



PHOTO: STAR

Friend arrested

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sitting for an exam at the university on November 5 and would then return home to have lunch with his mother.

Fardin, however, never appeared for the exam. After learning this, Noor Uddin tried to reach his son over the phone but could not. Other family members and friends also tried to contact him but in vain, the case statement read.

Police said Bushra told them she and Fardin were together from afternoon till around 10:00pm on November 4.

An officer investigating the case said Fardin was seen on a rickshaw with Bushra in the capital's Rampura area at 10:00pm.

"But we still could not find any footage showing the Buet student [Fardin] leaving the area. That is what made us suspicious," he said, preferring anonymity.

The body of Fardin, a third-year student of civil engineering in Buet, was recovered from the Shitalakkhya at Banani Ghat in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj on November 7 afternoon. His head and chest bore injury marks.

Bushra, a third-year student of English at a private university, lives in a mess in the capital's Rampura.

Mazharul Azam, an uncle of hers, said she has been falsely implicated in the case.

Quoting Bushra, he said Fardin had come to Rampura TV bhaban area to drop Bushra. "She had been in the mess since then."

He added the CCTV footage even shows her walking towards the mess alone around 10 minutes after she was dropped.

In another development, the murder case was transferred to the Detective Branch of police yesterday for further investigation.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said Fardin Noor Parash's last location was tracked in Gazipur, reports the UNB.

"How his body ended up in the Shitalakkhya is being investigated," he told reporters at Rajarbagh Police Lines in Dhaka.

No strings attached

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Withdrawing the interest rate cap or cutting back on fertiliser subsidy and tax exemption were off the table, according to Kamal.

"The fact that IMF is with us will dissipate the market's tension and the pressure on reserves will come down in 2-3 months," another official said.

Meanwhile, the IMF staff mission wrapped up its 15-day tour of Bangladesh yesterday with a meeting with think tanks to exchange views and to hear their opinion on the economy.

The think tanks include the Centre for Policy Dialogue, the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) and the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (Sanem).

The next budget will be the key as the IMF will be watching if the government is being sincere about

the reforms, said one of the meeting participants on the condition of anonymity to describe a private conversation.

"They [the IMF staff mission] are hopeful that the programme will work," said another meeting participant.

The government's ownership is crucial here, said Selim Raihan, executive director Sanem.

"If there is ownership, proper reforms will happen and our structural problems can be addressed."

If the government can use the opportunity properly, the economy will become stronger and it will improve the capacity to absorb shocks, Raihan added.

"We are hopeful the programme with the IMF will be successful," said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of PRI.

England demolish India

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Hales finished on 86 not out from 47 balls, and Buttler, who was unbeaten on a 49-ball 80, completed the statement win in style, blasting paceman Mohammed Shami over his head for six.

Put into bat after Buttler won the toss, Rohit Sharma's India started slowly under tight English bowling, and it was left to Hardik Pandya (63) and Virat Kohli (50) to mount a rescue, pushing them to 168 for six.

The total seemed a tad below par and soon looked piffling as Hales and Buttler went to work, the pair blasting 23 boundaries between them.

Their 170-run stand was the biggest opening partnership in T20 World Cup history and England's biggest for any wicket at the tournament.

For player-of-the-match Hales, it was a night of redemption, having missed out on England's 2019 triumph after a recreational drug scandal.

His exile from the England setup lasted more than three years and he was only called up to the squad after Jonny Bairstow was injured in a freak golf accident.

England had to make changes for the semi-final, with pace spearhead Mark Wood and number three batsman Dawid Malan out injured.

Replacement seamer Chris Jordan took 3-43, capturing the key wicket of Kohli, while spinner Adil Rashid took a miserly 1-20 from his four overs.

Virat Kohli made his fourth half-century of the tournament and put on a 61-run fourth-wicket stand with Pandya, who tore into the opposition attack in the final overs, taking 57 off the final three overs, including 20 off one from Sam Curran.

But it proved too little, too late, after a sluggish start with the bat.

Kohli passed 4,000 T20 international runs with a boundary off Liam Livingstone that took India's total to 100-3 after 15 overs.