

NARSINGDI MURDER

For Tk 30 lakh, he helped criminals kill his child: CID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five years after the murder of a child in Narsingdi, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday disclosed that the father had assisted the criminals to kill his daughter in exchange for money.

Elma Begum, a second-grader, was found dead on a paddy field at Baherchar in Narsingdi on March 28, 2015.

During investigation, a CID team recently arrested five persons and found that Elma's father Abdul Motaheb himself was involved in the murder.

The arrestees are Abdul Motaheb, victim's father; Mongoli Begum, her mother; Masum Mia, her cousin; and Baten and Shahjahan Bhuiyan. All are from Baherchar village.

While briefing reporters at CID headquarters in Dhaka, CID Deputy Inspector General Imtiaz Ahmed said there has been a longstanding feud over establishing supremacy between two groups, led by Shahjahan Bhuiyan and one Bachchu, a former union member.

Motaheb was a member of the group led by Shahjahan. On March 1, 2015, Motaheb and other members of Shahjahan group held a meeting and took a decision that they would kill someone and file a murder case against their rival group members.

During that meeting, Motaheb made a deal of killing his daughter Elma for Tk 30 lakh. A few days later on March 28, 2015, some people beat Elma to death in a paddy field. Motaheb filed a murder case against some persons, without naming the real culprits.



Confused students and their guardians wait in front of Jahangirnagar University's Sheikh Hasina Hall with big luggages. They had showed up on the eve of their orientation today, expecting accommodation at the dormitories. However, the university could not allocate seats for freshers.

PHOTO: MD ASADUZZAMAN

SEAT ALLOCATION AT DORMS

Mismanagement leaves JU freshers under open sky

JU CORRESPONDENT

Honors first year students of Jahangirnagar University have fallen in trouble as the authorities decided to begin their classes today without ensuring seat allocation in dormitories.

According to JU sources, the number of freshers admitted to different departments would be 2,000.

Eventually, those who came to the university from distant parts of the country staged demonstration on the campus protesting the decision of such non-allocation of seats.

They said the authorities did not inform them properly about the decision, alleging that the administration has created an "artificial crisis" of seats.

Around 30 students gathered in front of Nawab Faizunnesa Hall and brought out a procession that marched towards Sheikh Hasina Hall after parading different roads.

Chhatra Odhikar Parishad of JU expressed solidarity with the students.

At their protest, Khan Muntasir Arman, president of the platform, said, "As a fully residential university, students are admitted there under different categories against vacant seats. So, there is no scope of seat crisis."

Hundreds of freshers -- who came with their guardians -- were seen sitting outside Sheikh Hasina Hall with their

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QATAR TRAVEL BAN Expats on leave asked to contact employers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi expatriates who will not be able to go back to Qatar on time after the end of their leaves have been asked to keep in contact with their respective employers.

The Bangladesh embassy in Qatar made the call in a statement after the Gulf country suspended entry for people from Bangladesh and 13 other countries as a preventive measure due to coronavirus.

The embassy is in touch with authorities concerned to learn of the necessary measures to be taken over expired visas or unscheduled leaves. If Bangladeshis are infected with coronavirus in Qatar, they have been asked to call 33662000 for embassy's help.

5 die as chopped tree falls on auto-rickshaw

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Five passengers of an auto rickshaw-van were killed and two injured after a roadside tree that was being chopped down fell on them in Mathartek area of Dhaka's Dhamrai upazila yesterday.

The victims are Nuru Mia (65), Shamsul Haque (70), Majeda Begum (65), Aysha Begum (60), and Shefali Begum. Three of the victims died on the spot, while another died at a local hospital, police said.

The injured were taken to Dhamrai Health Complex.

Mujibor Rahman, forest officer of Dhamrai, said the incident took place around noon on Kawalipara- Mirzapur road when a big rain tree was being chopped down by workers of one Hasan Ali. Hasan had leased the tree planted under a Forest Department tender. In case of chopping down trees, all tender holders were instructed to follow safety precautions, said Mujibor Rahman.

Family members of the victims alleged that the accident happened due to the tender holder's negligence.

Contacted, Samiul Haque, UNO of Dhamrai said police have been asked to investigate the matter.

OC Dipok Saha of Dhamrai Police Station said they were trying to detain the tender holder and his workers but they went into hiding immediately after the incident. As per their request, the bodies were handed over to the families without postmortem.

Around Tk 70,000 will be given to family members of the victims, said the UNO.

CRP divisional centre opens in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A divisional centre of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) was inaugurated in Barishal city's Kashipur area yesterday.

The three-storey building is part of 13 such centres of the organisation, which will provide treatment and rehabilitation to people with disabilities.

Mayor Semiat Sadiq Abdullah inaugurated the centre, and Japanese Ambassador Ito Naoki was the guest of honour. CRP founder Valerie Taylor was also present.

It was set up with the help of KARSA Foundation, SENAK Welfare Trust and the Japanese government, said Rubina Akter, the centre's in-charge.

Never forget, this day came out of a workers' movement

Speakers tell Baikunthapur Women's Day event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Women's Day originated from a movement to establish women workers' rights. Although it has become much broader in scope, it is grossly commercialised today, speakers said at a programme marking the occasion at Baikunthapur tea garden in Habiganj.

Amid all of this, no one should forget the day's origins and neglect the difficulties faced by working class women every day, they added.

Organised by workers of Baikunthapur tea garden under the banner of "Nari Dibosh Udjapon Committee, Lashkarpur Valley", the event brought together tea workers from all over the area, including the aforementioned Baikunthapur, Chandpur Tea Estate, Chondichora Tea Estate, Begumkhan Tea Garden and more.

The programme centred on the 13-point demand put forward by women workers of the area.

The demands include increasing overtime pay, extending maternity leave,

allowing menstrual leave, providing access to child delivery services, making sanitary toilets and providing free sanitary pads.

In her speech, activist and tea worker Shondhya Rani Bhowmik reminded of the day's origins at the hands of women workers in Chicago.

She said the 13-point demand is not only meant for Lashkarpur Valley, but for the welfare of tea workers everywhere. "There's only a few of us from a few gardens here, but we don't speak just for us, we speak for workers across all tea gardens of the country."

In her speech, Luna Noor, central committee member of Communist Party of Bangladesh, said, "I don't have the audacity to speak in front of you. My struggles in middle-class Dhaka pale in comparison to what you go through every day."

"Today we have Women's Day concerts, festivals and fairs where whitening creams are given out for free, while tea workers like you are out on the street demanding

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CU fined Tk 9 lakh for cutting hills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Department of Environment (DoE) fined Chittagong University (CU) Tk 9.05 lakh for cutting hills without obtaining clearance from DoE.

The fine was imposed after a hearing at DoE office in port city's Khulshi area yesterday.

Besides, two furniture shops were fined Tk 1.6 lakh each for the same offence.

Md Moazzem Hossain, director of DoE Chattogram, told The Daily Star that CU was fined for the offence, and they could not come up with any reason behind their action during the hearing.

Nur Ahmed, registrar of the university, could not be reached despite repeated attempts.

Campaigning kicks off

Mayoral and councillor aspirants launched campaigning for the Chattogram City Corporation elections yesterday. After the deadline ended for withdrawal of candidacy for the city corporation, the EC said 223 candidates -- 6 for mayor and 217 for councillor posts -- will run for the election, to be held on March 29.



Awami League mayor candidate Rezaul Karim, left, and BNP's Dr Shahadat Hossain, right, started their campaign in Chattogram city's Patharghata area yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Choose 'boat' for development: AL

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Awami League mayor candidate Rezaul Karim started his campaign in Patharghata area of the port city yesterday.

Riding a mini-truck, Rezaul greeted locals while his supporters handed over leaflets to residents and passersby, shouting slogans in favour of "boat", AL's electoral symbol.

He sought votes from people, pledging that he would make the city a planned one through taking suggestions from all.

Rezaul also urged people to vote for him and said if elected, the on-going development works in the city will gain momentum.

"The city has many problems that need to be addressed. Mosquito, sewerage system, air pollution and traffic congestion are some of them. I would like to involve people from all walks of life to work together towards a planned port city," he said.

He affirmed that his major focus will be on ensuring development of the city. "It will be a combined effort. I will involve all the stakeholders to achieve that goal," Rezaul added.

Apart from Patharghata, Rezaul also campaigned in Bokshirhat and Dewan Bazar areas.

Rezaul, the joint general secretary of the party's Chattogram city unit, started the day by offering prayers at Shah Amanat's shrine, after receiving electoral symbol from the returning officer.

Vice presidents of AL Chattogram city unit Khorshed Alam Sujan and Ibrahim Hossain Chowdhury Babul, the unit's treasurer and former chairman of Chattogram Development Authority Abdu Salam were present, among others.

Rezaul also met BNP mayor candidate Shahadat Hossain there. They exchanged greetings and embraced each other.

Rezaul said both of them want to maintain a cordial atmosphere during the campaign.



Defy obstacles, cast your vote: BNP

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

BNP began its electioneering in Kotwali area yesterday.

Just like his Awami League counterpart, BNP mayor candidate Dr Shahadat Hossain started the day by offering prayers at Shah Amanat's shrine in the area.

He was accompanied by Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, BNP standing committee member.

Joined by hundreds of party supporters and activists, the BNP candidate paraded through the city's Firingi Bazar, Patharghata, New Market, Al Koron, Enayeth Bazar and Kazir Dewri areas.

At the beginning of the campaign, Shahadat, president of the party's Chattogram city unit, told reporters that he wanted a congenial atmosphere for voters so that they can exercise their franchise without any fear.

People should exercise their franchise, he said, adding, "Go to the polling centres overcoming all obstacles and vote."

"I urge the election officials and law enforcement agencies to ensure security of voters and a festive atmosphere," he said.

He also mentioned that they are participating in the polls to uphold the voting rights of people. "Our chairperson has been in jail for two years. We will restore democracy by freeing her," he added.

Shahadat also offered help to the government in fight against coronavirus and promised to turn Chattogram into a "smart, green and clean city" for all.

Amir Khasru urged people to be vigilant so that no one can snatch their voting rights.

Abul Hashem Bakkar, general secretary of BNP's port city unit; Abu Sufian, senior vice president of its city unit, and Mahbubur Rahman Shamim, organising secretary of BNP's Chattogram division, were present, among others, during the campaign.



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