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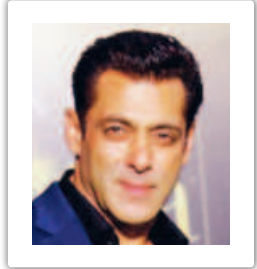


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Salman Khan nearly killed by sharpshooter



AGENCIES

An attempt was made to kill Bollywood superstar Salman Khan by a sharpshooter sent by gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.

The shocking details were shared in a report by Times Network. The report states that during the investigation of the Sidhu Moose Wala's murder case, officials came across that a sharpshooter almost killed Salman Khan outside his residence but the actor got saved by a whisker.

As per the report, Lawrence Bishnoi, one of the suspect in the Sidhu Moose Wala's gruesome murder case, had sent a sharpshooter with a small-bore weapon hidden in a

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These homesteads in Trimohoni area in the capital's Khilgaon have been built by filling up part of the Jirani canal. This part of the canal, which falls under the Dhaka South City Corporation, was much wider a few years ago. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

KILLINGS OF AL LEADER, STUDENT Musa to be grilled along with others Says DB official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sumon Shikder Musa, a key accused in the killings of Dhaka Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and a college student, will be interrogated face to face with other accused to obtain information whether any others were behind the crime.



Musa

A top detective said this yesterday, a day after Musa was brought back home from Oman.

A Dhaka court placed Musa on six-day remand yesterday after DB Inspector Mohammad Yasin Sikder, investigation officer of the double murder case, produced him before it seeking 15-day remand.

The IO informed the court that Musa coordinated the killings and supplied the firearm which was used to kill Tipu on March 24.

Two other arrestees, Masum Mohammad alias Akash and Nasiruddin Manik, gave statements to the court mentioning about Musa's connections to the murders, he said.

So, Musa needs to be remanded for more information about the incident and recovery of the firearm which was used in the killings, the IO argued.

Earlier in the day, Additional Commissioner of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, AKM Hafiz Akhter told a press briefing that "shooter" Akash made a confessional statement mentioning that Musa masterminded and coordinated Tipu's killing.

He said 12 other accused, who have so far been

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No roadmap for cutting energy costs

Say experts about proposed budget

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The proposed budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year does not outline a roadmap for reducing gas imports by increasing domestic production.

There was also no mention of phasing out the highly expensive quick rental power plants, something recommended by experts for years.

"We need to focus on overhauling and augmenting the old gas wells and completing the offshore survey to reduce our high dependency on imported LNG and fuel. But we saw nothing about this in the proposed budget," said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Other experts said the volatile prices of fuel and liquified natural gas at international markets would be a major challenge facing the sector.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal proposed allocating Tk 26,066 crore, down by Tk 1,418 crore from the outgoing fiscal year, for the power, energy and mineral

resources ministry.

Of the proposed amount, Tk 24,196 crore will be spent on the power division and only Tk 1,870 crore on the energy and mineral division.

"As long as we continue to buy expensive power from the rental power plants and do not increase the production of gas and coal

"Our capacity to generate low-cost electricity rises almost every year. But we don't utilise the capacity. We buy power from the expensive rental plants instead."

from our fields, an increase or decrease in the budget allocation will have little impact," prominent energy expert Prof Shamsul Alam told The Daily Star.

"Our capacity to generate low-cost electricity rises almost every year. But we don't utilise the capacity. We buy power from the expensive rental plants instead."

The finance minister did not disclose the exact amount of subsidy to power and energy. He simply said an estimated Tk 82,745 crore will be required to subsidise fuel, gas, electricity, fertiliser, etc.

CPD estimated that the subsidy would be Tk 17,000 crore for the power sector, up by Tk 5,000 crore from the current fiscal year.

According to CPD, the transmission and distribution of electricity are still getting less priority in the power sector as 58 percent of the annual development programme is allocated for generation, and only 21 percent each for transmission and distribution.

The additional amount will be needed because of higher prices of imported fuel and payments for rental power plants, CPD Executive Director Dr Fahmida Khatun said at an event yesterday.

The high fiscal pressure may persist unless the country moves away from the expensive oil and LNG based power plants, she said.

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BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION Cop opens fire outside Kolkata mission, kills self Woman hit by bullet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A police constable posted near the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata's Park Circus yesterday opened fire indiscriminately and seriously injured a passerby, before shooting himself dead.

Two other passersby suffered minor injuries in the incident that happened around 2:30pm, police said.

Seriously injured Reema Singha, a resident of Howrah district, was hit by a bullet from the service rifle of constable Chodup Lepcha, Kolkata Police Commissioner Vincet Goyal told media.

She was being treated at a local hospital, he said around 4:00pm, adding that Lecha was on leave and had joined duty yesterday.

A diplomat at the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata told The Daily Star that the incident took place on a road behind the building.

Asked if Lepcha was suffering from any mental ailments, the city police chief said, "This will be investigated."

Some Indian media outlets had earlier reported that a woman riding pillion on a scooter died after being hit by a bullet during the incident.

Asteroid samples contain 'clues to origin of life'

AFP, Tokyo

Asteroid dust collected by a Japanese space probe contains organic material that shows some of the building blocks of life on Earth may have been formed in space, scientists said yesterday.



Pristine material from the asteroid Ryugu was brought back to Earth in 2020 after a six-year mission to the celestial body around 300 million kilometres away.

But scientists are only just beginning to discover its secrets in the first studies on small portions of the 5.4 grams (0.2 ounces) of dust and dark, tiny rocks.

In one paper published yesterday, a group of researchers led by Okayama University in western Japan said they had discovered "amino acids and other organic matter that could give clues to the origin of life on Earth".

"The discovery of protein-forming amino acids is important, because Ryugu has not been exposed to the Earth's biosphere, like meteorites, and as such their detection proves that at least some of the building blocks of life on Earth could have been

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FALLOUT OF UKRAINE WAR

11-19 million more may face hunger: FAO

REUTERS, Geneva

Reduced exports of wheat and other food commodities from Ukraine and Russia risk leaving between 11 million and 19 million more people with chronic hunger over the next year, the United Nations' food agency said yesterday.

The conflict in Ukraine has fuelled a global food crisis, with surging prices for grains, cooking oils, fuel and fertiliser. Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat supplies, while Russia is also a key fertiliser exporter and Ukraine a major supplier of corn and sunflower oil.

Boubaker BenBelhassen, director of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Markets and Trade Division, said the impact of the conflict "could lead to anywhere between 11 to 19 million more hungry people - that's chronic hunger for 2022/23".

This preliminary estimation was based

on reduced exports of food commodities from Ukraine and Russia, he told reporters.

The FAO also said in a report on Thursday that spiralling costs for farm inputs like fertiliser could deter growers from expanding production and worsen food security in poorer countries facing record import bills.

"The countries that are being affected most are in the Near East/North African region given their heavy reliance on imports - especially of wheat - from these countries, but also of vegetable oil, sunflower oil," he said.

Some countries in sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia, such as Bangladesh and Indonesia, were also being "highly impacted," he added.

World production of major cereals was expected to decline in 2022 for the first time in four years, while global utilisation was also seen down for the first time in 20

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BNP supporters attending a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. The party organised the rally to protest the rising prices of gas and essential commodities.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

UN slams scrapping of Odhikar's licence

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations yesterday slammed cancellation of the operating licence of rights group Odhikar, urging the Bangladesh government to "immediately reconsider".

The rights body, which has been documenting human rights violations in Bangladesh since 1994, said this week that authorities had rejected its application to renew its registration.

The order it received from the NGO Affairs Bureau, a wing of the Prime Minister's Office, said "the activities of the organisation are not satisfactory".

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