

RONY'S DEATH Family demands punishment to people involved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members, relatives and friends of a college student who was allegedly shot dead by Detective Branch (DB) of police in Ashulia on October 13, have termed his death "a pre-planned killing over land-related dispute" and demanded punishment to the DB men "involved in the incident".

They made the demand at a human chain on Mirpur Government Bangla College premises yesterday. Rony, 18, was a student of the college.

Detectives claim that Rony was killed during an "exchange of gunfire with criminals".

A relative of Rony alleged that DB police "killed him in a planned way" after siding with the people with whom Rony's relatives had land-related feud. The relative also said police were now trying to paint Rony as a criminal.

Contacted, an inspector of the DB who faces the accusations by Rony's family denied the allegations yesterday.

ATTACK ON BUDDHISTS VNS students express outrage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 800 Viqarunnisa Noon School and College students yesterday creatively expressed their outrage at the recent attack on the Buddhist community in Cox' Bazar and Chittagong through a poster exhibition.

The exhibition, organised in the educational institution's Baily Road campus, showcased 45 unique posters depicting the attack and destruction through newspaper clippings, images of destroyed artefacts, text bubbles, handwritten captions and creative artwork.

Class VII and VIII students created the posters portraying the atrocity.

The school's social science teacher, Sangeeta Imam, said the education ministry had directed schools to conduct seminars against militancy.

However, seminars were not always the most effective way to engage young minds in complex national matters, said Sangeeta, the exhibition's organiser.

The students needed to be actively involved in the learning process. "That is why I asked the students to come up with posters to express their reaction about the attacks in Ramu," she said.

Two class VII students, Mrityka Haq and Nidhi Chowdhury, created a poster with evocative messages amidst a black background to symbolise the burnt Buddhist temples and monasteries.

"The red drops signify the wounds in the nation's heart," they said.

Some of the students gave speeches describing their feelings and the exhibition. All of them expressed their shock and disgust at the attack, stating that they dreamt of creating a Bangladesh free from religious intolerance and bigotry.

"Today's children will create a secular Bangladesh tomorrow. That is why it is crucial to prepare them and teach them the dangers of militancy," said Sangeeta.



Two students stand before posters, created by some 800 class VII and VIII students of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College to express outrage at the recent attack on the Buddhist community in Cox' Bazar and Chittagong, at an exhibition on the institution's Baily Road campus.

PHOTO: STAR

Ramu attack preceded by ominous meeting

Finds investigation by lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 24 hours before the September 29 attack on Buddhists, a meeting participated by locals and outsiders from Cox's Bazar took place in Ramu and guest speakers at the meeting made offensive remarks against minorities, a team of lawyers has found in its investigation.

"The meeting was under way between 5:00pm and 8:00pm on September 28 at a shop of Hakim Company in Teschir Pool," eminent jurist Amir-Ul Islam told a press briefing at Supreme Court Bar Association Building in the capital.

The meeting was organised to reveal the findings of the investigation by a 16-member team of lawyers led by Amir-Ul Islam. The team visited different parts of Cox's Bazar for three days from October 11 and talked to witnesses, victims, Buddhist monks and the

officials of the local administration to know what actually happened in Ramu on September 29 and 30.

The lawyers observed that the attack on Buddhist temples in Ramu was carried out to destabilise the country and tarnish its image before the world and the neighbouring countries including Myanmar, Sri Lanka and China.

It seemed that the Ramu violence was aimed at destabilising the country rather than retaliating an insult to religious sentiment, said Amir-Ul Islam. The attack might have been a conspiracy to damage Bangladesh's relationship with the neighbouring countries, he added.

The investigation carried out by Sammito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad also revealed that the Facebook post blamed for fuelling the attack was fabricated.

RAMU VIOLENCE JBFH opens free medical camp for victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (JBFH) yesterday started a two-day long medical camp to provide free medical services and medicines to Buddhist people affected in the recent violence at Ramu in Cox's Bazar on September 29.

The hospital's 15 physicians provided the services to around 500 people at a camp set up at Merongloa village of Ramu.

JBFH Chairman Dr Zonayed Shafiq inaugurated the camp with health check up of Ramu Kendrio Shima Bihar Principal Satyapriyo Mahathero.

Robbers loot BNP leader's house

Injure two residents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of armed robbers yesterday looted gold ornaments and valuables worth about Tk 23 lakh from the house of a local BNP leader and injured two persons in the process.

The criminals raided the two-story house of BNP leader Abul Hossain Abdul, acting president of BNP Mirpur thana, in Kathaltola of Monipur at about 3:00am.

Abdul's sons Mustafizur Rahman Suman, 30, and Abul Kashem, 23, -- were beaten up by the robbers.

The gang of about 13 robbers armed with sharp weapons and firearms broke into Abdul's house and looted Tk 4 lakh in cash and gold ornaments and two digital cameras and four mobile phones worth 18.75 lakh.

The robbers confined all the house inmates Abdul, his wife Rehana, their four children, a daughter-in-law, and Rehana's brother Chan Miah in a room during the heist.

The criminals left the house at about 5:20am. Shahidul Islam, sub-inspector of Mirpur Police Station, said a case was filed with the police station and they are investigating into it.

DEFAMATION OF SHAON HC orders release of held doctor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Declaring the detention of Ehsanuzzaman Khan for allegedly posting defamatory comments about Meher Afroz Shaon on Facebook illegal, the High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately release him from custody.

On October 15, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Ehsanuzzaman, a doctor of Sunamganj Sadar Hospital, on charge of posting comments about and threatening actress Shaon, widow of litterateur Humayun Ahmed, and threatening her family members on Facebook.

The court said Ehsanuzzaman's detention was illegal, as there was no specific case against him.

It came up with order after hearing a petition filed by the physician's elder brother Akiluzzaman Khan challenging the legality of the detention.

In the petition, Akiluzzaman mentioned that Rab personnel arrested his brother (Eshanuzzaman) wrongfully, although he neither made any threat to Shaon and nor made any defamatory comments about her on the facebook.

Police yesterday produced Ehsan before the HC bench as per its Wednesday's order.

11 million people under arsenic threat

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eleven million people, around 12.6 percent of Bangladesh's population, are under threat of arsenic contamination as they live in 466 unions prone to arsenic.

In 2011, some 57,000 people were identified to have been suffering from arsenic-related diseases. Since 2009, an estimated 40 million people have not been taking safe water while 19 million people were found to be in immediate need of safe water supply.

The statistics were revealed at a seminar, "Arsenic Mitigation under Model Building for Safe Water Supply Service by Local Government Institution Project", at the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) auditorium in the capital yesterday.

The seminar was jointly organised by Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), Local Government Division (LGD),

DPHE and Asia Arsenic Network (AAN), says a Jica press release.

Speakers at the seminar said 50 percent of the country's shallow tube wells have not been examined since 2005.

Due to this, people are taking water without knowing the full extent of the arsenic contamination situation, they said.

In order to address the situation, Jica has supported the DPHE, LGD and AAN for the last 15 years. Jica has provided more than US\$ 500 million in assistance in the water supply sector, said the press release.

Zuena Aziz, additional secretary of the local government and cooperatives ministry, addressed the seminar as the chief guest while Hiroshi Jigami, water supply policy adviser for LGD, delivered speech as the special guest.

The seminar was chaired by Sadeque Hossain, additional chief engineer of DPHE.

Women MPs' increased role stressed

More seats demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If more women MPs are included in the standing committees and are oriented in detail on parliamentary procedures, they could effectively take part in parliamentary decision making, researchers said at a discussion yesterday.

Bangladesh has a good 20 percent representation of women in parliament, which is equal to the global average, yet the participation and role playing of women have to go a long way,

said eminent researcher Dr Abul Barkat.

He said the number of seats in parliament should be raised from 300 to 600 as population had doubled. And with that, the number of seats for women should be raised to 200, which is one third of it, and in that case there is no need for reserved seats for women, he added.

The discussion, "Women in Parliament: Process and Extent of Participation and Scope for Strengthening their Role", was held at the capital's Sonargaon Hotel.

Vertical sidebar containing various event listings: Human chain, Solidarity programme, Citizens' rally, Henna festival, Discussion, Buddhist Youth Festival, Discussion, Building inauguration, Seminar.



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique presents Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Director Prof GM Chowdhury a crest of appreciation for the latter's contributions as a warden of IBA Hostel at the IBA Hostel Gala Night in the hostel on Wednesday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Advertisement for Lucas PowerMax MF batteries, featuring the Lucas logo, a battery image, and text: "Advanced Technology Maintenance Free Battery", "18 MONTHS WARRANTY", "110% CAPACITY", "POWERMAX MF".

Image credit: Rahimafrooz/2012