



PHOTO: STAR

Traffic in Dhaka city was returning to its normal flow yesterday after the Eid-ul-Azha holidays. The photo was taken from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue around noon.

Missing Jasas man's body found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight days into his disappearance, the decomposed body of an activist of Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Sangstha (Jasas), a pro-BNP cultural organisation, was found in Keraniganj, on the capital's outskirts, yesterday.

Meanwhile, police recovered the body of an unidentified youth from a water body in Basher Pool area in Demra.

The activist, Mohammad Hasan, 35, son of late Ali Ahmed, was a resident of Nazim Uddin road of the capital's Bangshal.

Hasan's cousin Golam Mohammad Habibullah told this correspondent that Hasan received a call on his cellphone on October 24 around 5:00pm and left his residence while talking on the cellphone.

"We kept calling on his cellphone from around 9:00pm but found it switched off. The next day, we lodged a general diary with Bangshal Police Station and informed Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) and Detective Branch of Police," he said.

On Wednesday, Hasan's family members visited Kholamora Ghat in Keraniganj where Hasan used to hang out with friends. They searched the area and gave their cellphone numbers to the locals, requesting for information about Hasan.

"One of the locals called us in the morning today around 10:00am and informed us about a decomposed body seen lying in a ditch in Bhrahmanshoor of Dewanbari area," he added yesterday.

Officer-in-Charge of Keraniganj Police Station Mainuddin Khan said the body was found disfigured and naked, lying in a ditch covered with knee-deep water and concealed in leaves and hay.

The family members identified the hands, fingers and hair to be of Hasan's. The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy. Filing of a case was under process, said police.

Habibullah said they did not know of Hasan having enmity with anyone and that he was a Jasas activist of the capital's Bangshal unit.

The unidentified body found in Demra was suspected to be aged around 25 years and had a shirt and a lungi on.

Assistant Sub-inspector Masud Khalifa of Demra Police Station told this correspondent that the local people saw the body floating in the water body behind Ashrafi Community Centre and informed police.

Police suspect that the youth might have been killed a few days back.

Limon won't withdraw case against

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against him and in return asked him to withdraw his mother's case, Limon said yesterday that a person identifying himself as a Rab member called his mother on Wednesday evening to know of their reaction to the proposal.

Limon and his mother were then at their rented house in Kawkhali upazila town.

"The person contacted my mother over mobile phone. Without disclosing his name and rank, the caller inquired about our condition and who was paying our house rent. Then he asked what we had decided about the proposal by the Jhalakathi deputy commissioner," Limon told The Daily Star.

"We told him that the matter would be decided on the basis of the advice of

Ain O Salish Kendra and Manabadihakar Commission [National Human Rights Commission]," Limon added.

The teenager, who successfully passed the first year HSC examination recently, and his mother told this correspondent that they were not going to withdraw the case against Rab until they got justice.

The rights body ASK is providing Limon with legal assistance, while the NHR commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman has been involved in the Limon issue since he was shot on March 23 last year.

Rab on the same day charged Limon with possessing firearms in one case and with obstructing law enforcers from conducting their duties in another. The

cases were filed hours after Limon was shot by Rab members during a raid near his home in Chhaturia village of Rajapur upazila in Jhalakathi while he was fetching cattle home.

The elite force claims Limon to be a member of a local crime ring "led by Mizan and Morshed".

Limon's mother filed the case against six Rab personnel with Rajapur police on April 26, 2011, only after a Jhalakathi court directed the police to register the case. After the police recently submitted a final report in the case clearing all the Rab personnel, Henoara Begum filed an objection plea against it.

"To ensure the rights of people, Ain O Salish Kendra will always be there beside Limon," said Nur Khan, acting executive director of

ASK.

"The proposal the deputy commissioner made puts an immense mental pressure on Limon and can only be called immoral as it clearly shows that Limon is being denied the right to justice," he added.

The Jhalakathi DC on October 24 told Limon and his mother that he would recommend that the home ministry on humanitarian grounds consider withdrawing the cases Rab has filed against Limon if Henoara Begum withdraws her case.

However, DC Ashok yesterday said after visiting and talking with Limon and his mother at the Kawkhali UNO office, that he had not contacted Limon's family. Neither had he been informed of anything further.

Shantinagar market now

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cooperative society to operate the Tk 1.35 lakh machine smoothly.

The move comes at a time when food adulteration is taking place in a rampant manner throughout the country, raising concerns of the people about its impact on health.

Many fish sellers use formalin for preservation of tissues. It makes the fish stiff and makes them look fresh for longer periods than usual. From vegetables, milk, drinks, sweets, ice cream to spices, almost everything is adulterated these days. There is almost no one who can avoid the grave health hazards resulting from such adulteration.

Earlier on September 19, traders in the capital declared Malibagh kitchen market as formalin-free.

"From now on, no trader

will be allowed to sell fish, fruits and vegetables in the market without checking them with the machine," said Mohammad Imam Hossain, general secretary of the market management committee.

FBCCI Director Helal Uddin said the businessmen's body had a plan to declare Dhaka a formalin-free city within the next two months.

"We have around 30 big kitchen markets in the city. We will supply similar machines to those markets with the help of banks and other private organisations," said Helal, who is the key initiator of the formalin-free ideal market project.

Lauding the role of the FBCCI in making kitchen markets formalin-free, Commerce Minister Quader said, "The FBCCI has taken a very good initiative. The

government will provide all-out support in this regard."

The government has planned to control formalin import in order to stop its misuse and keep foodstuff, including fish, free of formalin in an effort to protect public health, he added.

"We shall give permission for importing formalin on a case-to-case basis only," said Quader. "Only those who get permission from the commerce ministry will be able to import formalin."

The minister said the government would ask importers to come up with reports mentioning how much formalin they had imported and where it would be used.

He also said the government had decided to enact a law to ensure punishment of formalin suppliers for using formalin in foodstuff and

fish.

FBCCI President AK Azad stressed the need for exemplary punishment of those indulging in formalin misuse.

"Mixing poison with foodstuff is a bigger crime than extortion. The formalin importers [those who are misusing it] will have to be tried in a special court under the speedy trial tribunal," he said.

Rashed Khan Menon, chief of parliamentary standing committee on the education ministry, said the government was planning to establish a regulatory body titled "Food and Drug Authority" similar to the US Food and Drug Administration to protect public health.

He mentioned that the BSTI was apparently unable to contain the misuse of formalin.

Anjuara freed at last

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After hearing the petition with Anjuara in the dock, the court yesterday declared her detention illegal and ordered her immediate release. It also directed the law enforcers to escort the innocent woman home and ensure her security.

Talking to newsmen at her home yesterday, Anjuara said police arrested her when she was returning home from Shaheed Ziaur

Rahman Medical College and Hospital after seeing her ailing son.

She was first taken to Upashahar police office under Sadar thana. Though she tried utmost to make the law enforcers understand that she was not Laily Begum, police tortured her to admit that she was Laily.

She thanked journalists for helping her out of the prison. "I would have been

ruined behind bars if you had not extended your hands towards me."

Anjuara's husband Abdul Aziz complained that following the HC order police took his signature on some white papers by force. He said he would file a defamation suit against police.

A team of police led by Sub-inspector Imran Kabir of Bogra Sadar Police

Station arrested Anjuara and sent her to jail through a local court showing the detainee as Laily Begum.

Laily was accused in four cases under narcotics act -- one lodged in 2003 with Bogra Sadar Police Station, another in 2005 with Natore Sadar Police Station, and two others in 2008 with Panchbibi Police Station in Joypurhat.

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