

MIRPUR MURDERS
Two accused
confess to court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two accused youths
yesterday confessed to a
court of killing a woman
and a teenager, following
altercation over money.

On Tuesday, Rahima
(65) and Sumi (15) were
found dead in a flat in
Dhaka's Mirpur-2.

Two transport workers
-- Moazzem (22) and
Yousuf (23), who were
arrested on Wednesday
in connection with the
double murder -- gave
confessional statements
at the office of Dhaka
Metropolitan Magistrate
Md Sarafuzzaman.

After recording of the
statements, the duo was to
jail, sources said.

On Tuesday, Moazzem
and Yousuf went to the flat,
used for prostitution, and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader and party leaders inaugurated council of the party's Sylhet district and city units at Alia Madrasa field in Chowhatta area yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

5 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

The last two days have seen road accidents claim another five lives across the country, reports our correspondents and a news agency.

A woman and her daughter were killed when a pickup hit them at Nabogram in Shibalaya upazila of Manikganj on Wednesday night. Police have not identified the deceased yet, reports UNB.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound pickup crashed into the mother, aged around 35, and her daughter, 8, around 8:30pm, killing both on the spot, said Barangail highway police.

Police seized the vehicle but its driver and helper managed to flee.

In Madaripur, a man was killed and another was injured when a three-wheeler hit their motorbike in Saheb Bazar area under Shibchar upazila yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Iqbal Hossain (32).

Local rushed the injured to Shibchar Upazila Health Complex where the on-duty doctor declared Iqbal dead, Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Shibchar Police Station told our Faridpur correspondent.

In Benapole, a man was killed when a truck hit a trolley on Amtola-Gatipara road in Sharsha upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as trolley-driver Asadul (30), reports UNB.

The accident occurred when the two vehicles collided head-on, leaving Asadul dead on the spot, said Mamun Khan, officer-in-charge of Sharsha Police Station. The truck driver has been arrested.

In Chandpur, an auto-rickshaw driver was killed and four were injured in a road accident on Chandpur-Cumilla road at Mahamaya Bazar in Sadar upazila on Wednesday. The deceased is Foysal Gazi (18), reports UNB. The accident took place around 2pm when an auto-rickshaw, carrying five people, skidded off the road after hitting a road-side tree, said SI Lokman Hossain of Chandpur Model Police Station. The injured were taken to the local hospital where duty doctors declared Foysal dead.

DEATH IN CAPITAL

Girl identified as daughter of police official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to find the cause of death of the young woman whose body was found in Dhaka's Siddheshwari-Malibagh area on Wednesday night.

Law enforcers last night identified the victim as Rubaiya Sharmin (21), a student of Stamford University. She used to live nearby in Shantibagh with her mother and brother, said Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station.

Rubaiya was missing since Wednesday evening, he quoted family as saying.

Rubaiya's father Rokon Uddin is a police official posted in Habiganj, he said.

Dr Sohel Mahmud, head of Dhaka Medical College's forensic medicine department, told reporters that her hands, legs, waist and spinal cord were fractured.

Locals suspect the woman died after falling from a building, as they heard a sound before finding the body on the street, OC Monirul added.

Sylhet gets fresh AL committee after 14 yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

After 14 years, the council of Sylhet district and city units of Awami League were held yesterday.

In the district unit, acting president Lutfur Rahman was selected president while former joint secretary Nasir Uddin Khan was named general secretary.

For the city unit, district unit joint secretary Mashuk Uddin Ahmed was selected president while city unit joint secretary Jakir Hossain general secretary.

The event was organised at Alia Madrasa field in Chowhatta area of the city.

Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader declared names of the prospective committee members as the units could not decide those on their own.

The last council of the units were held in 2005. Party sources say subsequent councils were delayed due to political changeover and delay in forming upazila and ward committees, among other reasons.

In his speech as chief guest, Quader said Awami League has many leaders but the

party demands more dedicated activists. Leaders must be elected through diligence and dedication, not through displaying posters or banners or shouting slogans.

Awami League does not discard its leaders but changes their duties, he said. "We like to blend in new faces with the old ones and nurture new leadership."

At the council, AL joint general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif presented the keynote speech. AL presidium member Nurul Islam Nahid, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmed, AL joint general secretary Abdur Rahman, AL organising secretary Misbah Uddin Siraj and AL advisory board member Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, among others, spoke at the event.

The council was presided over by Lutfur Rahman while district unit former general secretary Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury and city unit former general secretary Asad Uddin Ahmed presented their respective units' report books to the party top brass.

5 brick kilns demolished in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The Department of Environment (DoE), in a drive yesterday, demolished five brick kilns and fined the owners Tk 23 lakh for causing severe environmental pollution in Savar's Namagenda area, not far from Dhaka.

The brick kilns are TBC, MSB, Chand Mia, Modhumoti and KSB, said Executive Magistrate Maksudul Islam who led the drive.

Four brick kilns -- TBC, MSB, Modhumoti and KSB -- were fined Tk 5 lakh each as they did not have necessary documents and Chand Mia Bricks was fined Tk 3 lakh as the brick kiln had some legal papers but not all the clearance, said Maksudul Islam.

The drive against illegal brick kilns started following an order from higher authorities of DoE, said the executive magistrate, adding that the drive will continue.

As per law, there should be no brick kiln within 1.5km of residential areas, educational institutions and hospitals. These establishments had been operating illegally. To make



An illegal brick kiln being knocked down in Savar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

matters worse, the brick kilns were using topsoil from arable lands and polluting the environment, he added.

We are conducting drive against illegal brick kilns which are posing threat to human health, the magistrate also said.

There are over 200 illegal brick kilns operating in Dhamrai and Savar -- contributing to the deteriorating air

quality in the country, experts say.

The High Court on November 26 ordered the government to conduct mobile court drives to shut down illegal brick kilns in five districts -- Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Munshiganj, and Manikganj -- within 15 days.

In response to a writ petition, the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Focus on battling climate change

President urges graduates at Cuet convocation

BSS, Ctg



PHOTO: PID

President Abdul Hamid yesterday expressed concern over people's dishonesty in business, and urged newly graduated students to keep their integrity intact when working for the welfare of the nation.

He

was

speaking

at

the

fourth

convocation

of

Chattogram

University

of

Engineering

and

Technology

at

its

campus

in

Rangunia

of

Raozan

upazila.

He

expressed

concern

that

a

section

of

people

have

the

tendency

of

hiking

prices

of

essentials

, including

rice

and

onion

, by

creating

fake

crisis

, spreading

rumours

and

using

harmful

chemicals

.

It's

a

strange

country

,

the

president

said

, adding

, "On

one

hand

farmers

are

harvesting

paddy

, and

on

the

other

, price

of

rice

is

on

the

rise

.

This

is

very

saddening

."

The

head

of

the

state

advised

the

quarters

concerned

to

shun

these

evil

deeds

.

The

president

suggested

graduates

to

acquire

world-standard

knowledge

and

expertise