Dhanmondi Double Murder

## Hunt on for househelp

Motive still unknown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers are yet to unravel the mystery of Dhanmondi double murder and still looking for the new domestic help who visited the apartment for the first time on Friday. After scrutinising several CCTV

footages, police said they believe that the new domestic help, aged between 27 and 28, got information about the double murder.

Police have so far detained six people for interrogation, said Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station.

The detainees are Bachchu Mia, bodyguard of the Afroza's son-inlaw Kazi Monir Uddin, Belayet, an electrician and three guards of the building.

Afroza Begum, 65, deputy managing director of Creative Group, and her domestic help Bithi, 17, were found slitthroat at a flat on the fourth floor of a building on road 28.

Police are yet to find any motive behind the murder and investigating if multiple people were involved in the third floors.

Abdullahil Kafi, additional deputy multiple stab marks on Afroza's belly, commissioner (Dhanmondi zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they had got some clues and were working

During interrogation, Bachchu Mia, bodyguard of the Afroza's son-in-law Kazi Monir Uddin, told police that he met the suspected domestic help for the first time on Thursday and took her phone number as she was looking for a part-time household work, said OC Abdul Latif.

Bachchu called the woman on Friday and as she arrived around 3:30pm, he took her to the apartment, when Afroza was not there. As she returned to the flat about an

hour later, Bachchu introduced the domestic help to Afroza and explained her job. Earlier on Friday, Monir told this

newspaper that he and Bachchu had gone to a restaurant around 6:10pm and was informed of the murder over phone a few minutes later.

Police recovered the bodies from the flat around 7:55pm.

Afroza's body was found in the kitchen while Bithi's body was found in the dining room. Police also found blood-stains on

the staircase between the second and Morgue sources said, there were

chest and back while Bithi had stab marks on her chest. No case was filed in this connection

till filing of the report last night.

Terror Attacks in Bangladesh

## Pace, magnitude continue to decline: US report

The pace and magnitude of "terrorist attacks" in Bangladesh continued to decline in 2018, although a secularist writer was killed and a university professor was seriously injured in separate incidents, says a US report.

The Country Reports on Terrorism 2018 released by the US Department of State yesterday said Bangladeshi security forces continued a counterterrorism campaign that claimed to have disrupted planned attacks, captured suspected militant leaders, and seized caches of weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

However, the report in its Bangladesh part said judicial impediments to the "successful prosecution" of terrorists and allegations of "extrajudicial killings" by security forces during counterterrorism raids have inhibited broader counterterrorism successes.

The government of Bangladesh continued to articulate a "zerotolerance" policy toward terrorism and the use of its territory as a terrorist safe haven, the report read.

The government of Bangladesh often attributed terrorist violence to local

The US report said al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and ISIS have together claimed responsibility for nearly 40 attacks in Bangladesh since

It said terrorist organisations used social media to spread their ideologies and solicit followers from Bangladesh.

On June 11, 2018, suspected terrorists murdered Shajahan Bachchu, a secularist writer and political activist in Munshiganj, according to the US

While the investigation is ongoing, Bangladeshi security forces suspect that the perpetrators were affiliated with AQIS, says the US report.

On March 3, 2018, a man selfidentifying as a member of an AQISaffiliated group, attacked Zafar Iqbal,

BCL activists

into a pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

demands".

how to swim."

waterbody.

"illogical demands".

push principal

A group of Chhatra League men

dragged the principal of Rajshahi

Polytechnic Institute and pushed him

into a pond on the campus yesterday.

Sauray, intercepted his way near a

"Saurav said he wanted to talk to

me. At one point, the students started

dragging me to the pond and then

pushed me there," he said, adding, "I

would have died if I had not known

The footage of a CCTV in the

area shows some nine to 10 youths

dragging the teacher by his hands and

neck and then pushing him into the

The principal said the BCL men in

He said the institute authorities

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had recently decided not to allow two

students to take examinations as their

the university often go to him with

his office around 2:00pm.

a professor at a university in Sylhet, claiming that Iqbal was an "enemy of However, Bangladeshi the

government's investigation determined that the attacker did not have ties to AQIS or other terrorist organisations.

On April 5, the government of Bangladesh formed the first two antiterrorism tribunals authorised by the Antiterrorism Act in Dhaka and Chattogram. One of the Dhaka tribunal's first

cases was the trial of six defendants for the December 2016 Holey Artisan Bakery attack. The report said Bangladesh

cooperated with the United States in strengthening control of its borders and ports of entry. Bangladesh continued to participate

in the US Department of State's Antiterrorism Assistance programme counterterrorism received training on building unit capacity crisis evidence response, collection, crime scene investigation, infrastructure protection, leadership development, and train-the-trainers, as well as enhancing cyber and digital investigation capabilities.

Bangladesh also received Department of Justice prosecutorial skills training, community policing support, and technical advice on the modernisation of its Evidence Act. Bangladesh is receiving assistance from the United States in developing an Alert List of known and suspected terrorists and militants to better screen for persons of interest at its ports of entry.

Bangladesh is a member and incoming co-chair of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), a FATF-style regional body.

Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) is a member of the Egmont Group.

Bangladesh Bank and the BFIU lead the government's efforts to comply with the international AML/CFT standards and international sanctions regimes.

### Brazil arrests

from around the world.

He has been indicted on US charges. According to the United States Department of Justice, Al-Mamun is alleged to have housed people coming from Southeast Asia in São Paulo and arranged for their travel through a network of smugglers operating in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico.

The teacher, Farid Uddin Ahmed, According to Brazilian police, he said the BCL men were furious as he and his group were smuggling into did not "accept one of their illogical Brazil, and then to the United States, people from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Talking to some reporters, he said India, Nepal and Pakistan. the youths, led by the institute unit

They were sent to Brazil's northern Acre state to start a long and dangerous BCL Joint Secretary Kamal Hossain trip through Central America all the way to the Mexican border, to cross pond when he was walking towards into the United States.

Reuters was not able to confirm whether Al-Mamun had a lawyer in Sao Paulo who could be contacted for comment.

Brazilian police said the group charged people coming from Asia around 50,000 reais (\$12,524) for the attempt to reach the United States. Some would also stay illegally in Brazil, where they were given fraudulent documentation.

Police said people suffered violence while waiting in Sao Paulo to start the trip north. It said a group of eight Bengali people fell into the hands of a Mexican drug cartel while border.

traveling toward the Mexico-US this end.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds a shirt displayed at an event held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on the occasion of National Cooperatives Day yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

#### This city doesn't care about them Advocacy Nexus (B-SCAN). his childhood, said he has to face a lot

of these challenged persons.

In recent years, the city authorities in Dhaka have started making footpaths accessible to visually and physically challenged persons with tactile tracks and smooth surface.

But hawkers occupy many footpaths while poles have been installed to prevent bikers from plying the walkways.

"I have to remain very cautious. Sometimes, I bump into street stores. Motorcycles get on the footpath without caring about pedestrians," said Abdul Matin, a person with visual disability, a history graduate from Jahangirnagar University. "On several occasions, rickshaws

pushed me down while I was walking,' he said.

"In most cases, footpaths end without ramps. Our accessibility has not been ensured although there is law for this," said Ali Hossain, another person with a visual impairment, who has completed masters in political science from the Dhaka University.

He said persons with disabilities are highly neglected in this country.

"Not all the halls at our university have ramps, and not even the administrative building has it. Everything is designed and developed in a way that reminds me that I have some limitations." Take the case of railway. Stairs of

compartments and platforms are made in a way that no wheelchair-user would be able to get in and out of the train without the help of others.

Even if anyone can manage to get in, they encounter more difficulties as there is no dedicated place for wheelchairs. Toilets are not easily accessible either.

Railway authorities have recently bought new compartments but getting on those is difficult for persons with physical disabilities, said Salma Mahbub, general secretary of the Bangladesh Society for the Change and

Salma, herself a wheelchair user, said the BRTC bought 600 buses in recent

one place to another by bus.

years. None of these has any ramp. Khandker Moinuddin Ahmed, another wheelchair user, said he visited Malaysia and commuted alone from

"In Malaysia, there are elevators in the buses to pick us. I could get in a bus alone. Even the footpaths are also friendly to persons with disabilities," he

In the face of difficulty and harassment in commuting, Moinuddin, an accountant at the Directorate of Accounts at Dhaka University, bought a motorbike in November 2016 and added two wheels on both sides of the bike so that he can drive it easily.

The government has framed the Disability Right & Protection Act 2013 to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their accessibility in common infrastructure, markets, hospitals, educational institutes, and other buildings.

The law, however, is not without loopholes. It makes mandatory for buses to dedicate 5 percent of total seats for persons with disabilities. But, it has not made putting facilities in place compulsory in vehicles to allow physically challenged, blind and persons with the disabilities to get in of the law on rights of persons with and get off easily.

The Dhaka Building Construction Rules 2008 has also been framed with provisions of accessibility issue of challenged people. But it is not complied with fully.

"We have seen many modern buildings since the formulation of the code. These are not accessible even though they have been built after the formulation of the rules," said Salma of the B-SCAN.

Moinuddin, who lost his ability to move alone because of polio attack in

of troubles using toilets at home and in "It appears that the society is always

ignoring me, denying my presence.

Otherwise, why can't I enter shopping

malls without any difficulty? We face barriers at every step," he said. Mohammad Sarower Hossen Khan, an assistant librarian of the central library of Dhaka University, who also has a visual impairment, said there would be no extra cost for making

ramps at the end of footpaths. He observed that there was carelessness at the policy level regarding problems of accessibility and mobility of the challenged persons, the elderly people, pregnant women and kids.

BRTC Technical Director Md Mahbubur Rahman said the state transport agency has got portable ramps for some recently purchased double-decker buses.

"But hydraulic ramps would be good. We will include the issue of hydraulic ramps in our future projects," he said.

Sk Hamim Hassan, director for administration and finance and information officer of the National Disability Development Foundation (NDDF), said they have prepared an action plan for implementation disabilities till 2023.

The cabinet approved the plan earlier this year, he added.

For Arshedul, this is a good news. But he and Moinuddin and Sarower

had one thing in common: raising social awareness through continuous campaign about problems of persons with disabilities.

"This along with television and radio programmes is necessary apart from implementation of the law to sensitise the society to our issues," said

upheld a Dhaka court's verdict that

awarded death sentence to three

punishment are Muslemuddin,

Marfat Ali Shah and Abdul Hashem

Khondaker Abdur Rashid, Shariful

Haq Dalim, Noor Chowdhury,

Rashed Chowdhury, Ahmed Shariful

The eight jailed for life are

Mridha.

## RECENT DEALS WITH INDIA

PM for details

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT The BNP will write to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to know the details of

the treaties she had signed with India during her recent visit to the country. In a standing committee meeting at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office

last night, the party took the decision, "Under the Right to Information

In the meeting, the party leaders

The leaders also condemned the Awami League's decision to relocate Rohingyas to Noakhali's Bashan Char,

About the recent anti-corruption drives across the country, Fakhrul said the government was just keeping the "big corruptions" out of the limelight through taking actions against some

# Student arrested,

Another accused on the run STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A court in Rajshahi on Friday sent a student of the Medical Assistant Training School (MATS) to jail in a case filed over the gang rape of a

Police arrested Sajib Raihan, 22, of Tanore upazila in Rajshahi, in the city's Notun Bilsimla area on Thursday.

The other accused Polash, 22, also a MATS student, is still on the run, said police.

Shahadat Hossain Khan, officer-incharge of Rajpara Police Station, said in the Bangabandhu murder case in they arrested Sajib after getting a call

> from the victim through the national emergency helpline 999. The victim alleged that she came to the city from Tanore on October 30, as

> Sajib and Polash promised her a job as a domestic worker, said the police. As she had no place to stay, Sajib insisted her to stay at his room in a

> private dormitory in Notun Bilsimla area, and took her there, he said. Later around 12:13am on Thursday, the duo broke into the room and

> raped her several times throughout the night, said the OC. Police received the victim's call

> through the helpline in the morning and rescued her within an hour. Sajib was present at the room during the drive, he added.

The woman was sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Police at the One-Stop Crisis Centre in the hospital helped her lodge the case.

#### former army personnel and life general (prisons), filed the first imprisonment to eight other people of Bangabandhu and the four information report (FIR) with Lalbagh for killing the four national leaders. leaders. The three convicts handed capital He told The Daily Star yesterday

Recalling our four national heroes

FROM PAGE 1

A day after the jail killing, Kazi Abdul Awal, the then deputy inspector Police Station.

ABM Fazlul Karim, the then OC of the police station, was tasked with the investigation and he visited the scene where a magistrate made an inquest report of the bodies. Later, a postmortem report was prepared and the OC collected evidence from the killing spot.

But the infamous Indemnity Ordinance blocked the investigation and the trial for about 21 years until officers of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) reopened the probe on August 18, 1996.

In 2004, a trial court handed punishment to 11 perpetrators of the killings, but the sentence is yet to be executed. The government could not even

trace nine of the 11 despite making efforts through diplomatic channels, intelligence agencies and the Interpol to bring the fugitives back home. killers Rashed Convicted Chowdhury and Noor Chowdhury

are holed up somewhere in the USA and Canada. The government has failed to bring them back. Against such a backdrop, the nation pays tribute to the four

slain national leaders on the 44th anniversary of the Jail Killing today. The government now insists that bringing all the 11 fugitives back home is one of its top priorities and

all possible efforts are underway to On several occasions, Law Minister

Anisul Huq said the government was planning to set up a commission to identify all those behind the killings

that they had already taken legal

steps and engaged with the US and

the Canadian governments to bring back Rashed and Noor for executing the Supreme Court verdict against Replying to a query, he reiterated the government's promise that it would constitute a commission. He,

however, did not say when it would

be formed. "Discussions are taking

place in this regard." Talking to The Daily Star, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam reiterated that the government was using its diplomatic and other channels to extradite the convicted killers and execute the verdicts against them.

Mahbubey Alam, also a member were executed. of the taskforce formed in 2010 to bring home the killers, said some of the attackers took part in both the murders of Bangabandhu and the four leaders, and four of them have been executed in the Bangabandhu murder case.

The Supreme Court in its judgment in the jail killing case observed that the assassination of the four national leaders was the result of a criminal conspiracy. The accused couldn't have carried

out the killings unless very powerful state machineries were involved in the conspiracy, the then chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha said in the verdict.

Hossain, Abdul Majed, Kismat Hasem and Nazmul Hossain. Four other accused -- Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Bazlul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed -- were executed

The following year, the SC exempted the four from the charges of killing the national leaders as they Earlier in August 2008, the

High Court had upheld the capital punishment to Muslemuddin and acquitted Marfat, Hashem, Faroog, Shahriar, Mohiuddin and Bazlul Huda in the jail killing case. Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun, the state defence lawyer appointed by the

SC for Marfat and Hashem, earlier told this correspondent that he didn't know the whereabouts of the two convicted accused. "Marfat Ali Shah, Abdul Hashem

Mridha and their relatives have never communicated with me," he added. Meanwhile,

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday issued separate The apex court on April 30, 2013, messages on the Jail Killing Day.

# improve the sanitation and

Working for

communications system in villages, she added. She mentioned that the government has already ensured internet facility across the country and the rural

people can now enjoy its benefits.

Turning to the cooperatives

movement, the PM said the government wants more crops to be

produced on the existing arable land and the cooperatives movement is very much appropriate to achieve the target. "The people of the country will never extend their hands to anyone for food." She also said the government

would be able to develop the country through cooperatives by building an IT-based management system. The theme of this year's

Cooperatives Day is "Development

through Cooperatives: The philosophy

of Bangabandhu". The Department of Cooperatives under the LGRD and cooperatives ministry organised the event. Describing various steps and programmes to develop the cooperatives system in the country, Hasina said there are around 174,000

cooperatives in the country and they

have 109,00,000 members. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Tazul Islam, Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the LGRD and cooperatives ministry Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Swapan Bhattacharjee also spoke at the event, among others.

National Cooperatives Award to different cooperative societies and individuals for their contributions to the sector. She visited some stalls set up on the venue premises by various cooperative

Earlier, the PM handed over the

societies on the occasion. The premier also enjoyed a colourful cultural programme.

## BNP to write to

said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Act, we'll also write to the Information Commission for details of the deals. We think people have many queries whether the agreements have effects on their welfare," he said.

The BNP does not have any objection in sharing the Feni river water with India. however, the party is concerned about the government's delay in solving the problems related to the Teesta river water, said Fakhrul.

opposed the government's decision of appointing administrators for Grameenphone and Robi as it might send negative messages to foreign investors, he said while talking to the reporters.

he said.

GANG RAPE OF WOMAN sent to jail

small ones.