

A pothole created by recent rainfall on Mirpur Road near Sukrabad footbridge in the capital has been causing difficulties for drivers on the road.

PHOTO:
SK ENAMUL HAQ



ONE YEAR PAST HIMU MURDER Trial yet to begin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

As the killing of Himadri Majumder Himu, an A-level student, in Chittagong city marks a year, family members feel more helpless due to delay in opening of the trial.

Police are neither arresting the two fugitives of the five murder suspects nor returning the arrest warrants to court, thus delaying the trial, says Himu's family.

The 18-year-old boy was pushed off the roof of a four-storey building in Panchlaish on April 27 last year. He died in Dhaka 26 days later, on May 23.

Himu was reportedly killed for his anti-drug activities.

Of the murder suspects, Shah Selim Tipu, his son Junaid Ahmed Riad, and Shahadat Hossain Shaju are out on bail, while Mahbub Ali Khan Danny and Zahidul Islam Shaon are absconding. Riad, Shaju, Danny and Shaon are friends.

Himu's father Prabir Kanti Majumder said, "My son was murdered in broad daylight, but nothing happened to his killers even after a year. Rather, the killers are roaming freely."

A Chittagong court ordered arrests of Danny and Shaju on October 18 last year.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Panchlaish Police Station, said, "We will return the arrest warrants within this week so that the trial can start in absentia."

HC stays case against Amar Desh acting chairperson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for three months the proceedings against Mahmuda Begum, acting chairperson of Amar Desh Publications Ltd, in a case filed on charge of printing the daily from another newspaper's press.

On April 13, Ramma Model police filed the case against Mahmuda, also mother of Amar Desh's detained acting editor Mahmudul Rahman, and several others for printing the daily from the press of the Bangla daily Sangram without government permission.

The HC also issued a rule upon the government to explain why the proceedings against Mahmuda should not be quashed.

DESTRUCTION OF WATER RESOURCES, BIODIVERSITY Bureaucratic red tape hampers preservation efforts

Prof Ainun Nishat tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Steps to protect the country's water resources and biodiversity are being hampered by bureaucratic red tape and lack of coordination among different ministries and authorities, noted climate expert Prof Ainun Nishat told a discussion yesterday.

Bureaucrats or experts will not be able to save the two until politicians come forward. "If general people become aware of the importance of protecting the two, political leaders, to get elected, will have no choice but to take necessary steps," he said.

The discussion marked the International Day for Biological Diversity 2013, observed yesterday, jointly organised by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Bangla daily Prothom Alo in the daily's office in the capital.

The discussants urged the mass media to

inform people of dangers of destroying water resources and increase understanding and awareness on biodiversity issues.

No living being on Earth can survive without water. Similarly, living creatures are interdependent for survival, they said.

Lamenting that many of Moulvibazar's plants and animals he saw during his childhood have become extinct, eminent botanist Prof Dwijen Sharma said, "Our forests, rich in biodiversity and capable of preserving 40 percent of rainwater, are continually being destroyed."

He also criticised both the approach to forests as revenue sources rather than sites for biodiversity conservation, and the forest department for felling native trees and replacing those with fast-growing ones.

Bangladesh Forest Department Chief Conservator of Forests Md Yunus Ali said water bodies and forests should not be leased out for commercial purposes.

Govt urged to boost ties with Myanmar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four diplomats yesterday suggested that the government strengthen Bangladesh's relations with Myanmar to boost both the countries' economic and trade development.

They said keeping the Rohingya issue aside, Bangladesh should approach Myanmar considering the significance of regional, political and economic affairs.

China and India are improving their economic and trade relations despite some ongoing conflicts between them, they said, adding that Bangladesh will remain behind if it does not engage with its neighbouring countries.

The diplomats were addressing a seminar on "Bangladesh-Myanmar Relations: Political and Economic Dimensions" organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) in its auditorium in the capital.

Former ambassador Humayun Kabir said Bangladesh must develop a strong diplomatic relationship with Myanmar as the latter's position in the region is significant to western countries.

Mentioning that the Rohingya issue is a bilateral problem between the countries, he said Bangladesh should keep the issue aside and build up a relationship in the regional context.

Former ambassador Ashfaqur Rahman stressed the necessity of developing a good relationship with Myanmar in the political context.

Ambassador Munshi Faiz Ahmad noted that both the countries will face serious challenges but will also have opportunities when building relations.

Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque emphasised building relations between the two countries in terms of road connectivity, energy and hydroelectricity and increasing investment in the trade and business sector.

Public sector needs innovation

Say governance experts from Harvard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The public sector has to adopt innovative strategies and methods to ensure fast, efficient and cost-effective services to citizens, said governance experts yesterday.

However, rather than taking a solution from other parts of the world and imposing it on public servants, innovation has to be "bottom-up" taking into consideration local contexts and challenges.

Prof Jorrit De Jong and Prof Linda Kaboolian of Harvard University made these observations at a press briefing after a workshop on "Strategic Leadership for Innovation in the Public Sector" at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital.

Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) of the Prime Minister's Office organised the workshop for 50 additional and joint secretaries. Earlier, the Harvard professors facilitated a three-day workshop for 28 deputy secretaries and senior assistant secretaries from May 19-21.

"Innovation is no longer a choice; it's a necessity," said Dr Jorrit De Jong, adding that innovation needs to happen across organisational boundaries and at multiple levels of management.

Dr Linda Kaboolian explained that innovation is not about adopting the most modern technology, but rather about embracing a creative and pioneering perspective on service delivery.



From right, Prof Badiul Alam Majumdar, Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque, Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Bapa President ASM Shahjahan, Prof Rowshan Jahan, advocate Sultana Kamal and Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed observe one-minute silence in memory of late Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday. They were speaking at a "Commemorative Meeting and Memorial Speech" marking Prof Muzaffer's first death anniversary.

PHOTO: STAR

Prof Muzaffer dreamed of a graft-free society Commemorative meeting told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life will have to work hard with honesty to establish a corruption-free just society, which late Prof Muzaffer Ahmad dreamed of, some eminent personalities said yesterday.

Throughout his entire life, Prof Muzaffer advocated for truth, justice and civic rights, they told a commemorative meeting on the first death anniversary of the noted economist in the National Museum auditorium.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Shushashoner Janney Nagarik (SHUJAN), Dhoritri Bangladesh, and United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) jointly organised the function. Prof Muzaffer was involved in these organisations.

Delivering the memorial speech, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman said Prof Muzaffer never craved for power or wealth. He always had a strong desire to serve the nation, he added. He also said Prof Muzaffer was very hard-working and at the same time very caring to his family.

His working spirit is worth emulating, said Bishwa Sahitya Kendra founder Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed.

TIB Chairperson Sultana Kamal called Muzaffer Ahmed a torchbearer in the movement to establish justice, while SHUJAN Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar termed him a guardian of the nation.

Bapa President ASM Shahjahan chaired the function where Prof Muzaffer's wife Prof Rowshan Jahan also spoke.

Prof Muzaffer died on May 22 last year at the age of 76.

ROHINGYA COMMUNITY Press Myanmar to facilitate humanitarian access

UK lawmaker Rushanara urges int'l community

OUR CORRESPONDENT, London

The international community, including the UK government, must press the Myanmarese authorities to facilitate unimpeded humanitarian access while the authorities themselves must take steps to address the culture of marginalisation and discrimination against Rohingyas, said Bangladesh-born British MP Rushanara Ali.

The UK shadow minister for International Development was recently reporting in the UK following a trip to Rangoon and Rohingya, Kaman and Rakhine camps in Rakhine State of Myanmar with Refugees International.

Her April 27 to May 2 trip was against the backdrop of the violence erupting between Muslim and Buddhist communities in Rakhine State in June and October 2012.

Rushanara said tens of thousands of people were living in makeshift camps lacking food, water, sanitation, adequate shelter and access to healthcare following the violence which overwhelmingly targeted the Rohingya population.

The violence caused massive internal displacement and loss of lives, livelihoods and property. Displaced people are living in constant fear of violence, abuse and harassment from security services and sections of the Rakhine population, she said.

"At the heart of this humanitarian crisis lies the question of citizenship. The Rohingya population are referred to as 'Bengalis' by the authorities denying them their Burmese and ethnic citizenship rights. An urgent resolution is needed to the Rohingya's human rights and citizenship status," said Rushanara.



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