

RU PROF MURDER Teachers unhappy with probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Teachers of Rajshahi University are unhappy with the ongoing police investigation into the killing of their colleague Prof AKM Shafiqul Islam.

Meanwhile, the fiancé of the female student who was said to be inside the teacher's house during the killing on Saturday was detained for interrogation yesterday.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police did not reveal the identity of the man but sources said the detainee was a bank employee who had completed his Masters degree from RU's sociology department two years ago.

"We are trying to find out whether the fiancé of the girl had any grudge against the slain teacher," said Sardar Tomiz Uddin Ahmed, RMP additional commissioner.

In another development, a Rajshahi court yesterday placed 11 arrested "Jamaat-Shibir" men on a two-day remand each in connection with the murder.

At yesterday's rally organised by Rajshahi University Teachers Association (Ruta), the speakers demanded immediate arrest of the "real" killers.

They claimed the way Prof Shafiqul was murdered was similar to the styles of some recent killings carried out by militants.

They said they were feeling insecure as the killers were still moving freely even four days after Shafiqul was murdered near his home in Choddopai area.

Pranab Kumar Pandey, Ruta general secretary, threatened that they would go for tougher movement if the killers are not brought to book within November 29.

On the other hand, the RMP additional commissioner said the investigation was on the right track.

"We are also keeping the militant issue in our mind," he said.

A fanatic group Ansar Al Islam Bangladesh has claimed responsibility of the murder via a Facebook post. However, no officials have made any comment in this regard.

Suicide car bomb kills five in Iraqi Kurdish capital

REUTERS, Arbil

A suicide bomber driving a car packed with explosives blew himself up in the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region yesterday, killing at least five people in the first big attack there in more than a year.

Mayor Nihad Latif Koja told Reuters the assailant had detonated himself as he tried to enter the governor's compound, which is protected by blast walls, in the center of Arbil.

Explosions are a regular occurrence in the federal capital Baghdad and other cities outside Kurdistan but the autonomous region has largely managed to insulate itself from the violence convulsing the rest of the country.

Islamic State militants who overran swathes of northern Iraq this summer have repeatedly threatened to launch attacks against the Kurds, who are fighting them along a front line stretching more than 1,000 km (600 miles).

Footage from the scene in Arbil after the mid-morning attack showed charred vehicles and blood smeared on the cobbles outside the governor's office. Windows on the opposite side of the street had been shattered by the force of the blast.

A witness interviewed live on Kurdistan TV said two policemen and two civilians had been killed in the explosion.

The United States launched air strikes in Iraq this August when IS militants advanced on Arbil, where many expatriates, including oil industry and aid workers, are based.

Since then, the region's peshmerga forces have regained ground from Islamic State, emerging as the West's most trusted and effective partner on the ground in their war against the Sunni extremists.

But the Kurdistan region's President Masoud Barzani on Wednesday said the peshmerga needed heavier weapons from the international coalition to deliver a decisive blow to Islamic State.

The last major attack in Arbil was more than one year ago, when militants launched a coordinated suicide and car bomb attack on the headquarters of the security services. Another blast took place in August, but there were no casualties.



President of Inter-Parliamentary Union Sabar Hossain Chowdhury, also Awami League lawmaker, meets UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the UN headquarters in New York yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Dhaka, Delhi plan hunt

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Bangladeshi investigators handed over to the NIA team a list of 51 people. Of them, 10 are militants and the rest top criminals who are believed to be hiding in India.

The NIA officials gave a list of 11 suspected militants, who were allegedly behind the October 2 Burdwan blast in India. The NIA is probing the blast that left two alleged militants killed and one injured.

There are some common names of JMB operatives in the two lists.

According to Bangladesh Police records, the number of fugitive militants is 260 who are hiding both in India and Bangladesh, especially in the bordering areas.

As drives to arrest the militants intensified in recent months, many of them crossed into India. The local militants there are helping them. However, they often visit Bangladesh, hold meetings with fellows, and then go back to India, said investigators.

"It's important to conduct simultaneous drives so that the militants don't find hideouts to escape arrest," said a senior police official

who is involved in probing militancy.

The two countries should also intensify vigil across the border. "Now there are many border points through which anyone can cross into the other side managing the border guards of both the countries," he mentioned, asking not to be named.

Meanwhile, NIA officials on Tuesday fished out bottles containing explosives for making improvised explosive devices (IED) from near the Burdwan blast site, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Amjad Sheikh, who was arrested on November 10 in connection with the blast, told the officials that he had kept the bottles in a shop.

When NIA officials along with police went there, the shop owner told them that he threw the bottles containing picric acid in a nearby pond. Later, the bottles were fished out and the shop owner was detained for interrogation.

NIA investigators claimed Amjad, a member of JMB, was instrumental in procuring chemicals and supplying it to other co-conspirators for making IEDs.

It's a murder

Alleges father of Mahjabin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The in-laws of Shamarukh Mahjabin are trying to establish her murder as suicide, her father has alleged.

The 26-year-old girl was found dead at her in-laws in the capital's Dhanmondi on November 13.

"Her [Mahjabin's] tongue was inside her mouth and eyes were normal even after her death," victim's father Nurul Islam told reporters at a press conference in Jessore Press Club yesterday.

"She was five feet and 2.5 inches tall. How could a girl of her height hang herself with a scarf from a window grill of bathroom which is not higher than five feet?" he asked.

Nurul further said bruises on Mahjabin's neck and the left wrist indicated she was murdered.

He said the doctors preparing the autopsy report were reportedly under pressure.

"We did not contact the doctors. Who are putting pressure on them?" he questioned, seeking the prime minister's intervention in ensuring justice for her daughter.

A distorted postmortem report of Mahjabin might come out amid pressure from her in-laws, Nurul further alleged.

Mahjabin was the wife of Humayun Sultan, son of Khan Tipu Sultan, former lawmaker from Jessore-5. Humayun and Mahjabin got married in April last year.

Her father filed a murder case with Dhanmondi Police Station, accusing Tipu Sultan, his wife Jasmine Ara and Humayun on November 13. Police arrested Humayun, and he was put on a three-day remand.

Meanwhile, over 100 friends and colleagues of Mahjabin of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. They demanded transparency in preparing the postmortem report.

Traffickers treated

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Malaysia illegally. Lured by a broker couple of the same village, Imtiaz's parents sent him to Malaysia for Tk 2 lakh. The money would be paid after he landed in Malaysia. His cousin Tutul was with him too.

"New danger would unfold with every passing moment," said Imtiaz, who passed through the hands of three groups of brokers to reach Teknaf from Jessore.

Each group was worse than the previous. In Teknaf, Imtiaz told the brokers that he wanted to return home, but only to be violently beaten up and held captive.

He could not recall how long he had been kept there.

Then on one night, he was put on board a small fishing trawler, and from there on to a cargo vessel in the Bay.

Imtiaz was horrified when he stepped on to the deck. The vessel was crammed with people. Men, women, children, old and young -- all were stuffed on the boat.

He later learnt that they all were brought to the vessel in groups from Cox's Bazar, much like the way he was.

The traffickers would treat them ruthlessly.

Just when Imtiaz started losing all hope, Navy ship BNS Durjoy appeared on the horizon.

After more than 12 hours' chase, the Navy men rescued them.

"I dodged death," Imtiaz said.

CASES FILED

Two separate cases have been filed against 85 Myanmar and Bangladeshi nationals two days after nearly 600 peo-

ple were rescued while being trafficked to Malaysia.

Lieutenant Commander M Mahbubur Rahman, executive officer of BNS Durjoy, the navy ship that intercepted the Myanmar cargo carrier, lodged the cases with Patenga Police Station yesterday morning.

A total of 82 Myanmar nationals including 19 women were sued for illegal entry into Bangladesh while 17 people from both the countries including three Bangladeshis were accused in another case filed for human trafficking.

Fourteen Myanmar nationals were accused in both cases, officer-in-charge (OC) Kazi Shahabuddin of Patenga PS said.

"The Navy handed over 592 people to us on Tuesday night. Out of them 85 are accused in both cases," he said.

A total of 85 detained people and 12 Myanmar infants were produced before the court, the OC said adding that they would seek seven-day remand against each of the 17 accused for human trafficking.

The rescued 495 Bangladeshi nationals including 14 women and 21 children were released in the morning after interrogation, he added.

The Bangladeshi fortune seekers were collected from different places across the country by traffickers and taken to different spots at Teknaf to be sent to the trawler through small boats 10 to 12 days ago, the victims said.

Traffickers lured many of victims by promising them attractive jobs in Malaysia while some were kidnapped or taken forcefully.

SC upholds death

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passed the order after dismissing two review petitions filed by the condemned convicts -- Rashedul Islam alias Jhantu and Anwar Hossain alias Anwar -- challenging its verdict that had sentenced them to death in the case in 2012.

On February 16, 1999, an armed gang killed Kazi Aref, Kushtia district unit JSD president Lokman Hossain and its general secretary Yakub Ali, and local JSD leaders Shamsher Ali and Israil Hossain at a rally in Kalidaspur village of Kushtia's Daulatpur upazila.

After yesterday's order, Additional Attorney General Momtaz Uddin Fakir told The Daily Star that the convicts can now seek presidential mercy to save themselves.

"If they don't get the clemency, the jail authorities can hang them as per the jail code," he said.

Khandker Mahbub Hossain, chief counsel for the convicts, told this correspondent that after receiving the SC order, the lower court will issue death warrants for Rashedul and Anwar.

The jail authorities would execute them between 21 and 28 days after getting the death warrants, he said.

On August 30, 2004, Fazlur Rahman, the then additional district and sessions judge in Kushtia, pronounced death sentences for 10 people and life-

term imprisonment for 12 others for the killings.

On August 5 in 2008, the High Court acquitted one of the condemned convicts and upheld the death penalty for nine others. The court also exempted 12 lifers from the killing charge.

Rashedul and Anwar, who are now in prison, lodged the review petitions with the SC after it had upheld the HC judgment on August 7, 2011.

Seven others on death row are now on the run.

People won't

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plan to establish one multi-media classroom at each of the 39,907 government primary schools by June 2016.

She said she feels relieved that verdicts of international crimes tribunals were being implemented.

On the victory of Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and AL MP Sabar Hossain Chowdhury in Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Inter-parliamentary Union elections, Hasina said their victory in the international forums have clearly proved that Bangladesh was being considered worldwide as a role model in establishing democracy and good governance.

UK judge says Pakistani man can sue over torture claim

AFP, London

A British judge on Wednesday gave the go-ahead for a Pakistani man to take Britain to court over his alleged unlawful detention and torture by UK and US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, his lawyers said.

Yunus Rahmatullah was detained by British forces in 2004 in Iraq, where he said he was with a friend who was

on a pilgrimage.

He was transferred into US custody in Afghanistan and held for 10 years without charge before being released this year, and currently lives in Pakistan.

Rahmatullah alleges that he was subjected to torture while in detention, including being beaten on the soles of his feet with rubber flex, being exposed to tear gas and being immersed upside down in water tanks.

MP unhappy as govt

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information on coups in the Armed Forces of Bangladesh.

In response, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, who gave a proxy reply in absence of Syed Ashraf Islam, who is in charge of the defense ministry in parliamentary affairs, said coups in the army had taken place at a time when there was no democratic government or parliament in the country.

He also said the then ruler did not keep any record of the coups and that was why the government had no information to that end.

He however said the truth would reveal one day.

On numerous killings and hanging of army personnel, Quader said, "I have heard that Ziaur Rahman had signed the papers on hanging army men a whole night without sleeping."

On the coup in navy and air force, Syed Ashraf Islam in a scripted reply said no coup had taken place in the two forces.

He, however, said a navy official was killed in a local revolt on November 2, 1975. Besides, 11 unarmed air force officials were also killed in a local revolt on October 2, 1977, he added.

Cuban doctor contracts Ebola in Sierra Leone

AFP, Freetown

A Cuban doctor infected with Ebola in Sierra Leone was being flown to Geneva for treatment as the UN warned yesterday against open defecations amid fears they were helping spread the virus ravaging west Africa.

As efforts to fight the outbreak in the three worst-hit countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea intensify after a lacklustre start, Cuba has played a major role sending around 250 doctors and nurses to the region. Havana has said it plans to send a total of 450.

Felix Baez Sarria, one of about 165 Cuban medics in Sierra Leone, started to feel feverish on Sunday.

The 43-year-old is currently in a Red Cross centre near the capital Freetown, his boss, Doctor Jorge Delgado Butillo, told AFP.

"He's not critical, he's doing well, in a good condition," Butillo said. "The most important thing now is to get him evacuated to Geneva pretty soon."

The virus has killed almost 5,200 people, mostly in west Africa with the most casualties recorded in Liberia.

gered by the United Nations as a possible cause for the spread of the highly contagious and deadly disease.

Half the population of Liberia, the country worst hit by the epidemic, have no access to toilets, while in Sierra Leone nearly a third of people live without latrines, a new UN report said.

Before it was declared Ebola-free last month, Nigeria warned against defecating in the open to guard against the virus, which spreads through contact with bodily fluids.

The oil-rich west African country of Equatorial Guinea meanwhile hired 50 Cuban doctors to contain the outbreak of Ebola during the Africa Cup of Nations next year, an official source said.

"Nowhere near out of the woods" - It took over the organisation of the continental football tournament at the 11th hour last week when Morocco was stripped of the right to host the event after it expressed fears over the deadly virus being transmitted by visiting supporters and requested a postponement.

The Cuban doctors are expected to arrive in the next few days, government television reported.

The fight against Ebola is far from being won despite some good news from Liberia where the infection rate apparently seems to be slowing, world leaders warned.

"As long as the outbreak continues to rage in the three countries in west Africa -- Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea -- this is still going to be a danger -- not just for America, but for the entire world," US President Barack Obama said.

"We are nowhere near out of the woods yet in West Africa," he said.

The United States has sent nearly 2,200 soldiers to Liberia, Africa's oldest republic formed by freed American slaves, to help in the fight against Ebola.

The Pentagon initially planned to deploy up to 4,000 but now the target level is at 3,000.

The worldwide focus on Ebola has meanwhile worried the British monarch who fears that malaria -- which can also be fatal -- would be ignored.

"After Ebola we will still have malaria," Queen Elizabeth II said, according to David Heymann, professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

"She was very interested in Ebola because she said her doctor had told her that there were more people dying from malaria every week than are dying from Ebola - and he was right," said Heymann.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Patka Karporekshon. Includes text: বাংলাদেশ পাটকল করপোরেশন, আদমজী কোর্ট (এনসই-১), ১১৫-১২০, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০. Also mentions 'খন্ডকালীন চিকিৎসা কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি'.