated conversations as Ashim suspected that his wife had an extramarital affair.

On the night of the incident, Ashim found something unexpected in his wife's mobile phone and attempted to stab her with a sharp weapon around 1:30am, said the police official.

The frightened wife ran out of the house and her mother and younger brother Ananda Adhikari came out on the road hearing her screams.

Ashim also came down to the street chasing his wife and indiscriminately stabbed the three before fleeing the scene.

The three were rushed to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital where doctors declared Sefaly dead, Kalim said.

Falguni and Ananda are currently receiving treatment at the hospital, the additional SP said, adding that they were trying to arrest the cop.

A case was filed in this connection, he said.

## Man held for torturing teen lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Kushtia court yesterday sent a man to jail on charge of torturing a 13-year-old differently abled boy.

Police arrested the accused, Zillur Rahman, and produced him before the chief judicial magistrate court yesterday following a case filed by the victim's father.

The case was lodged with Mirpur Police Station on Thursday against Zillur and five others of his family members.

According to the case statement, Jasim Uddin, son of Keamat Ali, of Kushtia's Mirpur upazila, was tortured over allegation of theft on May 28.

Abul Kalam, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said Zillur reportedly lost his cell phone. On suspicion, he picked up his neighbour Jasim, tied him with rope, and tortured him throughout the night.

The next day, Zillur took the boy to Reazul Karim, member of Dhuboil union parishad and a local Awami League leader. Hearing the incident, Reazul allegedly fined the boy Tk 10,000 and sent him back to home.

Later, Jasim's family members sent him to Mirpur Upazila Health Complex.

A physician of the health complex said Jasim was mercilessly beaten and carrying injury marks all over his body.

The incident came to light after it was shared on social media.

Five other accused in the case are Zillur's brothers Rajon Ali and Sumon Ali, Zillur's wife Tajma Khatun, their daughter Julia Khatun and relative Bishu Mondol.

## Philippines rejects call for UN rights council probe

AFP, Manila

The Philippines yesterday rejected a call for an independent United Nations probe into Manila's alleged human rights violations, describing it as interference in the affairs of the Asian nation.

UN rights experts asked the UN Human Rights Council on Friday to look into the "staggering number of unlawful deaths and police killings in the context of the so-called war on drugs, as well as killings of human rights defenders".

President Rodrigo Duterte has overseen a narcotics crackdown in which police have killed more than 5,300 suspected drug dealers and users since he was elected three years ago.

Rights groups say the actual number of dead is at least three times higher.



A wholesaler of rice in the capital's Karwan Bazar taking a nap seeing no prospect of sales as most city dwellers are yet to return to the city after the Eid holidays.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## In absolute shambles

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drums, although they did not have any authority to purchase those.

**PHASED OUT?**

Workers at the office get their salaries under the LGRD ministry.

However, in July of last year, they refused to draw salaries under grant assistance head, which they claim did not fall under the Integrated Budget and Accounting System ++, a software through which the government disbursed salaries to its employees.

"We were offered to take salaries

under grant assistance but we refused as we will not get any facilities like a government employee under the separate code," Nurul Haque, supervisor of the department, said at the time.

Afterwards, ANH Faizul Haque, deputy secretary of Local Government Division (LGD), who is now discharging duties as assistant director of the department as an additional charge, said the matter of salary was soon resolved but the ineffectiveness of the office, owing to its very limited sphere of influence,

remains.

Wishing not to be named, an LGRD official said the government should strengthen the activities of the department of mosquito control, increase its staff and give it full authority or incorporate it under the two city corporations so that they could work as city corporation staffers.

Asked about plans for the department, another top official of the LGRD said they were working on it and would take a decision shortly. Entomologist Professor Kabirul

Bashar of Jahangirnagar University also advocated for bringing the department under the two city corporations.

He said it should have been a strong section of the two corporations instead of being a part of the health department.

Health officer of Dhaka South City Corporation Mir Mustafizur Rahman said they also felt that a separate wing in the DSCC -- for different tasks such as research work regarding controlling mosquito -- should be created.

## Hosts dominate timid Tigers

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to start with. Shakib brought up his fifty off 53 deliveries in the 19th over. He was harsh on anything loose from leg-spinner Adil Rashid and by the time he got to his fifty, was comfortable against the express pace of Mark Wood and Archer. The required run rate was hovering around the 10 runs-per-over mark even as the duo brought up the century stand in the 29th over, and Mushfiqur's dismissal, caught off a leading edge at point off Liam Plunkett for 44 in the same over, put an end to any thoughts Bangladesh may have had of pulling off an unlikely heist.

Mohammad Mithun was out second ball in the following over trying to heave Rashid only for the edge to be taken by the wicketkeeper and Mahmudullah Riyad was slow

to start with. Shakib brought up his eighth ODI hundred off 95 balls in the 33rd over with a single off Archer.

There was to be one last hurrah from Shakib in the 39th over when the all-rounder hit three boundaries, including two straight pulls, off Chris Woakes. Ben Stokes however bowled Bangladesh's lone fighter with a yorker in the next over, with Shakib's innings ending 121 off 119 balls with 12 boundaries and a six. Scoring at least a half-century in each of his three World Cup innings so far, Shakib took his tally to 260, well clear of second-placed Roy on 215.

The rest of the batting just made up the numbers, trying to bat out the 50 overs but failing in that as well.

Earlier, Roy's excellence in batting

was helped by Bangladesh's poor bowling and fielding as after keeping England to 15 in the first five overs, Bangladesh lost the plot both with the ball and in the field as England's vaunted top order -- starting with a 128-run opening partnership between Jonny Bairstow and Roy -- kept accelerating towards a mammoth score without much challenge from the Tigers. The fielding helped the opposition play risk-free cricket early on, as Bangladesh failed to make head or tails of the oblong dimensions of the ground, with outfielders allowing easy couples and triples -- and even an all-run four -- by failing to attack the ball and cut off the singles.

Bairstow was caught for 51 in the 20th over off Mashrafe to the only good piece of Bangladeshi fielding

of the day, caught off a leading edge by a diving Mehedi Hasan Miraz, and Joe Root was bowled by Mohammad Saifuddin in the 32nd over after a 77-run partnership, by which time Roy had brought up his century off just 92 balls. In the company of Root and captain Eoin Morgan, he accelerated more after that, scoring 53 runs off 28 balls before, having hit a hat-trick of sixes against Mehedi, holing out to Mashrafe at extra cover in the 35th over.

By that time Buttler had taken over, hitting tennis forehand-style sixes and even after he, Morgan and Stokes departed within two overs of each other trying to maximise the total, a nine-ball 27 from number eight Plunkett tied the bow on England's utter domination of Bangladesh.

## Imran writes

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the advancing the objective of peace, progress, and prosperity in South Asia.

Narendra Modi on his part called for creating trust and an environment free of violence and terrorism for fostering peace and prosperity in the region.

India has rejected Pakistan's offer of talks, maintaining that terror and talks cannot go together.

No bilateral meeting has been planned between Indian Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday in New Delhi.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi also wrote to his new Indian counterpart S Jaishankar, saying that Islamabad wants talks with New Delhi on "all

important matters" and remains committed to efforts for establishing peace in the region.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi told S Jaishankar in the letter that "Islamabad wants talks with New Delhi on all important matters and remains committed to efforts for establishing peace in the region," the Express Tribune reported quoting diplomatic sources.

The alliance administers a region that spans most of Idlib province as well as adjacent slivers of the neighbouring Latakia, Aleppo, and Hama provinces.

The region has seen a spike in bombardment since late April, with regime forces seizing several towns on the region's southwestern flank.

Late Thursday, the jihadists and allied rebels launched a counterattack against regime forces in the northwest of Hama province.

They have since seized the villages of Tal Maleh and Jibein amid heavy clashes and airstrikes by regime and Russian forces, the Observatory said.

The area saw "the fiercest fighting since the start of the escalation in late April," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

The fighting is raging near Christian and Alawite areas under regime control, he said.

State news agency SANA said army units in northern Hama had "responded with force to attacking terrorist groups... and took back a number of positions".



With hardly any potential customer in sight, a coconut vendor sits in the middle of a street in Karwan Bazar to sell his goods. Usually, the street has bumper-to-bumper traffic on any given day, but yesterday it wore a deserted look. Most of the city dwellers were yet to return after the Eid vacation.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Girl set on fire, but survives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A teenage girl was set on fire by unidentified assailants on Thursday in Rajbari.

The 10th grader told police that she was able to extinguish the flames by rolling on the ground and suffered only minor injuries.

The incident harks back to the memory of Nusrat Jahan Rafi who was doused in kerosene and burnt to death in Feni on April 6.

In Rajbari, the girl was attacked after her family refused to pay money to blackmailers who had earlier sexually harassed her and took pictures of the incident, according to a case filed on Friday night with Sadar Police Station.

In the case, her father accused Shilpi Begum, 40, and four unnamed suspects of attempting to kill his daughter by setting her on fire.

On April 12, the girl was returning home from a local market around 1:00pm when four unidentified men forcibly took her to a bush and harassed her. They also took some photos of the incident and let her go, the case statement said.

After that, the suspects started calling the girl's family and demanding Tk 2 lakh. They threatened to upload the photos on social media, unless they were paid the money.

The suspects also asked the family to give the money to Shilpi, a villager who was accused in the case.

On Thursday, four people in burqas entered the girl's home around 12:30 pm when she was alone and took her forcefully to a nearby jute field. Then they tied her legs, hands and gagged her with a scarf. They then set her on fire and fled the scene.

She was rescued by villagers a little while after she managed to survive the murder attempt, the case added.

Swapan Kumar Majumdar, officer-in-charge of the police station, said accused Shilpi had fled the area and police police were looking for the suspects.

## Syria flare-up death toll passes 100

AFP, Beirut

Fierce clashes between Russia-backed government forces and jihadists have killed more than 100 combatants in northwestern Syria in the past 24 hours, a war monitor said on Friday.

The clashes on the edge of the jihadist-controlled Idlib region have killed at least 53 government loyalists along with 48 jihadists and Islamist fighters since Thursday, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The region of some three million people -- almost half of them displaced from other parts of the country -- is dominated by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance led by Al-Qaeda's former Syrian affiliate.

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## Govt plans

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span of the riverbank in Naria upazila of Shariatpur.

Since September last year, around 5 kilometres of eroded riverbank displaced more than 43,500 people and damaged hundreds of acres of cropland in Shariatpur alone.

Eminent economist Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad welcomed the government plan. But he noted that proper utilisation of the fund will determine how the victims will benefit from the allocation.

Kholiqzaman, chairman of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), a top development organisation, stressed proper identification of the victims and their need so that the worst victims get the benefit.

"It would be better if the government disbursed the fund through local government institutions," he told The Daily Star.