

College student found dead at DU dormitory

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a Titumir College student at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University yesterday.

Debasish Das, an honours first year student, was found hanging from the ceiling fan with a gamsa (a piece of cloth) inside the room 285 at Jotirmoy Guho Thakurta building around 3:00pm.

Debasish, from Kotalipara in Gopalganj, had been staying at the room with his elder brother Uttam Das, a master's student of DU.

Upon return from village,



Debasish Das

Rony Das, another resident of the room, informed the hall authorities when he found the door locked from inside.

Rony left the room on October 12, and the deceased's brother Uttam and another resident Manik left two days later for their villages to celebrate Durga Puja.

On his way to Dhaka from Gopalganj, Uttam said his brother was staying at the hall to study for his ongoing first year's final examinations. "I don't know whether my brother committed suicide or anything else happened to him."

Rony said he saw Debasish quarrelling with someone loudly over phone for last few days. Debasish was screaming and talking loudly over phone inside the room alone around two weeks back, according to an employee of the dormitory.

Officer-in-charge of Shabbagh Police Rezaul Karim said the body was almost decomposed and they are suspecting suicide. Police will inquire into the incident, he added.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMU Arefin Siddique said it will be investigated if it was a suicide or a murder.



PHOTO: STAR

Cracks have developed on a large portion of an under construction building at Nizambagh in the capital's Kamrangirchar area on Monday night.



Building subsides in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-storey under construction building has subsided a few inches at Nizambagh in the capital's Kamrangirchar area on Monday night.

On information, police rushed to the spot at 8:00am yesterday and evacuated the family members of Omar Faruk, the owner of the house, said Shafiq Shikdar, officer-in-charge of Kamrangirchar police station.

Omar Faruk along with his family was residing on the first floor of the building and five families of tenants were living on the ground floor.

The OC and the locals said the building started to subside after some cracks developed on a big portion of it on Monday.

Police also vacated residents of some houses surrounding the building.

Local people said the owner constructed two storeys of the building few years back and again started construction to raise it to five-storey one month ago.

Chairman of Rajuk Md Nurul Huda said they will take action against the building soon terming it risky.

Build Mohakhali-Rokeya Sharani underpass

Suggests JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary committee has suggested construction of an underpass from the Shaheen School point of Mohakhali Flyover to Rokeya Sharani to reduce traffic congestion at the point.

The recommendation came at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the housing ministry held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

The House watchdog also stressed the need for taking time befitting and realistic measures through holding inter-ministerial meeting to resolve traffic congestion and other civic problems.

Enamul Haque, a member of the committee, told this to The Daily Star after the meeting.

Officials of the defence ministry and civil aviation and tourism ministry told the meeting that there is no height restrictions in constructing buildings in Gulshan 1 and 2, Banani and Mohakhali areas for Tejgaon Airport in the city.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) misguided the height restrictions on constructing buildings in the areas on the pretext of Tejgaon Airport where only helicopter lands, said Haque, also a ruling Awami League MP.

He said defence ministry and civil aviation and tourism ministry also expressed the same view in the meeting to this end, Haque added.

The committee asked Rajuk, Air force, civil aviation authority and civil aviation ministry to work together to draw zones marking height restrictions for Tejgaon and Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport within next one month, said sources at the committee.

On construction of the underpass, Enamul Haque said the ministry in principle agreed the committee's recommendations.

The proposed underpass will greatly help reduce traffic tailback at the point, said several members of the standing committee.

Indigenous people to get constitutional recognition

Says Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will recognise the indigenous people in the constitution of the country, Suranjit Sengupta, co-chairman of parliamentary special committee for constitutional amendment, said yesterday.

"We want to give the constitutional recognition to the indigenous people. The Adivasi people and their well-wishers should place this demand to the special committee. I will take the matter seriously to the committee," he said.

Suranjit was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous People jointly organised by Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and ActionAid at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The indigenous people have been demanding the recognition of their identities in the constitution for long. Suranjit said, it is a great opportunity to take this issue to discussions, as the government has taken initiative to amend the constitution.

"The indigenous people should go ahead with their demands, and we the main stream political forces are always with them," said

Suranjit who had been a member of the original constitutional drafting committee.

Hasanul Haque Inu, another member of the JS special committee for constitutional amendment, said, "I will personally try hard to include the recognition of the indigenous people in the constitution."

"Many high profile politicians do not want the indigenous people's constitutional recognition," he added.

Prof Mesbah Kamal said with the constitutional recognition the spirit of Bangali nationality will not be undermined. "We have to honour the emotion of the indigenous people who want their own identity, and the best way to honour their spirit is to give them constitutional recognition."

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Information Commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim, Country Director of ActionAid Farah Kabir, among others, addressed the discussion.

Manabendra Narayan Larma (Santu Larma), founder of Parbatya Chattagra Jana Shanghati Samity, who was a member of the parliament in 1972, had opposed the original constitution since there was no mention about the indigenous community.



PHOTO: STAR

Suranjit Sengupta speaks at a discussion at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

TRANS-BOUNDARY RIVERS IN SOUTH ASIA Set up institution for basin-wide management

Urge experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a colloquium stressed the need for establishing an institution for basin-wide management of trans-boundary rivers to create various opportunities for both upper and lower riparian countries in the South Asian region.

They told a discussion titled "Impacts of Climate Change and Regional Water Management" at the two-day colloquium at a hotel in the city yesterday with Prof Sajjadur Rashed in the chair.

Tauhidul Anwar Khan, former member of the Joint River Commission (JRC), presented a paper at the session.

He said it would be more effective means for the co-basin countries to retain sovereignty than engaging in competition, risking conflict.

Scarcity of water resources would be common in the countries of this region due to effect of climate change, he said.

The trans-boundary water resources are for everybody and for stability, peace and prosperity of the countries, he said adding that it should be used as a force for regional integra-

tion, not division.

"Water of a trans-boundary river should not be treated either as 'ours' or 'theirs,' it is for every body," said Tauhidul Anwar.

In the paper, he said Bangladesh is already a vulnerable country and is going to even more vulnerable with the climate change, devastating flood, tropical cyclones, storm surges and droughts.

"On the other hand, adaptation to climate change give relief from its adverse impact up to a certain limit," said Anwar.

The speakers said Bangladesh needs to concentrate of reclaiming land along the coastline by applying appropriate measures like intelligent use of cross dams for entrapping silts both from the rivers as well as thesea.

Dr Anawara Begum, director of Citras, Mostafa Kamal Majumder, editor of The New Nation, Dr Sabihuddin Ahmed, former secretary to the environment and forests ministry, among others, were present.

Trans-boundary water resources are for everybody and for stability, peace and prosperity of South Asian region



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