

RMG worker stabbed to death near police box

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A readymade garment worker was stabbed to death by unidentified criminals on the Dhaka-Aricha highway just opposite the police box in Savar on Thursday night.

The deceased identified as Palash Chandra, 37, used to work at an RMG factory in the Khejurbagan area of Savar.

Palash was returning home to Nabinagar after work around 9:30pm when the incident took place.

Unidentified miscreants stabbed him indiscriminately near a footbridge in the C&B area, just opposite the police box there.

Pedestrians rushed him to Enam Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

Savar Model Police Station Sub-Inspector (SI) Harun-or Rashid said criminals stabbed Palash as soon as he got down from the footbridge.

"Several stab injuries were found on his chest, stomach, face, and hands," he added.

Asked about the reason behind the murder, he said, we're still unclear whether the incident was snatching or a pre-planned murder.

"If it had been snatchers, the criminals would have taken his mobile phone and wallet. But nothing was taken from his pockets," he added.

"We will know more after an investigation into the incident," he also added.

On November 14, 2022, Abu Bakr Siddique, assistant commissioner (land) of Kalapara upazila, Patuakhali was stabbed and injured by the snatchers at the same exact place.

Later, six snatchers were arrested on the incident.

4 men sent to jail over rape charges

STAR REPORT

Four men were sent to jail over rape charges in two districts yesterday.

A Jashore court sent three men to jail for gang-raping an 18-year-old girl.

Md Saqib, 26, Bachchu Mia, 30, and Mahabbat Ali, 27, are all residents of Jashore Sadar upazila.

Police said the victim was acquainted with Saqib as both of them lived in the same village.

On Thursday, Saqib lured the girl to a nearby field and kept her there until dusk, when his friends showed up and gang-raped her.

Villagers found the girl in the field early yesterday morning.

On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued the girl.

On the basis of the victim's complaint, police arrested three of the alleged rapists, said AKM Shafiqul Islam Chowdhury, inspector (investigation) of the Jashore Kotwali police station.

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Risking their lives, these desperate people walking across Joydebpur level crossing in Gazipur when a moving train is just metres away. They show no regard for the crossbars (not seen) that were lowered at this time. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Fighting rages in Sudan's Darfur

Mediators say warring sides improve truce compliance

AFP, Khartoum

Fierce fighting between rival Sudanese forces rocked the western region of Darfur yesterday, witnesses said, as US and Saudi observers noted "improved respect" for a fragile ceasefire now in its fourth day.

Within minutes of the ceasefire taking effect late Monday -- after weeks of war that has claimed 1,800 lives and displaced more than one million people -- witnesses in the capital Khartoum reported air strikes and gunshots.

The one-week truce is the latest in a series of agreements that have all been systematically violated, with the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) accusing each other of more violations this week.

The United States and Saudi Arabia, which had brokered the latest deal, reported "serious violations" since it took effect, particularly on Wednesday.

Washington has threatened sanctions for breaches detected by its "monitoring mechanism", but has not yet targeted either side.

The conflict, which erupted on April

15, pits Sudan's de facto leader General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan against his former deputy, RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

In a joint statement yesterday, the mediators "noted improved respect for the agreement" and said they had "cautioned the parties against further violations and implored them to improve respect for the ceasefire on (Thursday), which they did".

The ICRC announced that they had finally been able to begin distributing aid to "seven hospitals in Khartoum".

There was nevertheless "isolated gunfire in Khartoum", the US-Saudi statement said.

Increasingly desperate civilians have been waiting for brief lulls in fighting to flee or for assistance to flow through as battles have left the capital -- a city of five million -- with intermittent supply of food, water and electricity.

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Two BCL men arrested for assaulting cop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two local Chhatra League men were arrested yesterday for assaulting an on-duty policeman in Pabna Sadar upazila.

They are Ashikur Rahman, 24, vice president of BCL's Maligasa union unit and his associate BCL activist Hasib Ali, 29.

Ashish Kumar Shannal, officer-in-charge of Pakshey Highway Police Station, said a team of highway police stopped Akash and Hasib in the Tebunia area of the Pabna-Rajshahi highway on Thursday afternoon as they were riding a bike without helmets. Police seized the bike as they failed to show the necessary papers.

When Constable Shadhan Chandra was taking the bike to the police station, the accused chased him with another bike and caught him in the Munshidpur area, the OC said.

"He was beaten mercilessly there."

The arrests were made after Shadhan filed a case against them, said Ishwardi Police Station OC Arbinda Sarkar.

Though the incident took place on Thursday, the police informed the media yesterday after the arrests, our Pabna correspondent reports quoting the police.

The arrestees were sent to jail by a district court, said the OC of the Ishwardi Police Station.

2 siblings killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Two siblings were killed and five others injured as a bus collided head on with a CNG-run autorickshaw in Cumilla's Daudkandi yesterday afternoon.

The dead are Saleha Begum 45, and her brother Al Amin, 35, of Bhabanipur union of the upazila, said Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Daudkandi Model Police Station.

The injured are Md Nazmul, 35, his wife Rina Akter, 22, their daughter Nusrat, 3, Rokhsana, 35, and autorickshaw driver, Shanto, 20.

A Dhaka-bound bus of Jainpur Paribahan hit the autorickshaw at Sheikh Bari area on Gouripur-Matlab road yesterday afternoon killing the two, police said.

All the injured were referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after given primary treatment at Daudkandi Upazila Health Complex, said the OC.

Man found dead at home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police recovered the decomposed body of a man from a house in Tangail's Ghatail upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Sultan Mahmud, 50, of Jamuria union.

Mahmud used to live alone at the house after separation with his wife, said Nasir Uddin, the victim's brother.

The body was lying on a bed at the house. The hands and legs were tied, said Lokman Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ghatail Police Station.

The body was sent to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy, he further said, adding that the murder might have taken place a few days ago.

Man held with over 1kg heroin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion arrested a man with heroin in Chapainawabganj Sadar on Thursday.

The arrestee is Ziakur, 50, of Pirgachhi village in the district's Shibganj upazila, said Rab.

Aminul Islam, company deputy commander of Chapainawabganj Rab camp, said a Rab-5 team arrested the man and seized over 1kg heroin from him near Langrar intersection around 7:30pm.

The arrestee was handed over to Chapainawabganj Sadar Model Police Station.

4 hornbill birds rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday sentenced two wildlife traffickers to six months in jail after four endangered hornbill birds were rescued from them in Chattogram's Banshkhali.

Banshkhali Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Mahmudul Hasan, who led the mobile court, handed down the punishment to Md Selim and Md Mizanur Rahaman.

Police recovered the four birds after searching a CNG-run three-wheeler in Banshkhali's Gunagari market around 12:30am.

The court awarded the jail term in the morning.

Inspector Md Solaiman, in charge of Ramdas Munshir Hat Police Outpost, said, "The endangered hornbills were being transported to Satkhira border from Cox's Bazar's Chakaria for smuggling to India."

US 'heartened' by Bangladesh's response

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within Bangladesh should or should not do. I will say that the United States' interest in this question is in support of free and fair and peaceful elections. That's why we announced the new policy that we did yesterday [Wednesday].

After the US announced its new visa policy, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen hoped that the new visa policy would help Bangladesh hold free and fair elections.

"We hope it will help us conduct free and fair elections, especially violence will not be there. Those who resort to violence will refrain from it," he told reporters after a meeting with US Ambassador Peter Haas at the foreign ministry Thursday afternoon.



Palestinians argue with Israeli security forces during a protest against the establishment of Israeli outposts, in Beit Dajan, east of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BNP to carry

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processes for arranging the upcoming parliamentary elections in Bangladesh are in a free, fair, participatory and acceptable manner.

At the same time, the BNP leader said the stance taken by the US government against any move to rig votes, intimidate voters, violently suppress the people's freedom of peaceful assembly and exercise of their rights is a clear echo of the long-standing demand of the people of Bangladesh for a free and fair election.

"Arranging a free and fair election by establishing a polls-time non-partisan neutral government is the demand and expectation of the country's people and the international community. This is the only way to get rid of the ongoing political, economic, social, and national crises," he said.

Fakhrul also called upon the people of the country to remain firm and determined in realising the demand.

12 expelled BNP leaders

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BNP said that it would boycott the mayoral polls and would take tough actions against those party leaders and activists who would run for councillor.

The party also warned that actions

would be taken against the patrons of those candidates.

Despite the warning, 29 leaders took part in the councillor polls to Gazipur City Corporation.

On May 16, the BNP expelled the 29 leaders from the party for life.

3 reasons why Zaida won Gazipur polls

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"There were many supporters of Zahangir in Azmat's camp," he said.

Mohammad Jalal Uddin, president of Gazipur District Nagorik Forum, said factory workers, who benefited from the activities of the suspended mayor, played a crucial role in deciding the outcome of the polls.

He said Zahangir's development works paid off.

Jalal Uddin said Azmat's campaign turned out to be a show. "His overconfidence is another reason for his defeat."

Another local Awami League

leader, wishing not to be named, said Azmat's defeat is a big blow to his political career.

He said when Azmat got the party's backing in the 2013 mayoral polls, Zahangir did not campaign for him. This time, Azmat won the party's ticket, but lost to Zahangir's mother, he added.

Nurul Islam Fakir, a resident of Gazaria Para of Gazipur, said although a few people were unhappy with widening of alleys and construction of new roads in Gazipur city by Zahangir, a large number of people benefitted from those works.

A strong message for ruling party

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That the government can hold a free and fair election has been proven, he told a discussion at the AL office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital.

According to insiders, the AL leadership has been so busy running the government since 2009 that the organisation itself ceased to be a priority.

The AL faced a setback in the 2021 union parishad elections, thanks to internal feuds and disgruntled local leaders running as independents.

But no serious steps were taken to unite the party afterwards, the insiders say.

In Gazipur, the first mistake the AL leaders made was to assume that the local administration and police would

support the ruling party nominee.

Besides, they didn't take Zahangir and his mother seriously enough. They thought the local activists would not maintain their relations with Zahangir after his permanent expulsion from the AL. They also assumed that the local activists would work together for the AL nominee.

But in reality, many grassroots leaders worked for Zaida Khatun in secret, said the sources.

Many AL leaders from Gazipur say that some of the BNP supporters had voted for Zaida while others voted for her simply because of their anti-government sentiments.

After the ruling AL chose Azmat to run for mayor, Zahangir collected

nomination papers for himself and his mother to participate in the election as independents. As the Election Commission scrapped his nomination papers, he started campaigning for his mother Zaida.

In 2013, Zahangir tried to run for mayor but the AL chose Azmat, who ended up losing to BNP's MA Mannan.

Zahangir tried to run as an independent, but quit the race only a few days before that election day.

Since the ballot papers could not be changed at the last minute, his electoral symbol remained on them. Eventually, almost 30,000 people voted for him, which according to analysts was a major reason why Azmat lost that election.

Over 50 hurt as AL, BNP activists clash

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On information, police rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control, said Mamunur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Keraniganj Model Police Station.

Speaking to Bangla daily Prothom Alo, ME Mamun, general secretary of Keraniganj South thana AL, alleged that a group of BNP activists, led by Nipun Roy, attacked and vandalised their party office, leaving at least 20 AL men injured.

However, Khandaker Abu Ashfaq, president of Dhaka district BNP, said without any provocation, AL men carried out the attack on BNP activists, injuring at least 30 activists.

After the clash, BNP held its programme in front of the local party office where Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi spoke.

In Khagrachhari town, at least five BNP men were injured after a motorcade was attacked allegedly by the AL men.

The injured include Khagrachhari district BNP Vice-president Khetro

Mohon Royaza. The rear windshield of the car carrying Abdullah Al Noman was vandalised, claimed BNP. Wadud Bhuiyan, president of the district BNP, said the motorcade was heading towards their party office in the town to join a pre-scheduled rally.

When the motorcade reached Narikelbagan area around 11:15am, some 25 to 30 AL men, armed with sticks, launched an attack in presence of police personnel, he alleged.

Contacted, Abdullah Al Noman said, "Luckily, I escaped the attack. But some of us were injured and cars were vandalised."

However, Nirmolendu Chowdhury, the district AL general secretary, denied the allegation and said BNP men first attacked them.

AL men were inside their party office in Narikelbagan area when the motorcade was crossing the area. But the BNP activists started hurling brick chunks at AL men without any provocation, said Nirmolendu, also the mayor of Khagrachhari

municipality.

Later, the AL and BNP men chased and counter-chased each other. Four AL activists were hurt, he claimed.

On information, police rushed to the spot and pacified the two groups. Contacted, Naimul Haque, superintendent of Khagrachhari police, said, "No one filed any complaint. The AL and BNP held their programmes in Khagrachhari peacefully today [yesterday]."

"If we receive any complaint, we will take legal action after an investigation."

Meanwhile in Barguna, BNP leaders alleged that police obstructed their activists from joining a party rally. The party activist came from different upazilas.

The BNP held the event at Old Launch Terminal area in the district town yesterday afternoon. BNP Vice-chairman Abdul Awal Mintoo was joined the programme as the chief guest.

[Our Chattogram and Patuakhali correspondents contributed to this report.]