

Stalking sets alarm bell ringing

WASIM BIN HABIB and ASIF ISLAM

Stalking of women has taken a turn for the worse with a growing number of people being killed or maimed for trying to resist the menace.

The death of Mizanur Rashid, a Natore college teacher, exposes the vulnerability of those protesting harassment of women.

Mizanur, a chemistry teacher at Lokmanpur College in Bagatipara upazila of Natore, died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on Sunday, 12 days after he was beaten up by two local stalkers.

The failure of the state and the society to shield women from stalking has led many young girls and, in some cases, parents to commit suicide.

In last nine months, at least 25 women killed themselves to escape the horror of abuse, while nine males lost their lives for standing up against stalkers, says a report of rights group Ain O Salish Kendra.

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PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

A deep sadness fills the Chawk Laxmipur residence of college teacher Mizanur Rashid as his body arrives Sunday night. Razia Sultana Mili, right, wife of the deceased, is numb with the shock while her four-year-old daughter is asleep. Mizanur suffered fatal injuries when two stalkers attacked him near his college in Natore on October 12. After fighting for 12 days, Mizanur passed away early Sunday. His funeral, followed by the burial at family graveyard, took place yesterday morning.

Teacher buried, family numbed

PM pledges job for widow

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi with BULBUL AHMED, Natore

The families and well-wishers of the alleged killers of college teacher Mizanur Rashid now term the incident an "accident" saying he was not attacked for protesting against stalking.

Natore district Awami League Vice-president Majedur Rahman Chand, also principal of Tamaltala Agriculture College in Bagatipara Upazila, said Mizanur was badly hurt in a motorcycle accident.

"The motorcycles of Asif and Mizanur collided head-on as Asif was riding his bike at very high speed," he told The Daily Star.

Chand, who is close to Rajon and reportedly knows his whereabouts, said the prime accused would "surrender before court in a couple of days".

Mizanur, a lecturer in chemistry at Lokmanpur College in

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Main accused Rajon

7 months of neglect

Main 'killer' of Sylhet teacher still at large, probe misdirected

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Almost seven months into the killing of college teacher Harun Ur Rashid, law enforcers are yet to arrest the prime suspect of the case.

The principal accused in the case is Abdul Latif Kawsar, 25, son of Abdul Khalek, former upazila chairman of Chhatak in Sunamganj district.

Meanwhile, allegations of misdirecting the investigation at the primary stage became so strong against the investigators that the home ministry had to intervene and change

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Free all children from prisons

HC asks authorities as more than 100 below-18 are in jails under 'safe custody'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in a verdict yesterday directed the authorities concerned to immediately release all the children from jails across the country.

An HC bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Obaidul Hasan declared keeping children in jail in any manner illegal.

Deputy Attorney General Motahar Hossain Sazu yesterday told The Daily Star that more than 100 children under 18 years are in jails in the name of safe custody.

The HC bench came up with the order after hearing on a suo moto rule earlier issued by the court upon the government to explain why it should not be directed to release the children from jail.

The HC issued the suo moto rule following a newspaper

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Burial under cop guard

Family members barred from attending

NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

"I couldn't touch him and see his face for the last time, as police hurriedly buried him. Police didn't let us wrap his body with the piece of shroud we bought...they wrapped him with the one they bought."

"They also didn't allow us to attend his funeral," a mother cried.

Shahnaj Pallabi, mother of Mostafa Jamal Haider who died on Sunday after being hit by bullets during a violent protest in Rugganj on Saturday, cannot believe how it happened all so fast.

Mostafa was buried at a

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Rugganj males on the run

None arrested yet for violence over 'forced' land purchase by army; families search for 3 villagers

RAKIB AHAMMED and NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

No male other than very elderly and children in Rugganj and Kayetpara unions of Narayanganj are staying home at night fearing arrest, as police and Rapid Action Battalion filed separate cases accusing 3,000 to 4,000 local residents following Saturday's clashes between the law enforcers and villagers.

The men in hiding number in several thousand. Even some women of the villages went into the nearby swamps on Sunday night to hide from the law enforcers.

Visiting the unions yesterday, The Daily Star correspondents found most shops and other business establishments in the villages shut, while a small number

of villagers were hanging around on roads.

In addition to a case filed by police, Rab filed a case on Sunday night accusing 3,000 to 4,000 unknown people on charge of attacking the elite force members during the clashes.

Sub-inspector Yasin Miah, of Adamji Camp of Rab-11, filed the case with Rugganj Police Station, said Forkan Sikder, officer-in-charge (OC) of the station.

More than 50 villagers and law enforcers were injured during the clashes sparked by a mass protest against forced purchase of land by army officers for their private housing scheme in 24 mouzas of Rugganj and Kayetpara unions.

Family members of three missing

villagers were still searching for their loved ones, who had gone missing since they had joined the protest.

However, there was no arrest yet in the two cases. Additional police including Armed Police Battalion were deployed in the area.

Police were also deployed near the four army camps which had been vacated by the force's personnel during Saturday's clashes.

Narayanganj Superintendent of Police (SP) Biswas Afzal Hossain told reporters at Rugganj Police Station yesterday that they are investigating the incident, and will not arrest anybody without specific charge.

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Panic keeps kids away from schools

RAKIB AHAMMED

Two days after the Rugganj furore, very few school students turned up for their classes yesterday as an uneasy tension prevailed in the area.

Students of Rugganj and Kayetpara unions in Narayanganj were unwilling to attend classes in fear of fresh violence. Movement of law enforcers in the locality has also unnerved them greatly.

Visiting two primary and one high schools, this correspondent found that teachers were giving lectures to a handful of students as opposed to normal schooling days.

Out of 427 students in

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Pilots' retirement age raise valid

SC stays HC suspension order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court directive that suspended the decision of Biman Bangladesh Airlines to increase the retirement age of its pilots to 62 from 57 years.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, issued the order following a Biman petition against the HC directive.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman said according to the SC order, Biman's decision to increase the retirement age of pilots would remain valid until the writ petition is disposed of in the HC.

The Biman board on September 9 this year issued an administrative order enhancing the retirement age of the pilots to 62 from 57 years. Bangladesh Pilots' Association (BAPA) has been pressing for extending the retirement age of pilots to 65 years.

Five BAPA leaders including its acting president Captain Zakir Hussain filed a writ petition with the HC on October 4

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আপনার স্বপ্ন নীড়কে করুন সত্যি, আমাদের হোম লোন নিয়ে।

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