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Killed by friends, for money

Say police on Tejgaon College student murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after recovering the body of Ikram Hossain Molla -- a first-year student of Tejgaon College -- in the capital's Khilkhet, police said he was murdered by his friends over money-related issues.

After killing Ikram, 22, his friends wanted to cover up the murder by dumping the body in a ditch and covering it with water hyacinth, said police.

Iftekharul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (Cantonment Zone) of DMP's Gulshan Division, told The Daily Star that Ikram went missing on Thursday night. His family reported the matter to Khilkhet Police Station and filed a general diary on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday, locals found the body in a ditch adjacent to the Dumni's Baluchar area and informed police. Ikram's family later identified the body, the ADC said.

Kabir Hossain Molla, father of the deceased, then filed a murder case with Khilkhet Police Station.

After going through his mobile phone, police first arrested Ikram's friend Shanto from his house. During interrogation, he told the police about the involvement of another suspect, Abu Siddique, in the murder.

Ikram lived with his family in Khilkhet's Dumni area. Police said Ikram managed to secure Tk 2 lakh from his



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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with Commonwealth Secretary General Baroness Patricia Scotland at the Claridge Hotel in London yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

More midwives needed to aid safe birth

Speakers tell event marking International Day of the Midwife

STAR REPORT

In order to raise awareness among different stakeholders and health partners to invest in skilled midwives, speakers called for action to improve working conditions for midwives to enhance health outcomes for women and families.

They made this demand at an event marking International Day of the Midwife in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

They aimed to recognise the contribution of midwives in saving lives and promoting the health and well-being of mothers and newborns.

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Working Group in Cox's Bazar, led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and health sector

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Sold by youths, bought by youths

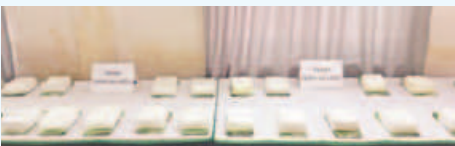
4 of drug syndicate held with 24kg crystal meth

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Applying innovative techniques, narcotics dealers are smuggling crystal meth -- popularly known as ice -- into Bangladesh from Myanmar.

Along with the notorious drug dealers, a suspended policeman was found joining hands with the smugglers to smuggle the biggest haul of meth consignment in the country.

The syndicate first brought the meth from Myanmar through Ghumdhum border in Bandarban. The consignment was preserved at the border point first. Then the consignment was transferred to the Rohingya camps, divided into small portions and preserved in the remote hilly areas.



- 80 held just in Dhaka north in last 1.5 years
- They are aged between 18 and 35
- Ice seizure increased 3 times in last 2 years
- Dealers use code words, social media

This is the largest haul of crystal meth in the country, worth around Tk 120 crore, said Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing.

They were finally transferred to Dhaka and other districts of the country based on demands. For smuggling the drugs from the Rohingya camp to the capital, the dealers tied the meth with the body of the carriers or stuffed them inside tea bags to avoid any suspicion.

They even used code words like "tea leaves" to talk about the consignments on the online messenger app imo.

Rapid Action Battalion disclosed the findings yesterday after the arrest of four narcotics smuggling syndicate members, with 24.2 kilos of meth on Saturday night.

This is the largest haul of crystal meth in the country, worth around Tk 120 crore, said Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing.

The arrestees are -- Iran Majhi alias Mohammad Imran, 33, the kingpin of the syndicate, his brother Mohammad Rubel alias Dakat Rubel, 26, and associates Md Alauddin, 35, an expelled member of the police and Joynal Abedin, 37.

Led by Imran, the syndicate of 12 members was involved in ice smuggling for a long time.

They used to smuggle ice in 15 day intervals from Myanmar and preserve it under the mud by using construction materials as a cover, Moin told The Daily Star.

On information, a team of Rab-15 conducted a drive at an under-construction house in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila on Saturday night and arrested the four. Seven to eight other members of the syndicate managed to escape, he added.

Imran was wanted in at least seven cases,

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No foreign pressure for caretaker govt
Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka



Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said there is no foreign pressure for restoring caretaker government system in Bangladesh.

"European Union, the US, the UK or no other friendly country put pressure on Bangladesh over caretaker government system. No country interfered in internal matters of Bangladesh," he said.

Quader said these while talking to journalists after a board meeting of Bridge Authority at Setu Bhaban in the capital's Banani.

He said BNP wants a caretaker government which can assure the party of getting elected in polls.

The AL general secretary said the last caretaker government stayed in power for two years but it was supposed to stay for three months.

"The caretaker government

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EC doesn't have capacity to hold fair elections
Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



BNP General Secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) doesn't have the capability to conduct fair elections.

"They [the government] have made the EC a domestic entity," he made the remarks while addressing a session of Thakurgaon's Sadar Upazila BNP's conference as the chief guest.

Despite the government's effort to portray the EC positively, it was of no use, said the BNP leader.

Regarding the caretaker government, Fakhrul said that before the Awami League government came to power in 1996, they took to the streets for the caretaker government.

"They enforced 176 hartals. Many people were injured and killed and they paralysed the country. They were able to come to power because our leader accepted their demands and held

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Militants in CHT won't be spared
Warns home minister

UNB, Ctg

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday warned that armed criminals and militant groups in the hills of Chattogram will not be spared.

However, the minister said the government will take initiative if any criminal wants to return to normal life.

The minister was talking to reporters after attending the concluding ceremony of the training of 99th recruit batch of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at Baitul Izzat BGB Training Centre in Satkania upazila of Chattogram.

The BGB force has been strengthened through

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Suspended DIG Mizanur denied bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday denied bail to suspended deputy inspector general (DIG) of police Md Mizanur Rahman in a corruption case.

The bench of Justice SM Kuddus Zaman and Justice Shahed Nuruddin rejected a petition on behalf of Mizanur seeking bail in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The HC passed the rejection order as the trial proceedings in this case will be finished soon, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan and Mizanur's lawyer Mahbub Shafique told The Daily Star.

The ACC filed the case with its Integrated District Office in Dhaka on June 24, 2019, against Mizan, his wife Sohelia Anar Ratna and nephew Mahmudul Hasan, a sub-inspector of police, on charges of amassing over Tk 3 crore beyond known source of income.

Trial begins in GCC engineer Delwar murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of engineer Delwar Hossain murder case against three people, including Mohammad Selim, a former assistant engineer of Gazipur City Corporation, began at a Dhaka court yesterday with deposition of the complainant.

Dhaka's Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court Judge Mohammad Morshed Alam recorded the statement of the complainant Khodeja Akhter, also the wife of the victim.

Later, the defence for the fugitive accused Mohammad Selim cross-examined her, prosecution lawyer Kaoser Ahmed said.

The judge then fixed May 28 for next hearing of the case.

Delwar Hossain, the then executive engineer of Gazipur City Corporation, was killed following an altercation with his junior colleague Mohammad Selim on May 11, 2020.

Of the accused, Selim went into hiding after getting bail from the High Court on June 29 last year, while his accomplices -- Helal Howlader and Habibur Rahman Khan -- are now in custody.

Man dies after being hit by bus

UNB, Dhaka

A 40-year old unidentified man died after being hit by a bus at Kamalapur crossing yesterday.

Ujjal Miah, a sub-inspector of Motijheel police station, said the accident occurred around 10:00am when a speeding bus hit him.

An auto-rickshaw driver took him to DMCH where physicians declared him dead, the SI said.

PRAYER
TIMING

MAY 8

| | | | | |
|--------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 4-15 | 12-45 | 5-00 | 6-34 | 8-00 |
| JAMAAAT 4-50 | 1-15 | 5-15 | 6-38 | 8-30 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed pays a courtesy call on President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PID

Army chief meets president

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed paid a courtesy call on President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon.

The army chief briefed the president about the overall activities of Bangladesh Army, the president's Press Secretary Joynal Abedin told reporters after the meeting.

He highlighted the various steps taken for the development of the army and progress of implementation.

President Shahabuddin expressed his satisfaction over the activities of the army and said that the development activities of the army will continue in

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