

Of a never say over artist

Basheer keeps painting at 83; set to exhibit new works next week

SHARIER KHAN

He is 83 years old, diagnosed with a lung disease. To survive each day, he inhales oxygen for six hours and spends another three hours pumping out carbon dioxide trapped in his lungs, using a respiratory machine.

Murtaja Basheer, one of the most renowned senior artists of the country, has been beset with such critical health conditions since December last when he was hospitalised. He, however, remains far from surrendering to old age or aggravating physical ailments compounded by excruciating, regular medical procedures.

With oxygen cylinder following him like a shadow, Basheer's brush keeps on stroking carefully nuanced textures and lines on canvases for an art exhibition next week.

"I have to make money. My treatment is very costly. I had some plans like conducting some research at the fag end of my life. But I have put these on hold. All



Artist Murtaja Basheer hooked up to his oxygen concentrator at his Farmgate home. At the age of 83 and suffering from a lung disease, he still paints.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Broadcast policy to help run media properly: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Defending the National Broadcast Policy 2014 again, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Broadcast Commission would be formed in light with the policy so that the country's flourishing broadcast media could be run properly.

"I know there is some sort of commotion over the policy and many are opposing it. Every country of the world has had its own Broadcast Policy and it is implemented accordingly.... Even there was a longstanding demand from our journalist community for a policy," she told a function at the National Institute of Mass Communication in the city.

The event was hosted marking the opening of the Bangladesh Film and Television Institute (BFTI) and its first course.

Since the announcement of the National Broadcast Policy, she alleged, a certain quarter has been vehemently opposing it even though the draft policy was on the website for over three weeks and opinions were taken from the stakeholders concerned.

"No institution could ever run

properly without a policy as all have the due responsibility to society. You'll enjoy the rights, so you'll have to protect the rights of others also," she mentioned.

Terming film and television strong media for any society, the PM said these two media can make significant contributions to the country's culture, heritage, history and tradition across the globe from one age to another.

Effective steps will have to be taken to reopen and run properly the cinemas at the district level through digital system and to make that happen, the cinemas need to be modernised, she observed.

Hasina called for producing films in future complying with standards. She also hoped that the BFTI would encourage making quality films and further strengthen the country's television and film media at the global stage.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu and Information Secretary Mortuza Ahmed spoke at the programme. Country's eminent film and TV media artistes were present.

The BFTI was established on November 1 last year following the enactment of the Bangladesh Film and Television Institute Act 2013.

Muggers in guise of DB loot Tk 72 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Criminals impersonating law enforcers snatched Tk 72 lakh from three staffs of a readymade garment factory from Jhajhor area in Gazipur City Corporation yesterday afternoon.

They also kidnapped the trio but later abandoned them while escaping.

Accounts officer Saiful Islam and administrative officer Abbas Ali of Nahar Sweater Ltd withdrew the money from the capital's Uttara branch of Islami Bank for paying wages of the workers, according to Masud Rana of Gazipur industrial police.

When they reached near the factory at Degerchala on a microbus, a motorbike stopped them and some men got off from a microbus, which had already been parked there. They identified themselves as detective police

personnel and wanted to search the cash-carrying vehicle, Rana said.

At one stage, the criminals forced the two factory employees and their driver into the microbus that they brought with them. They also took the boxes full of money and drove off towards Ghorashal on Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

"A wheel of the escaping vehicle punctured near Ghorashal bridge in Kaliganj around 8:30pm. The criminals then fled the scene with the boxes of money in another microbus, abandoning the abductees there," said Rana.

Kaliganj police later rescued the three and seized the abandoned microbus from the spot.

Meanwhile, Joydebpur police seized the factory's microbus from Jhajhor area and took it in their custody.

CU teachers' buses attacked: 15 hurt

FROM PAGE 16

Emergency doctor Farid Uddin Ahmed at CMCH said none of them received bullet or splinters injuries. They were hurt by glass fragments.

The injured teachers said their buses came under attack on their way to campus from the port city around 10:30am.

Lying on CMCH bed with head injuries, Ashrafuzzaman said seven to eight attackers first opened fire and then hurled crude bombs. He could not believe students could attack teachers.

"We thought a tyre of the bus had exploded," he told The Daily Star, adding, "We hid behind the seats and the driver drove away quickly."

Traumatized Sonam Akter was not in a state to talk. Her ear was injured badly. Fatem-tuz-Zohura sustained injuries in her right hand and neck and Shirin on the left cheek.

"We were going to the university to impart lessons, to reduce session jams ... how could they attack us?" said Shrabonti Saha, a lecturer of Biochemistry who escaped injuries.

Police arrested five Shibir activists -- Md Akteruzzaman, 22, Sabbir Hawladar, 22, Md Yusuf, 23, Imran Ali, 25 and Md Tauhid, 23 -- in Chhararkul and Fatehabad areas of Hathazari.

All of them are students of the university.

Officer-in-Charge Md Ismail of Hathazari Police Station said two of them were arrested at the spot and the rest from the nearby student messes.

Md Shahidullah, additional superintendent of police, Chittagong north, claimed that two of the arrestees had admitted to taking part in the attack.

Police also picked up 15 people from a cottage near Suhrawardi Hall around 6:30pm. Six sharp weapons, six crude bombs, a homemade gun, and leaflets and banners of Shibir were also recovered.

MOTIVE

Yesterday's attack was a sequel to the feud between Chhatra League and Shibir over establishing supremacy on campus and CU dormitories.

The university saw Shibir domination for years but pro-ruling Awami League student body Chhatra League was able to take control of the campus

but not all the dormitories.

Shibir and Chhatra League clashed twice since January over taking control of each other's dormitories, campus sources said.

The authorities concerned had closed Shibir-controlled Shah Amanat Hall after a gun battle between Shibir and Chhatra League on January 12. They also had another gunfight on

allotments.

Campus sources said Shibir men attacked the two buses as their demands were not met.

Meanwhile, the teachers' association of the university brought out a procession and held a rally on campus demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment for the attackers.

university would bear all the expenses for the treatment of the teachers and entrusted the police with the power to raid any place on campus including dormitories without permission.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League CU unit blockaded a road at Sholoshahar Gate-2 intersection around 3:30pm protesting the attack.



A wounded teacher being taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital after alleged activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir exploded crude bombs in teachers' buses of Chittagong University yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

JS body

FROM PAGE 16

The parliamentary standing committee on law ministry made the decision in a meeting after completing the scrutiny of the much-talked about bill that empowers the JS to impeach SC judges on grounds of misbehaviour or incapacity. The bill was placed in parliament on Sunday.

Emerging from the meeting at the JS Bhawan, Suranjit Sengupta, chairman of the committee, told reporters that the decision was taken to avoid controversy. But experts would be able to give their suggestions during the formulation of a law in this connection after the bill is passed.

Law Minister Anisul Huq, also a member of the committee, in the same vein said, "The experts will be able to come up with their suggestions when a law in light of the bill will be prepared."

The law will be enacted within three months of the bill's passage, he added.

Meeting sources said Huq told the parliamentary watchdog about the government's unwillingness to hold any discussion on the bill at the moment.

When journalists drew his attention to recent media reports saying eminent jurists will form an eight-member committee headed by Dr Kamal Hossain "to save independence of the judiciary", the law minister said everybody has the freedom to express their views. They have not violated any law by forming the committee.

Last month, Suranjit Sengupta told reporters that the committee would sit with constitution experts and other stakeholders before finalising the impeachment bill.

After yesterday's meeting, Suranjit said the committee finalised the bill with a recommendation to scrap its preamble, which was found "irrelevant and misleading".

Ziaul Haq Mridha, a Jatiya Party MP and member of the committee, said his party would not oppose the bill as "there was nothing objectionable in it".

"Those who are criticising the bill from outside of the parliament are wrong. We need this law for the sake of an independent judiciary. Therefore, the Jatiya Party will not oppose it," Mridha said after the meeting.

August 24 over Suhrawardi Hall, forcing the authorities to close that one too.

Yesterday's attack came when the pro-Jamaat student body had been enforcing an indefinite strike on campus since August 31 demanding reopening of the two Shibir-dominated dormitories, CU Proctor Siraj-ud-Daula told The Daily Star.

The Shibir's strike was also to protest the authorities' decision to cancel the allotment of rooms for students at Shah Amanat Hall and have fresh

Its president Prof Benu Kumar Dey said, "We want the CU syndicate to identify all the attackers and ban the organisation involved...."

Meanwhile, the university syndicate at a meeting in the afternoon decided to keep the university open "at any cost".

"The meeting decided to have police escort for buses carrying teachers all the way to and from campus," Prof Imran Hossain, a syndicate member, told The Daily Star.

The meeting also decided that the

Police dispersed them half an hour later.

Chhatra League later brought out a procession in the port city and held a rally at Sholoshahar Railway Station.

Chhatra League leader SM Ariful Islam said they demanded exemplary punishment for the "Shibir cadres" who attacked their teachers.

He said they also wanted punishment for the "pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers" who "instigated" the Shibir men. "We want the ban of Shibir on campus," he said.

HC asks for all documents

FROM PAGE 16

Nizam Uddin Hazari to appear before it on October 19 to explain whether the process of his getting bail in an arms case was legal.

During the hearing of a writ petition, the HC also ordered the Supreme Court registrar to produce before it on October 19 the documents on which Nizam got bail from the HC in 2006.

MA Bashar, who appeared for Nizam before the HC in 2006, AKM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, the then assistant attorney general, his lower court's lawyer and two bail grantors have to appear before the HC on October 19 to clarify their positions in dealing with his appeal of bail, writ petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

He said there is confusion about the authenticity of the order of Nizam's bail.

The bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan came up with the order while hearing arguments on the writ petition that claimed Nizam had committed forgery to get out of jail early and to contest the January 5 polls.

On July 16 this year, Chittagong jail authorities submitted a report to the HC, saying this court on May 17, 2006 granted bail to Nizam after he made an

appeal while serving a jail sentence.

However, Manzill Murshid argued that the HC on May 2, 2001 had rejected an appeal filed by Nizam challenging his jail sentence.

Even the Appellate Division on April 27, 2002 dismissed Nizam's appeal against the HC's rejection order and on June 26, 2004, the apex court dismissed his review petition as well, he added.

Manzill argued that there is no scope for moving two appeals in a same criminal case before the HC, and Nizam cannot get bail on an appeal as his earlier appeal was rejected by the same court.

The writ petition, filed by Jubo League leader Shakhawat Hossain Bhuiyan in June, says a Chittagong court had sentenced Nizam to 10 years' imprisonment in the arms case on August 16, 2000.

He surrendered to the trial court on September 14, 2000, and was sent to Chittagong jail to serve his term.

But he had been in jail for only five years and was released on December 1, 2005, through fraudulence, it added.

Nizam was supposed to be in jail until September 13, 2010, and he, according to the law, was not supposed to be eligible to contest the polls before September 2015, the petition added.

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