

Man found dead beside Dhaka-Aricha highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A man was found dead beside Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Mostafizur Rahman (29), of Durgapur upazila in Rajshahi, said Saiful Islam, inspector (investigation) of Savar Model Police Station.

Mostafizur was a former student of Rajshahi University and used to work as an accountant at a school in Savar, said the police official.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body that bore several stab injuries from Shimultola area around 8am. Law enforcers also recovered an ID card and an ATM card belonging to Mostafizur from the spot, said the official.

Quoting family members, the police official said Mostafizur started by a bus from Rajshahi on Friday night and reached Savar early yesterday.

The inspector suspected that he might have been stabbed to death by muggers after he got off the bus.

Talking to our RU Correspondent, Dr Ekram Hossen, associate professor, Department of Philosophy at RU, said Mostafizur was a student of the department and completed his master's degree in 2017.

Meanwhile, a group of RU students formed a human chain on the campus protesting the murder and demanded immediate arrest of the criminals.



Anywhere in the world, business districts are usually the shiniest and swankiest places in a city. The capital's Motijheel, however, stands apart unapologetically, with a couple of days rain tearing away the road carpeting and exposing the undersurface, and potholes collecting rainwater. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Govt serious about dolphin conservation

Says environment minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Md Shahab Uddin, minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, yesterday said to protect the river ecosystem, the government is serious about conserving dolphins. He said the ministry is formulating a national action plan in this regard.

The minister came up with commitment at a webinar organised to observe "International Freshwater Dolphin Day".

The day was observed for the first time in the country yesterday.

Referring to the government initiative, he said it has declared nine dolphin sanctuaries in the country. A dolphin action plan has been finalised and community-based awareness campaign has been launched.

"Around thousand people who were dependent on those sanctuaries for livelihood were given financial assistance. Seven dolphin conservation teams were formed to oversee the sanctuaries in the Sundarbans. The government is also considering to declare the mammal as national freshwater animal."

He said said the growth rate of dolphins in the Sundarbans is 55 percent -- a milestone in conserving the cetacean.

The webinar was chaired by chief conservator of forest Md Amir Hossain Chowdhury, where Begum Habibun Nahar, deputy minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Ziaul Hasan, its secretary, also participated.

Meanwhile marking the day, Committee to Protect Biodiversity of Halda River also organised an event on the bank of Halda.

The speakers at the event urged the government to ensure alternative means of livelihood for those who are dependent on fishing in Halda.

The event was organised by the divisional forest office (wildlife management and nature conservation) of Chattogram where Md Elias Hossen, deputy commissioner of Chattogram district, was present as chief guest.

Eminent Halda researcher Prof Manzoorul Kibria presented the keynote paper at the programme, chaired by Abu Naser Mohammad Yeasin Nayaz, divisional forest officer.

STEEL MILL ACCIDENT 2 more workers die at DMCH, death toll now 4

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two more workers, who were injured when molten iron fell on them at a steel mill in Narayanganj's Rugganj on Friday, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

With them, the death toll from the accident stood at four.

Md Shakil (20) of Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat and Abu Siddique (30) of Nageshwar upazila of Kurigram died while undergoing treatment at the burn and plastic surgery unit of DMCH in the morning, Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH police outpost, said quoting doctors.

They were admitted to the hospital with around 100 percent burn, he further said.

On Friday, two workers died and four others, including Shakil and Abu Siddique, were injured in the accident.

The explosion in the furnace of Premier Rerolling Steel Mill happened around 3am when workers were on their night shift.

Investigative journalism paves way for people's right to know: speakers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Investigative journalism paves the way for ensuring people's right to know in-depth information regarding incidents, said speakers at a training session for journalists in Mymensingh yesterday.

They compared an investigative reporter with a farmer, saying a farmer has to bring out crops by digging out soil; similarly, an investigative reporter has to find out truth from darkness.

Mymensingh Press Club organised the daylong training programme on "Investigative Journalism" at its auditorium in the city.

Over 50 journalists working for different print and electronic media in the city participated in the training session.

Hasibur Rahman, executive director of Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI); and Badruddoza Babu, its head of investigative journalism help desk, were present at the programme as trainers.

The speakers also said journalists, especially who work for investigation reporting, must know about the Right to Information (RTI) Act for better and informative reporting.

Earlier, Mymensingh Divisional Commissioner Md Kamrul Hasan inaugurated the session as chief guest with Deputy Commissioner Md Mizanur Rahman in the chair.

Among others, the press club vice presidents AZM Imam Uddin Mukta and Dr KR Islam, convener of the training session Mir Golam Mustafa spoke at the inaugural ceremony. Club secretary Amit Roy delivered the welcome speech.

Bangladeshi youth wins prestigious int'l award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shah Rafayat Chowdhury, a 24-year-old environmentalist and social entrepreneur, has become the first Bangladeshi to win the AFS Prize for Young Global Citizens.

Rafayat was selected from thousands of candidates from around the world for his contribution in the development sector as Co-Founder and President of Footsteps Bangladesh, a Bangladeshi social enterprise.

The prize was announced at a virtual ceremony on October 23 in presence of officials from AFS, Unesco and education ministries of various countries.

The award, which started in 2019, is organised and presented by AFS Intercultural Programs -- an international NGO which provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world. The organisation recognises an extraordinary young people for their commitment to improving the global community each year.

Rafayat founded Footsteps Bangladesh in 2013 at the age of 17, with a vision to design social ventures which not only addressed the complex social challenges existing in our communities but to also change community mentality from aid dependency to self-reliance.

Till date, Footsteps has impacted over 100,000 lives in over 16 districts in the form of safe water access, disaster response, capacity building, waste management schemes and health programs, said a press release.

The award comes with a cash prize of \$10,000, which will be utilised by the organisation to expand the reach and impact of Project Trishna, one of Footsteps' key social ventures creating safe water access across Bangladesh.



Shah Rafayat

Another cop

FROM PAGE 3

outpost for money which led to his death.

Finding initial involvement of on-duty policemen of the outpost, Sylhet Metropolitan Police suspended four including the in-charge and sub-inspector Akbar Hossain Bhuiyan and withdrew another three.

The prime suspect, SI Akber, has been absconding since October 12. Another SI of the outpost, Hasan Uddin, was suspended on Tuesday for helping Akbar flee after the incident.

Muhammad Khaled-uz-Zaman, special police superintendent of PBI in Sylhet, said, "So far, we've recorded testimony of three witness constables and arrested two constables in the case."

Promoting

FROM PAGE 3

leaders from the field, including deputy force commander from MINURSO, police commissioner from UNMISS, and regional commander MINUSCA in Gao.

Ambassador Anwarul K Chowdhury, former under-secretary-general of the UN and president of the UN Security Council (in March 2000), closed the discussion. Ambassadors and representatives from the permanent missions of Australia, Indonesia and Ireland also participated in the discussion.

The event gathered participation from a wide range of stakeholders including from the diplomatic missions, military establishments, academia, NGOs and civil society.

Bangladesh, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2000, played a leading role in the adoption of the Resolution 1325. The government last year launched a "national action plan" for implementation of the WPS agenda.

Bangladesh currently contributes the largest number of peacekeepers including women to the UN peace operations.

Concerted

FROM PAGE 3

Speaking as chief guest, minister for the local government Tazul Islam claimed that less than 0.5 percent of the 62,500-odd representatives of local governments (union parishads, municipalities, and city corporations) were found to be involved in scams during aid distributions.

"Whatever criticism about the representatives is, we [government] have to implement programmes by them... We had no lack of sincerity. It is true there were many mistakes, but we have become successful in the long run," minister Tajul Islam said.

He said the government is observing everything with utmost caution. "Whatever will be needed and whenever, the government will do that," he added.

Speaking in the programme, Prof Nazrul Islam, member of the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 said, "We do not know how the virus will behave during the winter in our country. So we have to stay alert."

Dr Lenin Chowdhurysaid, "We have noticed the government has implemented bureaucratic decisions bypassing scientific decisions to control the first wave of coronavirus."

Pointing to this issue, the LGD minister said that the government mainly depended on the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) to take decisions.

Prof Muzaherul Huq, former regional advisor of the World Health Organization (WHO) said, "The WHO always said two issues: awareness and community engagement. There were programmes for awareness, but the issue of community engagement did not happen."

To control the second wave, the government has to be strict to implement law to implement the health rules.

Regarding the uncertainty about the vaccine trial in the country, he said, "The government delayed in making a decision... They have to make the right decision at the right time."

Criticising the government's mistakes, Abdul Latif Mandalsaid, "Government officials always give examples of Europe and America. They, however, never speak about the success of Nepal, Thailand and others who have successfully controlled the outbreak."

Speakers stressed on the multi-sectoral efforts to face the coronavirus outbreak.



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মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় হতে বন্ধুপ্রতিম দেশ ভারত সরকারের আর্থিক সহায়তায় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা চিকিৎসা সেবাদান ক্ষিমের আওতায় ১০০ জন মুক্তিযোদ্ধাকে ভারত সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসা সেবা প্রদানকল্পে অসুস্থ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। এই চিকিৎসা সেবাদান ক্ষিম মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় ও ভারতীয় দূতাবাসের মাধ্যমে বাস্তবায়িত হবে। স্ব-স্ব জেলা হতে ঢাকায় ভারত সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হাসপাতালে গৌছানোর পথ খরচ বাংলাদেশ সরকার বহন করবে। টিবি, মানসিক বিকারগ্রস্থ, এইডস এবং অন্যান্য ক্রনিক জাতীয় রোগ যা দীর্ঘমেয়াদি চিকিৎসার প্রয়োজন হয়, এ ধরনের চিকিৎসা উক্ত কর্মসূচির আওতা বর্ধিত থাকবে; একইভাবে কনভালসেন্ট চিকিৎসার প্রয়োজন হলে তা এ ক্ষিমের আওতায় থাকবে না। চিকিৎসা সেবা শুধু বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য এবং তা পরিবারের সদস্যদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য হবে না।


(১) আবেদন ফরম মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.molwa.gov.bd) থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে এবং স্ব-স্ব জেলার সিভিল সার্জন অফিস থেকেও সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

(২) সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার সিভিল সার্জনের কার্যালয়ে আবেদন দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ১৫/১১/২০২০খ্রিঃ।

(৩) খামের উপর “ভারত সরকার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা চিকিৎসা সেবাদান ক্ষিমের আওতায় আবেদন” লিখতে হবে।

(৪) বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত এবং অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

(৫) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় যে কোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।



মোহাম্মদ সালোয়ার হোসেন
উপ সচিব (প্রশিক্ষণ)
ফোন: ৯৫৫০৭১৭

GD-1687



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists brought out a procession in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, protesting arrest of their leader Ruhul Amin Gazi.

Not another

FROM PAGE 3

Unfortunately, the tables have now turned, to the extent that sometimes they call us to request for orders," Maruf Ahmed said.

Mithaiwala's Subhabrata Maitra echoed the same. "We got calls from suppliers who said that if orders were not taken, they would have no choice but to pour out milk down the drain," he lamented.

CAN DURGA PUJA BRING A SIGH OF RELIEF?

Although most festivals of the year have passed by, sweetmeat companies started hoping anew for the Durga Puja, one of the most sweet-centered celebrations.

To illustrate, Mithaiwala has launched several new sweets. "Life goes on. People need something to be happy about and they need to celebrate," Subhabrata Maitra

said, talking to this correspondent around a week before the puja.

Similarly, Premium Sweets' Mahbubur Rahman Bokul informed that they are offering assorted sweet boxes and gift hampers for the festival.

However, for all their optimism, things haven't quite panned out their way. Though sales figures have increased to an extent, the Durga Puja has brought little change to sweetmeat companies' fortunes.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday night, Mahbub said the fervour surrounding the puja could not take products off their shelves.

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PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

Executive body elected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Dilulur Rahman and Dr Farid Uddin have been re-elected as the president and general secretary of Bangladesh Physical Therapy Association (BPA) for the next one-year term. The election was held at the National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) in Dhaka yesterday.

Several other office bearers of the 27-member executive body are senior vice president Dr Israt Jahan, vice presidents Dr Arif Zobayer, Dr TM Monzurul Islam, Dr Tashiquil Islam, Dr Zaglul Hai Rassel, and Dr Mohsin Kabir Limon; joint secretaries Dr Mizanur Rahman, Dr Osman Gony, Dr Akshaful Imam, Dr Tofael Hossain; organising secretary Dr Md Towhiduzzaman Litu; treasurer Dr Tamjidul Islam Jisun; and office secretary Dr Md Moniruzzaman Khan.

Dr Nazrul Islam conducted the election while Dr Mahbubur Rahman worked as the election secretary and Dr Rezaul Karim presiding officer.

6 held with fake notes in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives claimed to have arrested six alleged members of a fake currency making gang from different areas in Dhaka yesterday.

They also recovered fake notes of Tk 58 lakh, USD 11,300, paper for producing fake notes and other equipment from their possession, AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner (BD) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told reporters at DMP Media Centre yesterday.

The arrestees are Mohammad Mamun, Shimu Akter, Kazi Masud Parvez, Ruhul Alam, Soheli Rana and Nazmul Haque. Police said the gang was involved in the illicit business for around five years and became active before Durga Puja.