

Woman 'killed' in Rajshahi Police pick up army man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A married woman was 'killed' at her friend's house at a Puthia village in Rajshahi yesterday.

Hours later, police picked up two persons including an army man in connection with the incident.

Nadira Akhter Laki, in her mid-20s, was wife of Muhammad Ratan of Paschimbari village and mother of a son.

Locals found Laki groaning in agony in a pool of blood at her friend Nasima Begum's house in Dhokrakul village around 12:00pm.

Sub-inspector Pijus Kanti Karmaker of Puthia Police Station quoted Nasima as saying Laki was having an extra-marital relation with Shahadat Hossain, an army soldier.

As Shahadat went to the village on leave, Laki met him at Nasima's house. Nasima went out of home leaving them.

Back home, she found Laki bleeding on the bed while Shahadat was wandering frantically at the yard.

Police picked up Shahadat and Nasima at the health complex.

Laki's father Tota Miaah filed a case with the police station accusing Shahadat.

Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdul Quddus Chowdhury said Shahadat will be handed over to Savar Cantonment.

Work to build a world of shared peace, prosperity

Hasina calls upon world leaders

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday appealed to the world leaders to discard self-centered and shortsighted interests and work in unison to create a world of shared peace and prosperity.

"Indeed, our destiny is now one, as is our burdens and responsibilities... We've no alternative but to discard our self-centered, shortsighted interests, and work in unison," she said while delivering her speech in Bangla at the 65th session of the UN General Assembly.

Hasina said every passing day the peoples of the world are being drawn closer as one village with the fast developing technologies and new challenges like climate change, terrorism and economic interdependence.

"It is obvious that only by mobilising, and optimising our synergies, it is possible to create a world of shared peace and prosperity."

Amidst thumping of desks in the Assembly Hall, she called for discarding the self-centered and shortsighted interests and work in unison for a world, which the new generation and thereafter would inherit and remember them with fondness and in gratitude.

In her speech, Hasina touched on international issues like impact of climate change, MDGs, UN peacekeeping, making Bangla an official language of UN and domestic issues including trial of 1971 war crimes, terrorist acts by BNP-Jamaat axis as well as the country's achievements in socio-economic sector.

On global economic scenario, she said the world is yet to recover from the world economic crisis, and the LDCs as well as the developed countries are suffering from reduced exports.

Hasina said the crises are due to inequity and injustice resulting from an unfair international structure, which still remains mostly unchanged. She noted that the Bretton Woods Institutions (BHI) must now accommodate stronger presence of developing countries, especially LDCs.

While the BHI can cater to long-term development assistances, Hasina proposed the establishment of a special fund under the United Nations to deal exclusively with SDRs and grants.

"We also propose that all stakeholders respect country-led ownership of all development projects as enshrined in the Accra Agenda for Action."

Seeking liberal trade regime, she said the LDCs could benefit more through receiving liberal trade concessions such as duty- and quota-free market access and trade capacity building.

She also sought speedy end of the Doha Round of WTO trade negotiations, and fulfillment of OECD countries' ODA commitment to developing countries of 0.7% of GNI, with 0.2% to LDCs as reaffirmed in the Brussels Program of Action.

The prime minister said the LDCs have been affected by unemployment at home, and by obstacles to migration for jobs abroad. Since remittances form a significant part of their GDP, economic recovery measures should assure employment opportunities and all rights of migrant workers, especially those from LDCs.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

She said despite the travails of the past years, Bangladesh has fared reasonably well in maintaining an annual GDP growth rate of 6%. This was possible for pragmatic policies on food production, agriculture, rural development, inflation control, and keeping prices of food and essentials within reach of the poor.

She said with the implementation of the national food policy, aimed at stable prices of fuel, fertiliser, seeds and other farm

Sheikh Hasina calls for making 'Bangla' one of the UN official languages

inputs, her government has succeeded again in ensuring sustained food supply to all.

On climate change, Hasina said food security, displacement of people, depleting biodiversity, among others, are faced with serious threats in Bangladesh due to the climate change.

"Though our share of carbon gas emissions is negligible, we are its worst victim," she said, adding that increasing frequency and ferocity of floods, cyclones, droughts, and other natural disasters, caused by this phenomenon, are creating havoc in the lives lost and the resources destroyed.

She said to meet these challenges, her government has adopted a 134-point adaptation and mitigation action plan. Since

materialising the action plans needs enormous funds, a Climate Change Trust Fund with own resources and a Climate Change Resilience Fund with assistance from development partners have been established.

She urged the world leaders to conclude a positive agreement at COP 16 in Cancun this year based on the Bali Plan of Action, with agreed cuts on green house gas emissions and real contribution to the international "Climate Fund".

On achievement of MDGs, Hasina said despite the world food, energy, economic and climate change crises of the past years, Bangladesh, with the support of the UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral partners, has made satisfactory progress.

She said Bangladesh's achievement on MDG-1 on poverty alleviation, MDG-2 on universal primary education, MDG-3 on gender equality and women empowerment are encouraging and on track.

"In fact, our government with all its sincere efforts intends to raise 12 million people out of poverty, which would halve the number now living in that sad state, by the MDG timeframe of 2015," she told the general assembly.

About maintaining international peace, she said Bangladesh's commitment to peace, so essential for development, is reflected in her unflinching support for the UN peacekeeping missions.

Since 1988, Bangladesh has sent 97,000 troops to 24 countries on 32 such missions. In the period, 92 valiant soldiers lost their precious lives.

Hasina deplored that although present troop contribution has made Bangladesh number one among the UN peacekeeping troops contributing countries, Dhaka's presence remains negligible in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations (DPKO) and in planning strategies of peacekeeping missions. She called for proportionate representation in the DPKO.

Calling for recognising "Bangla" as one of the UN official languages, she said ever since the International Mother Language Day was adopted by Unesco it is celebrated worldwide every year.

Hasina said "Bangla" is spoken by nearly 300 million people worldwide and it has a rich heritage in literature, history and in other fields.

Bangladesh Parliament adopted a resolution requesting the UN to declare "Bangla" as one of its official languages.

"I fervently appeal to you all for acceptance of our very legitimate request," she told the world body.

Sheikh Rehana, Sajeb Ahmed Wazed, Kristine Overmire Wazed, Saima Wazed Hossain, Khandaker Mashroor Hossain and Azmina Siddique were present as members of the Bangladesh delegation.

Finance Minister AMA Muhi, Planning Minister AK Khandker, Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Chief Whip M Abdus Shahid, Adviser to the Prime Minister Prof Gawher Rizvi, Noor e Alam Chowdhury MP, Bangladesh Ambassador in Washington Akramul Qader, Ambassador at-Large M Ziauddin, Permanent Representative to the UN Dr Abdul Momen, Principal Secretary M Abdul Karim, Special Assistant to the PM Abdus Sobhan Golap, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes and PM's Press Secretary Abdul Kalam Azad were also present in the Assembly Hall.

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9-hour strike at LabAid diagnostic centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pathological tests in all four branches of LabAid Diagnostic Centre halted for almost nine hours yesterday as the medical technologists went on work abstention over assault on one of their fellows.

The technologists, who perform diagnostic analyses, started the agitation in front of the Dhanmondi branch at 8:00am, leaving a number of patients waiting in all the different branches to have diagnostic tests.

According to the protesters, the Dhanmondi branch authorities beat up Jugal Krishna Dutta, a medical technologist, indiscriminately over a false allegation that he was providing medical tests secretly to patients from outside without official approval.

Beaten unconscious, Dutta was locked in the hospital mortuary for about 17 hours, and freed on bond and sacked, his colleagues said.

After a whole day negotiation, the LabAid authorities agreed to the agitators' demands, declaring termination of Marketing Director Al Imran Chowdhury, Administrative Manager Jahangir Alam and Administrative Coordinator Dr Bikash Boron Mondol.

Mesbah Aazad, media coordinator of LabAid group, admitted that a section of employees beat up Dutta over the allegation, which he termed an unfortunate incident.

He said LabAid group reinstated Dutta to his post and agreed to pay for his treatment with three month's advance salary.

According to the agitators, the incident might have coincided with the fact that Dutta was trying to make a move for a pay rise, which the authorities wanted to spoil.

Bangladesh Diploma Health Technologist's Association, Swadhinata Medical Technologist Association and students of medical technology from different institutions joined the agitation.

They also demanded appointment of professional technologists as in-charge in the diagnostic centre, eight hours work, proper payment for overtime duties and benefits as approved by government payscale.



Medical Technologists of LabAid Diagnostic Centre form a human chain in front of the hospital yesterday, protesting assault on one of their fellows, Jugal Krishna Dutta.

ADR vital to save judiciary: Shafique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the judiciary would collapse in future if alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is not introduced.

There is no alternative to ADR -- a system used to resolve disputes outside the court through mediators and arbitrators -- in disposing of cases to save the judiciary, the minister said.

Shafique said once ADR is introduced, many cases will end outside the court on compromise between the plaintiff and defendant through their lawyers, reducing the overcrowd of under-trial prisoners.

The minister was speaking as the chief at a seminar on "Challenges to the implementation of court-sponsored ADR in Bangladesh", organised by Bangladesh Law Commission at the BIAM auditorium in the city.

Law Commission Chairman Justice MA Rashid presided over the function.

Shafique said the number of judges in the country is very low in proportion of its population, which cause lakhs of cases to remain pending and serious sufferings to the litigants.

According to Shafique, around 70 per cent of

the country's prisoners are under trial since the cases against them are not being disposed of in reasonable time.

He said the government will amend the relevant laws as per recommendations of the law commission so that ADR can be made mandatory for quick disposal of both civil and criminal cases.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said people cannot use the lawyers as baton wielding force to obtain orders from courts in their favour.

A section of people obtain court orders in their favour by submitting false affidavits and documents through the lawyers on a regular basis, which can cause damages to the judiciary, added Dr Kamal.

According to him, ADR has to be used in a way so that people get justice within a very short time and at a minimum cost.

The High Court judges -- Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Nuruzzaman Nani -- and Bangladesh Bar Council Vice-chairman Abdul Baset Majumder, and Law Commission members Prof Shah Alam and Sunil Chandra Paul spoke at the seminar.

Building green belt in coastal area stressed

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed building a green belt in the entire coastal area by planting coconut and different other trees for protecting people of the zone from the adverse impacts of cyclone, upsurge and other natural calamities.

Afforestation should be integrated as part of our culture, they said while speaking at a seminar titled "Way Forward to Overcoming Natural Calamities".

Bangla Vision Foundation organised the seminar with its chairman Principal M Shariful Islam presiding at Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum here.

Dr Md Ahsan Habib, head of the Department of Social Sciences and Anthropology of Asian University of Bangladesh, presented the keynote paper at the seminar inaugurated by Language Movement veteran Abdul Matin.

Lawmaker Alhaj Md Mujibur Rahman, Engineer Md Monwar Hossain Chowdhury,

Vice-Chancellor of Southeast University Prof Dr M Shamsher Ali, Pro-VC of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) Prof M Habibur Rahman, Chief Consultant of LabAid Hospital Prof Dr M Amjad Hossain, Rajuk magistrate Mohammad Rokon-ud-Dowla, Principal of Manarat Dhaka International College Col (retd) ZRM Ashraf Uddin and Secretary of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Abdul Jalil spoke at the seminar.

Mentioning that there is no alternate to preserving 25 per cent forests in a country for maintaining its ecological balance, the speakers said afforestation in Bangladesh has reduced to 16 per cent at present.

They underlined the need for reducing the rate of population growth and said the intensity of natural disaster in the country would continue to rise unless the growth of population in the densely populated country could be controlled.

WEATHER TODAY Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over all the seven divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:51pm today and rises at 5:49am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 23.0 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max/Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning/Evening)

CHANGE IN CONSTITUTION JS body to recommend Bangabandhu as Father of the Nation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday decided to recommend that parliament amend the constitution to declare Bangabandhu the father of the nation. It also recommended a provision in the constitution to display Bangabandhu's portrait at all government offices.

The parliamentary standing committee on private members' bills and resolutions came to the decision after scrutinising three separate bills on the issue from its members in a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

"The committee has unanimously taken the decision and will draft a single bill compiling the three bills," said Abdul Matin Khasru, chief of the parliamentary body, to The Daily Star after the meeting.

Referring to several verdicts of the Supreme Court acclaiming Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the father of the nation, Khasru added, "We now want to have a provision in the constitution to settle this matter."

The committee also came to a decision to recommend displaying the portrait of Bangabandhu mandatory at all government, semi-government, autonomous bodies' offices and foreign missions abroad.

DHAKA TODAY

National dialogue National dialogues on health sector. Venue: NEC auditorium, Planning Commission, Agargaon, Time: 9:00am.

Human chain Muktijoddha Sangsad Santaan Command will form a human chain. Venue: High Court gate, Time: 11:00am.

Meeting NGO Forum will organise a meeting. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Discussion Resource Integration Centre (RIC) will arrange a discussion. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Reunion Former Chhatra League of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College will arrange a reunion. Venue: Dhaka Officers Club, Time: 12:00pm.

Human chain National Garments Workers Federation will form a human chain. Venue: Muktagang, Time: 11:30am.

Cultural programme Riship Shilpi Goshthi will arrange a cultural programme. Venue: TSC, Dhaka University, Time: 5:00pm.

Meeting National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICD) will organise a meeting to mark the World Heart Day. Venue: NICD, Sher-e Bangla Nagar, Time: 9:30am.

Sit-in programme Jaago Bangladesh Sarants Srangik Federation will hold a sit-in programme. Venue: BGMEA building, Time: 11:00am.

Poems enthrall Bangladeshis in New York

BSS, New York

Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the United Nations witnessed a unique evening on Friday as three eminent poets from Dhaka enthralled the audience by reciting their poems.

Nirmalendu Goon, Mohabed Saha and Muhammad Samad, who accompanied Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to New York also answered a number of questions at the function.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni spent some time with the poets and greeted all who were present there.

Asked why he writes poem, Goon said what you can say in writing cannot be expressed through speech in many occasions.

"My aim to come here is to see the place of the Security Council inside the United Nations where Russian Jacob Malik had given vetoes thrice on the ceasefire proposal of the United States during our Liberation War," said the poet.

During the War, France expatriate Pitridranath Mukherjee published a special supplement in the 'Lam'd' newspaper in favour of Bangladesh's independence.

Poems by Goon were also included in the supplement, which stirred the French intellectuals.

Against this backdrop, noted French poet Andre Marlow expressed his support in favour of the Liberation War.

Goon proposed Bangladesh government to officially honour Andre Marlow and ALEN Ginsberg who is famous for his poem 'September on Jessore Road'.

Mohabed Saha said poetry creates semblance through alphabets and plays with alphabets. "I am writing poems and don't bother anyone calls me a poet or not," he added.

Muhammad Samad said he writes poems to earn love of people.

Tamiz Uddin Lodi, Mumu Ansari and Sumin Shaon also recited poems among other Bangladeshi expatriates in New York.

Spouse of Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Selina Momen presided.

Storm lashes 10 villages

UNB, Naogaon

A severe storm blown away more than 200 houses and left 20 people wounded in 10 villages of Raninagar upazila yesterday afternoon.

The storm lasting about five minutes followed by heavy downpour left a trail of destructions. Trees were uprooted, electric poles twisted and extensive damage caused to standing crops and vegetables by the storm.

At least twenty persons were wounded by house collapse or flying saucers. Imran Ali, Chayer Fakir, Abdul Mannan and Maftullah were admitted to Raninagar Health Complex. Others were treated in local clinics.

UP Chairmen of Gona and Mirat Aminul Haq Belal and Rafiqul Alam told UNB by phone that the storm swept over Bhabanipur, Gona, Besgari, Dhanpara, Jalalabad, Ataikula, Bhabanipur is the worst affected village.

Deputy Commissioner Nasmanara Khanam said the Raninagar UNO has been advised to visit the affected areas and assess the damage.

MP Moni's resignation demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of ruling Awami League activists of Barisal staged a demonstration forming a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding resignation of AL lawmaker Manirul Islam-Moni, elected from Barisal-2 constituency, for his 'vindictive' political activities.

A press release signed by Mahbubur Rahman Mintu, a Jubo League leader of Banaripara of Barisal, said around five hundred AL workers of Banaripara and Wazirpur of Barisal joined the human chain.

Babul Sarder Chkhari, a Jatiya Party leader and Suman Roy, a Chhatra League leader spoke at the programme.

They said the image of the government has been damaged due to the misdeeds of Manirul and his son Reazul Islam. They said Manirul Islam was assaulted on September 23 near the residence of his father-in-law in Barisal due to his involvement in many disputed activities.