

DEATH OF RAYHAN Another cop arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Another suspended constable -- Harunur Rashid -- was arrested by the Police Bureau of Investigation early yesterday from Sylhet Police Lines.

The arrestee was produced before a Sylhet court in the afternoon. The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Sharmin Khanom Nila placed him on a five-day remand, said PBI Inspector Muhidul Islam, the case's investigation officer.

On October 20, another suspended constable Titu Chandra Das was arrested by PBI and a Sylhet court granted five-day remand for him.

Rayhan (33), a resident of the city's Neharipara area, died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital at 7:50am on October 11, around an hour after he was admitted there by police.

The next day, his wife filed a case accusing several unnamed persons, mentioning that Rayhan was tortured in Bandarbar police

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Maha Ashtami of the Durga Puja was observed at a number of temples and mandaps across the country with due religious fervour. Clockwise from top, the ritual of Kumari Puja was observed at Radhagovinda O Shantaneshwari Matrimandir in Chattogram city's Patharghata, without the presence of devotees, following health guidelines. Ramna Kali Mandir, like all other mandaps in the capital, abstained from the ritual to avoid crowding. A devotee lights clay lamps at a temple in Bogura. A mural in Narayanganj's Baladeb Jiu's Akhara mandap shows the goddess wearing masks, and wielding a syringe among other medical equipment to fight the Mahishasura themed after Covid-19 virus. In Barishal, the Shankar Matth Mandir is lit up to mark the festival.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN, RASHED SHUMON, SANAD SAHA, TITU DAS, COLLECTED



COVID-19 OUTBREAK Concerted efforts key to preventing 2nd wave: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many countries in the world have already been hit by the second wave of Covid-19 outbreak, experts said maintaining health rules is the only key where there is no alternative to community engagement to make sure everybody maintains it.

In this case, non-government organisations, community leaders, and youths need to lend their hands to government initiatives to make it effective, they told a webinar yesterday organised by the international volunteer organisation "The Hunger Project".

Conducted by country director of the organisation Badiul Alam Majumdar, experts from different sectors and social workers joined the discussion.

At the beginning of the discussion, Jamirul Islam, deputy director of the organisation, presented a keynote where he showed how their organisation succeeded in making 1,500 villages in 21 districts Covid-19 resilient, by ensuring people maintained health rules.

Under the programme, a total of 43,821 volunteers were mobilised, and religious and community leaders engaged to debunk rumours and misinformation 4,804 times.

As a result, fewer infected patients and deaths were recorded in these villages compared to other non-intervened areas.

As the community, local elected bodies and the government worked together under the programme, no complaint was raised about the distribution of government supports or safety nets, Jamirul Islam said.

During the discussion, speakers said such an initiative implemented by The Hunger Project can be a role model for the entire country.

They also highlighted the government's successes and failures in tackling the novel coronavirus outbreak.

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CU teacher gets death threats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An assistant professor of Chittagong University has allegedly received death threats from unknown people via social media.

In this regard, CU Sanskrit department teacher Kushal Chakraborty filed a general diary (GD) with Hathazari Model Police Station on October 18.

In the GD, Chakraborty said he got threats via Facebook messenger app from an ID called "Syed Shahzad" on October 17.

Additional Superintendent of Police Mohiuddin Sohel told The Daily Star yesterday that they are trying to identify those behind the incident.

The CU teacher told this newspaper, "On October 17 night, I had found three text messages and four audio messages on my Facebook messenger inbox from the ID."

"In the messages, a person hurled epithets at me. In the audio, he told that they will kill me," said the teacher, adding, "Now, I am feeling insecure."

The teacher is also founder president of "Sanatan Vidyarthi Samsad" which works for Hindu students at the country's every university and college.

After the incident, CU Teachers' Association demanded immediate arrest of the criminals and the teacher's proper security.

Promoting women, peace and security

Bangladesh calls for more involvement of women in UN peacekeeping

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Rabab Fatima has stressed the need for increasing women's participation in UN peacekeeping. She also said increased women's leadership in peacekeeping would require a holistic approach to women's role in peace.

Ambassador Fatima made the remarks in an event titled, "Leading from the Frontlines: Women Leaders in UN Peacekeeping" on Friday. It was jointly organised by permanent missions of Bangladesh, Canada, UK and New York, in commemoration of 20th anniversary of the landmark Security Council Resolution 1325.

Adopted in 2000, the resolution 1325 was the first Security Council resolution to recognise women's role in peace and security.

The ambassador highlighted the pioneering role of Bangladesh in women's participation in peacekeeping.

She underlined various critical roles that women peacekeepers play in war-ravaged countries, particularly in addressing sexual and gender-based violence, building

mutual confidence, and inspiring women in those societies to contribute in nation-building efforts.

However, Ambassador Fatima expressed regret that women's participation in peace process including in peacekeeping operations remains very low.

She acknowledged the ongoing efforts of the UN and other member countries in trying to increase women's participation in peacekeeping.

Referring to the recent Security Council Resolution 2538 on "Women in Peacekeeping Operations", she called for ensuring adequate training, women friendly space and environment in the mission setting to encourage greater participation of women, and implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

Ambassador Fatima called for accelerated efforts to implement the WPS agenda at the national level, and its internalisation in the UN system including in the country offices.

Other speakers included Under-Secretary General Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Defense Chief of Canada General Jonathan Vance, Charge d'Affaires of UK Ambassador Jonathon Allen, as well as several women

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RMG worker stabbed dead in capital's Pallabi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A worker of a readymade garment factory was stabbed to death in Dhaka's Pallabi area on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Ripon (26). Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Pallabi

Police Station, told this newspaper that unknown persons stabbed the youth in Mirpur-11 area, leaving him critically injured.

A woman named Parveen took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 11pm where doctors declared him dead, police said.

Ripon's brother Ekramul Haque said Ripon used to live in Karwan Bazar area.

He said he had no knowledge of Ripon's enmity with anyone.

The body was kept at DMCH mortuary for autopsy.

No alternative to a strong legal framework

Says law minister on socioeconomic dev

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday stressed the need for establishing a strong legal framework in order to strengthen the socioeconomic development of the country.

"An enriched legal framework plays the role as the key parameter of the socioeconomic development of any state," he said.

The law minister made the remark while speaking as chief guest at a seminar on "Public Financial Management in the Context of Constitutional Framework".

The legislative research and reform project under the legislative and parliamentary affairs division of the law ministry organised the event at CIDRAP auditorium in the capital.

The minister attended the programme virtually from his Banani residence.

He said the government financial management has a big role in establishing the rule of law as the financial discipline is under the rule of law. "The rule of law has been established in the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he said.

The minister said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had a dream of happy and prosperous country by mitigating the fundamental rights of people through a democratic state system, to establish a strong legal framework and to ensure socioeconomic and political development through achieving economic growth and establishing the rule of law and human rights of people.

The government has been working in order to implement the vision 2021, achieving the target of sustainable development by 2030 and becoming a developed country by 2041 and to implement the delta plan 2100, the law minister added.

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Secretary Md Mainul Kabir, Comptroller and Auditor General Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury and Project Director Mohammad Mohiuddin, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Not another sweet(s) story

Confectioners yet to bounce back from pandemic fallout

MH HAIDER, Star Lifestyle

Weeks after life has largely returned to normalcy for many, sweetmeat companies continue to see low sales all across the board. Although the scenario has improved in recent times, it's still a far cry from the strong numbers of pre-pandemic days.

One of the factors behind this bleak condition is the loss of income of customers, which has led to lower affordability coupled with a sense of uncertainty, identifies Maruf Ahmed, managing director of Alauddin Sweetmeat and office secretary of Bangladesh Sweets Manufacturers' Association.

"People now think twice before making a purchase. Regardless of the income bracket or social class, the pandemic has taught everyone a lesson and made all of us cautious of how we spend money," he said.

Another factor that has severely affected the industry is the grinding halt of physical events such as weddings, which are almost non-existent now.

"Come to think of it, social distancing has become a buzzword to combat the pandemic. And our business is centred on socialising, gathering and celebrating!" Mahbubur Rahman Bokul, director of Premium Sweets' operations in Bangladesh, explained the scenario by pointing out the irony.

The pandemic has made businesses confront new realities to cope with these harsh times, including the challenge of paying and retaining staff amidst sluggish sales, along with incurring the added costs of health safety products.

For a company that is well over



Premium Sweets has put health safety measures in place. Like any other in the industry, this company too is recording sluggish sales because of the ongoing pandemic.

PHOTO: COURTESY

a century old, Alauddin Sweetmeat has seen a lot of ups and downs over the years, but even the heritage outlet has seen nothing like this before. Maruf Ahmed informed that the company had to announce pay cuts, stating that this is undoubtedly one of the worst times it has seen in its long history. To make matters worse, sweet brands are also uncertain and apprehensive of the future, afraid of a 'second wave' and what winter might have in store for them. Being only around a year old, Mithaiwala has suffered a particularly huge blow, something that has put all its plans in disarray. "Almost all the plans and orders for Pahela Baishakh got cancelled. We had a lot of inventory stocked up. It was a total loss," Subhabrata Maitra, consultant, Mithaiwala, informed.

Occasions such as the Bengali

New Year and Shab-e-Barat went by similarly, with sweet shops counting losses instead of enjoying greater demand.

To "at least let the brand live", Mithaiwala and several other brands relied on online sales, as Maitra put it.

"The little sales we had during the general holiday came online," M K Nazrul Islam, deputy general manager of Rosh Limited, informed.

THE MISERY SPILLS OVER TO DAIRY

With the plights of sweet manufacturers come the miseries of dairy farms, as milk is an integral part of making sweets.

"Previously, before the outbreak, there were instances when we had to push our milk suppliers to step up supply figures so that we could cope with heavy demand.

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