

# ODHIKAR ANNUAL REPORT 391 extrajudicial killings in 2019

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 391 people fell victim to extrajudicial killings in 2019, according to a report by rights organisation Odhikar.

Of the victims, 376 were killed in "crossfires or encounters or gunfights", six were allegedly tortured to death by law enforcers, eight were shot to death and one was beaten to death by police, said Odhikar's Annual Human Rights Report 2019. Of them, at least 183 were killed in the nationwide anti-drug operations, it added.

In 2018, the number of extrajudicial killings was 466, when law enforcers started the "war against drugs".

Odhikar summarised that a total of 34 people became victims of enforced disappearance last year. Of them, eight were found dead, 17 returned alive and whereabouts of the remaining nine is still unknown.

The report also said 56 people were lynched in 2019. One of the incidents -- that sparked public outcry -- was when housewife Taslima Begum was killed in a mob beating on July 20, 2019 after she was suspected of being a child kidnapper, when she went to North Badda Primary School in Dhaka to inquire about their admission process.

Odhikar observed that such incidents took place due to a lack of confidence in the justice system, a culture of impunity, mistrust in law enforcement agencies, lack of implementation of laws and social unrest.

The report said 102 journalists were injured, harassed, threatened and sued in 2019. The number was 126 in 2018.

It said a total of 1,080 women, including 330 adults and 737 children, were raped last year.

Last year, the report said the country witnessed killing of 41 Bangladeshi nationals along the India-Bangladesh border. The number was 11 in 2018.

## 'NHRC A FAILED INSTITUTION'

About the National Human Rights Commission, the rights watchdog said the rules for formation of NHRC are not satisfactory as they have failed to ensure an independent commission. It also alleged that the Awami League government formed the commission led by people loyal to it and turned the commission into a subservient institution.

FR TOWER DESIGN FORGERY

## Charges accepted against 5

JNU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took cognisance of charges against five people, in a case filed over forgery in the design of FR Tower in the capital's Banani.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order in presence of four accused.

The court also set March 5 for hearing on the case.

Syed Md Hossain Imam Faruque alias SMHI Faruque, a lease holder of FR Tower; Liakat Ali Khan Mukul, chairman of Rupyayan Housing Estate Ltd; Md Saidur Rahman, former chief engineer of Rajuk, and Syed Makhbul Ahmed, former authorised officer of Rajuk, were present in the courtroom.

The court also issued an arrest warrant against Md Humayun Khadem, former chairman of Rajuk.

The FR Tower caught fire on March 28 last year, leaving 25 people dead and 73 injured.

ACC filed a case against the five on July 25 last year. On November 27, ACC's Abu Bakar Siddique submitted the charge sheet.



**This steel bridge near Madhabpasha Union Parishad under Babuganj upazila of Barishal collapsed after a heavyweight stone-laden truck attempted to cross it yesterday morning, cutting off road communication between Barishal and two upazilas of Pirojpur. According to officials of Roads and Highways, the bridge had a load capacity of 5 tonnes but the truck was carrying over 20 tonnes of weight.**

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Two journos attacked in Old Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two journalists of private channel News24 were attacked, allegedly by traders, on their way to cover a drive by Customs Bond Commissionerate at Old Dhaka's Nayabazar yesterday afternoon.

Senior reporter Fakhru Islam and senior cameraperson Sheikh Jalal were being treated at DMCH after some locals rescued them, said their colleague Mou Khandaker. The attackers also damaged their vehicle, camera and backpacks.

Some people, mostly traders, swooped on them around 2pm when they were on their way to Armanitola, where officials were carrying out drives against traders involved in buying and selling products and raw materials imported using bond benefits.

"Selling such products in open market instead of using export-oriented industries is illegal. We came to know that journalists were attacked...", said Md Al Amin, assistant commissioner of Customs Bond.

A case was filed with Bongshal Police Station accusing around 70 unnamed.

## PRY HEADTEACHER, ASTT TEACHER

# Over 28,000 posts vacant: state minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 28,832 posts of headteacher and assistant teacher remain vacant in primary schools as of December 2019, said State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Zakir Hossain yesterday.

The junior minister said this in parliament while responding to a question from Awami League MP Mamunur Rashid.

In the scripted answer, he said of the vacant posts, 7,018 are for headteacher while 21,814 for assistant teacher.

The state minister said appointment letters have been issued in name of selected candidates to appoint 18,147 assistant teachers. They will join soon.

Regarding vacant posts of headteacher, he said a letter has been sent to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for direct recruitment.

Promotion to the post remained stopped due to a pending case. The government, however, continues to appoint assistant teachers as headteachers on the basis of seniority, he added.

Responding to a question from treasury bench lawmaker M Abdul Latif, the state minister said 1,79,717 teachers were appointed in primary schools between 2009 and 2018.

In reply to a query from AL MP Afzal Hossain, he said the AL government was successful in preventing school dropouts in primary education, which became 18.6 percent in 2018. It used to be 39.8 percent in 2010.

Responding to a question from AL MP Benjir Ahmed, the state minister said according to the national education policy, the government has taken measures to start primary education up to eighth grade. The government has already given approval to 783 primary schools in this regard.

Responding to a question from reserved seat MP Syeda Rubina Akhter, Education Minister Dipu Moni said work is underway to set up 65,600 multimedia classrooms in selected educational institutions.

## ACC finds

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"Moreover, to avert the compulsory e-GP [online procedure for government procurement], the officials divided the work into four separate packages, all of which were awarded to one contractor," he added.

Besides, due to negligence of CAAB chief engineer and other officials, the cost of Cox's Bazar airport development project has shot up.

Sources said former project director Aminul Hasib failed to deposit money for compensating affected locals on time to the deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar.

Since the Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property Act came into effect in 2017, the compensation rate got doubled, and the government had to pay extra Tk 100 crore from the public exchequer.

Goswami was superintendent officer at that time, the CAAB source added.

Contacted, Maksudul declined to make any comment. This correspondent called Goswami but he rejected the call. He was sent a text message, but the chief engineer did not respond.

## 19th death anniversary

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sports commentator of the country, Aziz worked in radio, and later in TV, since 1958. He was also the resident editor of Cricketer Asia (Hong Kong) and Sports Times (Lahore).

He was the founder editor of fortnightly Sports World (Kriira Jagat), and was involved with the weekly Holiday.

A permanent member of Jatiya Press Club, he was elected president of Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association six times. He was also a national committee member of FEMA (Fair Election Monitoring Alliance).

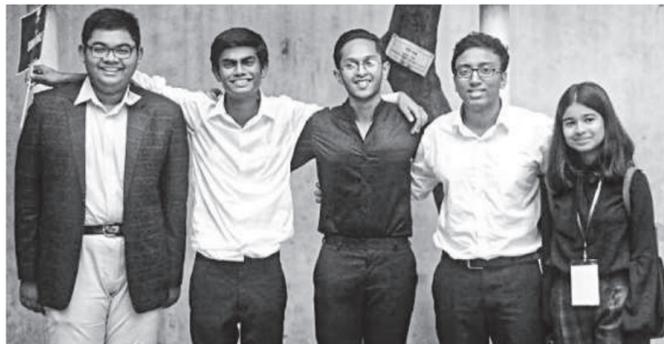
Tawfiq Aziz Khan was a founder member and president of the country's first group theatre "Drama Circle" and served the Rotary Club of Dhaka North-West as its president for two consecutive years from 1999. He died of lung cancer at the age of 64 on February 11, 2001.

## 8yrs on, IGP says

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March 15, and submit a memorandum to the home minister in this regard," said Rafiqul Islam Azad, president of DRU who chaired the rally.

General secretary of Jatiya Press Club Farida Yesmin, secretary general of a section of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Saban Mahmood and secretary general of another section of BFUJ M Abdullah, former presidents of DRU Shahed Chowdhury and Shakhawat Hossain Badsha also addressed the rally. DRU general secretary Reaz Chowdhury moderated the programme.



**From left, Md Tahmid-Ul-Faiz, Debojyoti Biswas, Al-Wasee M Fahimuddaula, Turza Saha and Asharah Nusaybah Jaman -- a team from Sunnydale School that won the Championship of Sunnydale Rhetoric 2020. Twenty-five institutions took part in the three-day event that ended on February 8 at Spectra Convention Centre in the capital's Gulshan.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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EEE	Lecturer	Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE)	Lecturer (Chemistry, English) Masters with Bachelor (Hons) degree in relevant subject (minimum CGPA 3.5 out of 4.0), for SSC and HSC minimum GPA 4.0 out of 5.0
CSE	Lecturer	Computer Science & Engineering (CSE)	
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Application received deadline: February 19, 2020

## 44pc women victim

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mindset towards women -- whether our society is giving proper respect to women or valuing their positions," Shaheen Anam said.

She also stressed the importance of following up on gender-based violence cases, as rights organisations, journalists or government bodies working for women's rights are often reluctant to do so.

Speaking as special guest at the event, Jesmin Ara Begum, a member of the National Human Rights Commission, highlighted that the number of courts is highly inadequate in CHT areas, and a large number of such cases are closed at different stages of the judicial process.

"In most cases, witnesses are reluctant to come to the court as we cannot give them proper protection. At the same time, due to the power and position of perpetrators, an overwhelming majority of the cases are settled out of court in exchange for money," she said.

Parliamentarian Basanti Chakma said lack of family education, absence of divorce rights and inheritance are major reasons for the increasing rates of gender-based violence in the CHT region.

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সচিব, বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান একাডেমী

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Those who have applied before in response to our previous advertisement are requested to apply again. Also send the CV to [ewuhr@ewubd.edu](mailto:ewuhr@ewubd.edu)

**Application Deadline: 25 February 2020**

**World Health Organization**  
Bangladesh

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Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from:  
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Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Emergency Sub-Office, Hotel Sea Palace Ltd (western wing-1st floor), Kolatali Road, Cox's Bazar-4700, Bangladesh.