



Sub-Inspector Delwar Hossain is speechless in front of the body of his son Moniruzzaman Rubel who died in police custody. The photo was taken at Tangail General Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Cop's son dies in custody

FROM PAGE 1

belonged to SI Mosharrif. He claimed that law enforcers mercilessly beat up Rubel at the police station at night and sent him to Tangail General Hospital in the morning as his condition became serious.

Doctor Mujahidul Islam of emergency department of the hospital told The Daily Star that police brought Rubel at the hospital in a critical condition around 9:30am and the youth died at 9:45am.

"When I came to know about the arrest, I called SI Mosharrif over his cell phone and asked him to take legal steps if my son was found guilty. He, however, told me that Rubel would be released if he got back his bike," said Rubel's father SI Delwar Hossain.

He alleged that it was a cold-blooded murder and demanded punishment to the police officers responsible for the death.

Victim's uncle Abdul Haque said Rubel called his mother over the phone from the police station earlier yesterday morning and said the police officers were calling him the thief and that he [Rubel] would be tortured more if SI Mosharrif did not get a bike.

Jasim Uddin Sarkar, officer-in-charge of Tangail Model Police Station, told The Daily Star that Rubel was accused in two criminal cases -- one for homicide and the other for stealing a motorbike -- filed with the police station.

Contacted, Jamil Hasan, acting superintendent of

police (SP) in Tangail, said he has already closed SI Mosharrif Hossain and a three-member committee led by Tangail Additional SP Masud Ahmed was formed to probe the incident.

Rubel's body was sent to Tangail General Hospital morgue for an autopsy. Executive Magistrate Rabiul Islam was present during the autopsy.

When Rubel's body was returned to his parents, his family members and locals brought out a procession with the body demanding exemplary punishment to SI Mosharrif.

Till filing of the report as of 10:30pm, the victim's family was preparing to lodge a case with Tangail sadar police station in connection with Rubel's death.

26 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 20 repatriation," ABM Nuruzzaman, Bangladesh ambassador in Tripoli, told The Daily Star over the phone last night.

Other nationals include 586 Nigerians, 239 Libyans, 24 Filipinos and 16 Pakistanis.

Meanwhile, Libyan security forces helped four Bangladeshi nurses on Tuesday to go to Tripoli from Misrata.

The Bangladeshis at Salloum are being repatriated by Bangladesh Biman Airlines and IOM-chartered planes, said an IOM spokesperson in Dhaka.

"Presently, there is intense fighting in Misrata. Tension is also high in Ajdabiya, Brega and Sirte," Nuruzzaman said, adding that the people having troubles in those places were leaving either with the help of the IOM or on their own.

The number of Bangladeshis living in those areas could not be estimated, he said. Those feeling unsafe are leaving Libya, and the Bangladesh mission in Tripoli is helping them to leave Libya for Tunisia.

However, the Bangladeshis still in Libya are more or less safe though there is food shortage, as supply chain has been hampered, the diplomat said.

Until now, over 35,000 Bangladeshis were sent home from Egypt and Tunisia after they fled the Libyan uprising.

According to a statement of the IOM issued yesterday, more and more civilians are desperately trying to leave Misrata as fighting in the city intensifies.

Fake drug

During primary interrogation, the factory owner told Rab that he earlier served as an employee of a medicine company. He left the job two years ago and started importing raw materials from China to produce medicines.

He, however, could not show any valid documents in support of manufacturing medicines, Rab said.

Munirul also confessed that he maintained a syndicate with doctors of different hospitals to get the sub-standard medicines prescribed to the patients.

Bus torched

FROM PAGE 1 Dhaka Medical College Hospital after his conditions deteriorated.

Abdullah was walking along the road with his two friends around 1:15pm when a recklessly driven bus hit him, Russell Hussain, a witness and a friend of the victim, told The Daily Star.

"The Gabtoli-bound bus swerved and rammed into him when four buses were competing to overtake each other", he added.

The outraged locals and students of Tejgaon College broke out into a violent protest and vandalised the bus. Later, they poured petrol on it and set it on fire. But the driver and helper of the bus managed to escape.

They also barricaded the bustling road for over 15 minutes causing severe traffic congestion on the adjacent roads, said Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station.

However, police brought the situation under control after two units of fire fighters doused the fire, he added.

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FROM PAGE 20 action against Md Lokman, a fourth year student of Electrical and Electronic Engineering department, was taken following a report of a three-member probe committee headed by Prof ATM Kaosar Jamil yesterday.

Lokman, also a Shibir activist, went into hiding soon after his remark was detected in the website on March 26.

Following the finding, angry Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists attacked the Shibir cadres on the campus leaving three of them wounded.

On information, police rushed to the spot and arrested five Shibir activists including its DUET unit president.

A case was filed by DUET BCL unit president Joydev Das against six Shibir cadres.

According to a decision of the probe committee, Lokman's expulsion will be mentioned in his certificate on completion of his study in the university.

Grameen Bank employees

FROM PAGE 1 ensure its smooth running.

"If Prof Yunus cannot be allowed to work as managing director for crossing retirement age, he should be appointed chairman," said Md Shamsul Alam, president of Grameen Bank Employees Association.

"This will help him leave the bank in a congenial environment after handing leadership over to the next generation. It will also help restore confidence of the borrowers, depositors and employees in the bank," he said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

"We need him (Yunus) in the interest of the bank as well as in our interest. We are shocked by the central bank's decision [Yunus' removal as MD]" said Shamsul Alam.

The association leaders presented at the press conference papers containing signatures of 20,103 employ-

ees of the bank, appealing to the prime minister to consider their demand.

The employees said the Nobel-winning bank, which employs about 26,000 people serving over 83 lakh borrowers, could face troubles if the Nobel laureate is forced to leave in an undignified manner.

"Deep discontent is prevailing among employees of the bank due to the central bank's illegal decision," said Md Sagir Hossain Chowdhury, former president of the association.

BM Barkatullah, founding president of the association, said the central bank's sudden decision to remove Dr Yunus has taken the borrowers and depositors by surprise.

"In this circumstance, the bank could stumble and jeopardise the livelihood of over five crore people associated with the bank directly or indirectly," he said.

Removal of Prof Yunus in

this manner could deal a serious blow to Grameen Bank, Barkatullah said. "The borrowers could stop repaying loans, depositors could withdraw their money and employees could leave the bank en masse out of anxieties."

The association urged the government not to appoint any controversial former employee of Grameen Bank as its managing director.

Earlier last month, 37 lakh Grameen borrowers signed to defend the Nobel laureate.

On March 2, the central bank relieved Dr Yunus as managing director of Grameen stating his reappointment to the post over a decade ago flouted rules.

The Nobel laureate, who remains at Grameen's helm for now, has appealed to the Supreme Court against this, the hearing of which has been adjourned till the first week of next month.

OMS rice seized

FROM PAGE 20 persons from there -- Muntaz Ali, 35, Chan Mia, 40, and Majedul Karim, 30.

Meanwhile, Rab members seized 800 sacks of OMS rice from Bhawal Rice Mill at Bakhterpur in the pazzila and arrested its owner Azhar Ali, 50, and his son Shamim Mamun, 27.

Rab members handed over the rice to food officials of Gazipur district.

Potato prices

FROM PAGE 20 lakh tonnes of potato, which was 26 lakh tonnes a year ago, according to Bangladesh Cold Storage Association (BCSA).

Export of potato has already exceeded the last year's mark and shot up to 10,000 tonnes since the beginning of February, according to Plant Protection Wing of Department of Agricultural Extension.

The export volume is expected to rise further as the government has recently promised to double an existing cash incentive to 20 percent for the next five years. An official order regarding the increase in cash incentive is yet to be issued.

Farmer Abul Hossain predicted the prices to go up further once the growers' stock dries out. He also expected that potato preserved in cold storage would hit the market by end of June or early July.

Md Jasim Uddin, chairman of BCSA, said prices might go up to Tk 20-30 per kg within months.

He suggested the farmers to preserve part of their produce at homestead in a traditional method to get that price benefit.

Save forests

FROM PAGE 20 department after the country's independence.

Yesterday was the last day of the conference. Some 300 people, who are somehow related to forests, participated in the discussion held at forest department's auditorium.

Deforestation accounts for an at least 18 percent increase in carbon in the global atmosphere, mentioned the speakers.

They said conservation and development of forests in Bangladesh is even more necessary as the country bears the brunt of climate change. The participants recommended more community involvement in forest management and conservation.

They also asked for a new forest policy. The existing one was introduced in 1994 and that too was not implemented properly, said the participants.

They emphasised the need for trans-boundary effort with the neighbouring countries to reduce the human-wildlife conflict for better management of biodiversity.

The department organised this programme in light of the United Nations General Assembly declaring 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness of sustainable management, conservation and development of all kinds of forest.

Mesbah ul Alam, secretary of the environment and forest ministry, was the chief guest at the concluding session chaired by Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmed, chief conservator of forest.

Alam said it is time to determine the economic value of all kinds of direct and indirect ecological services provided by forest.

"If we can find out the proper economic value of forest, only then can we ensure its proper conservation," he noted.

The conference offered a great opportunity to exchange views among forest officials, researchers, academicians, students, forest dwellers, non-government organisations (NGO), development partners, scholars and social welfare workers working on forest issues.

They discussed several issues focusing on forest and climate change, biodiversity and research, management, development and better utilisation of forest resources.

Wait for electricity to end

FROM PAGE 1 authorities will have to keep more than 2,02,000 applicants waiting, according to official figures.

A building boom in the city has sharply raised the demand for electricity and other utility services with the government struggling to cope with it. So came the ban on new electricity connections.

The secretary said applicants for less than 500 kilowatts of power will get priority when the authorities start resuming the connections from May 15. Those who have asked for more than 500-KW connections will have to wait longer. A decision about them will be taken in the next 10 days, he added.

Even after the new connections are given, the frequent power cuts in the past two days.

"It was like a hell yesterday [Wednesday] as there was load shedding every half-an-hour. The situation is better today [yesterday] as it was happening after every one hour," said Morshed Kamal, a resident of Mohakhali area.

Dhaka Electric Supply Company in a press release said power supply from Bashundhara sub-power station had been suspended totally since the early hours Wednesday for technical glitches.

However, partial electricity supply was done through alternative load management. It will take some time to repair the glitches, said the DESCO release on its website.

Power generation yesterday stood at 4,437 megawatts, with demand soaring to 5,300 leaving a deficit of 863MW. In the capital, the shortage was about 300MW.

Residents of Mohakhali, DOHS and Banani areas had been the hardest-hit due to

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28 killed in Meghna

FROM PAGE 1 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed profound shock at the deaths and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members, UNB reports.

The government has formed a three-member probe committee headed by Hasan Mahmud Tareque, chief engineer of the marine department of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, it added.

Meanwhile, Nurul Islam, a passenger who has survived the accident, claimed that the rescuers looked on as some bodies floated past them.

The rescuers, however, denied the allegation and said they could not enter the launch as its windows were blocked by sacks.

They said they had recov-

ered three rifles of the policemen who were on duty when the launch went down. The cops have survived the accident, Sarail police said.

The 23 identified dead are Shyama Begum, 32, wife of Jinal Abedin of Kishoreganj; Chandana, six, daughter of Sukumar of Kishoreganj; Sufia Begum, 40, wife of Sujat Ali of Kishoreganj; Angura Begum, 35, wife of Selim Mia of Kishoreganj; Tanjina, one, daughter of Selim Mia of Kishoreganj; Babu, 35, son of Belayet Ali of Netrokona; Sonia, 20, daughter of Selim Mia of Narshingdi; Taslima, 25, wife of Amir Hossain of Sunamganj; Faijunness, 60, wife of Khurshed Alam of Sunamganj; Naganda Babu, 50, son of Nagarbasi of Kishoreganj; Kawsar, 15, son

of Nurul Islam of Kishoreganj; Seema Bibi, 75, wife of Shajahan of Narsingdi; Sazib, 20, son of Amir Hossain of Kishoreganj; Parshuram, 25, son of Shyama Das of Kishoreganj; Elachi Begum, 50, wife of Md Ali of Kishoreganj; Seema, 18, daughter of Asgar Ali of Bhairab; Zahera Khatun, 50, wife of Aatur Mia of Narsingdi; Naem, four, son of Nandu Mia of Narsingdi; Joya Khatun, 50, wife of Shamsul Haque of Kishoreganj; Hazera Begum, 45, wife of Md Ali of Bhairab; Kawsar, eight, son of Din Islam of Sunamganj; Sonia, 35, wife of Rijvi of Netrokona; and Abul Kalam, 30, son of Razaque Mia of Habiganj. Kalam was an engine operator of the launch.

Dismiss fire service chief

FROM PAGE 1

The parliamentary standing committee on home ministry at its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban asked the Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate further on the alleged corruption of DG Brig Gen Abu Naim Md Shahidullah.

It also asked the Office of the Chief Auditor General to conduct special audit at the Fire Service Department regarding buying the firefighting equipment.

Emerging from the meeting, parliamentary body chief MA Salam told reporters findings of a sub-committee formed to investigate the alleged corruption is "very clear and informative".

"We have found proof of corruption committed by the fire service DG. The committee therefore recommended that fire DG be removed from his post," Salam, an MP of the ruling Awami League, said.

Asked about the allegations, Brig Gen Abu Naim told The Daily Star a competent team of the fire service scrutinised the tender process in a very transparent manner. There was no question of committing corruption on completion of his study to the responsive bidders, he

added. "Instead of filing any complaints with us, a section of unsuccessful bidders went to the parliamentary body. It proves that those bidders had some shortcomings," he added.

"I was under huge pressure to award the contract to the second lowest bidder instead of the lowest bidder Noble Enterprise," Abu Naim continued.

"Besides, a case was pending with the High Court in this regard. I think nobody should talk on the issue until it is settled in the court," he added.

The parliamentary watchdog on April 25 last year formed a six-member sub-committee headed by Whip of Parliament Mirza Azam to investigate the allegations.

The sub-committee in its report said the DG of Fire Service and members of the tender evaluation team "unlawfully awarded tenders to two companies causing a huge loss to the national exchequer".

The fire service authorities floated international tenders on November 10, 2009 and January 28 and April 8 last year for purchas-

ing nine fire engines and rescue vehicles and 1,578 sets of firefighter suit worth around Tk 25 crore.

The sub-committee found that the authorities bought low quality suits manufactured in Singapore, while it was clearly mentioned in the tender requirements that those should be brought from Japan, the US, the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand or any other EU countries.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the probe report.

Unused aids

FROM PAGE 20 rise in inflation next year.

Muhtith said on assumption of power two and a half years back, the government made 477 commitments for development and reforms in different sectors. But the government has not made much progress in the case of 27 commitments. He may give the reasons for this in his next budget speech.

ERF President Monwar Hossain, Vice President Shahnewaz Karim and General secretary Abu Kawsar, among others, spoke at the meeting.