

Why Jannati

FROM PAGE 16
Earlier on November 30, a judge of a High Court bench felt embarrassed to hear a bail petition by Jannati, said Jannati's lawyer barrister Rumeen Farhana.

Jannati was denied bail by Metropolitan Magistrate Court and Sessions Court, the lawyer added.
On July 11, Jannati, crashed Mostamsir's car into a parked police van near Mohakhali floyer. Mostamsir was gravely injured in the accident and died on way to the hospital, police said.

Tejgaon police sued her for reckless driving.
Mostamsir was the son of Khan Mohammad Abdul Mannan, a former district court judge and now serving as the inspector general of registration (IGR).

Ten days after the accident, Mostamsir's family lodged a murder case against Jannati, her brothers Jubair and Junaid, father Delwar Hossain and husband Raymen Siddique, alleging that the five had murdered Mostamsir in a planned way to take over business.

With 15 persons named as witnesses, including Deputy Secretary (admin) of Law and Justice Division Mizanur Rahman, Director General of ACC Kamrul Hossain Mollah, Director General of Islamic Foundation Shamim Mohammad Afzal and Chief Judicial Magistrate of Dhaka Mahbubur Rahman, the murder case is now a high-profile case.

Shakila alleged that her daughter and other family members were "falsely" accused in the case, and that they had been denied justice due to the influence of the deceased's family.

"I am staying out of home now. My family has been hiding," she told The Daily Star yesterday.

Mostamsir's uncle Hannan Khan, plaintiff in the murder case, however, denied allegations brought against his family.

"There is nothing to influence here. I filed the murder case as we thought there might be some loopholes in the police case. We want proper investigation and will accept whatever comes out after the investigation," he said.

In his case statement, Hannan didn't say exactly how Mostamsir was "murdered". According to the post mortem report, he died in an accident and police said his seat belt was not fastened.

Hannan lodged the murder case with a Dhaka court on July 21.

Accepting it, the court the next day ordered a CID investigation and merger of the murder case with the one filed for reckless driving.

CID Inspector Uttam Kumar Biswas said they found truth about Jannati's driving Mostamsir's car and that Mostamsir sitting next to her. They also found evidence that the car ran into the parked police van.

Uttam also added that he was waiting for a probe report of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority on the causes of the accident.

Jannati and Mostamsir launched Echo Sparks, a music cafe and gaming zone, in Uttara in December last year. Jannati has other businesses in partnership with her husband, according to her family.

In the last three years, Jannati and her husband founded Velocity, a car modification company. She also became managing editor of automobile magazine Torque.

EU for talks

FROM PAGE 2
democratic tool to have an agreement on the issue."

She also urged the government to make sure that political space was left open for other views.

On rights situation, Lambert referred to the EU Parliament resolution issued in September this year.

The resolution expressed concerns over disappearances, extrajudicial killings and the need for full and in-depth investigations into such incidents and also bringing the guilty to justice, she added.

The EU parliamentarian also expressed concerns over the proposed law on non-governmental organisations.

Lambert also lauded the country's civil society organisations. "An active civil society is crucial in any country, and Bangladesh has got a very active civil society on a whole range of issues. That is part of the country's strength. It is the area where new ideas and dynamism of the country come from."

She also expressed concerns over the "chill factor" in the Bangladeshi media. "And that is regrettable. Responsible media is one thing that you really want for a full functioning society."

Replying to a question on whether the EU still suggests that BNP should disassociate itself from Jamaat-e-Islami, Lambert said, "This wasn't a topic we talked about yesterday [Tuesday]. But that remains the position of the European Parliament. We haven't had a resolution which has changed that."

In a resolution on January 16, the European Parliament first urged the BNP to distance itself from Jamaat and Hifazat-e Islam.

Pierre Mayaudon, head of the EU delegation to Bangladesh, was also present during the briefing.

Seepage spreads

FROM PAGE 1
after a month. The spill will also cause a huge problem on the shorelines of canals and rivers the animals of the mangrove forest drink from, wildlife experts said.

"Not only the aquatic resources, all the animals of the Sundarbans will be affected by this accident as all the animals come to the rivers and canals to drink water," Monirul H Khan, an eminent tiger expert, told this paper.

But the most horrific thing is that the oil would be in the ecosystem for up to 50 years, he added.

Rubaiyat Mansoor, the Bangladesh coordinator of Wildlife Society, who is at the accident site, said: "I have already heard from some fishermen that fish started dying at different points."

Amir Hossain Chowdhury, divisional forest officer, east zone of the Sundarbans, said they were trying to remove the oil manually by using

fishing nets.

Forest officials are also trying to put some fishing nets on the mouth of the canals so that oil cannot enter into those. At least 20 canals connected with the Shela river have already been polluted, he said.

The shipping ministry formed a three-member committee to investigate the accident.

The Sundarbans Forest Division formed a separate committee and asked the committee to submit a report within three days.

Meanwhile, the forest department filed a general diary against the owners of the oil tanker and the cargo vessel, saying that the two ships damaged Tk 100 crore wealth of the forestry.

M Giasuddin, managing director of Harun & Company, owner of the tanker, filed a case against the cargo vessel owner with Mongla Police Station.

They want justice

FROM PAGE 1
On May 4, he was shifted to the hospital in Comilla jail. Shahnur's family members visited him at the hospital the next day.

Mehedi on June 1 filed a case with Magistrate Nazmun Nahar's court in Brahmanbaria. The court ordered the police to probe the case, but the magistrate was withdrawn the following day.

He later moved the High Court with a writ petition, seeking its directives to probe the case. The HC is scheduled to hold a hearing on the writ today.

The plaintiff said various quarters have been threatening him over the phone with life. "Through my relatives and acquaintances, those quarters are offering me Tk 30 lakh to Tk 40 lakh for withdrawing the case."

Indigenous community leader Sohel Hazong said they recorded 67 incidents of rights violation of indigenous people last year. He feared the figure might get bigger this year.

"Even a union parishad member couldn't protect herself from being victimised. If a public representative is not safe from rights violation, what would be the fate of the common people?" he questioned.

According to a report of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), 250 people were abducted reportedly by law enforcers between 2007 and 2013. At least 68 people were picked up last year alone.

In the first 10 months of this year, as many as 118 people were killed in "shootouts between their cohorts and law enforcers". Last year, the country saw 208 extrajudicial killings, said another ASK study.

Expressing grave concern over human rights in the country, rights activists said the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was not taking effective steps to stop rights violation.

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud said the commission didn't probe the rights violation incidents properly. Its officials are rather busy in making statements and speeches.

He blamed political conflict and violence for forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Noted jurist Shahdeen Malik said if found guilty of violating human rights, members of the law enforcement agencies concerned must be withdrawn from the force.

The opposition men have been facing the problem now and the ruling party men might face a similar

fate in future if the government does not curb such crimes, he warned.

Shahdeen demanded formation of a judicial commission by February 21 next to probe all the incidents of forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. The government should set up a separate commission to probe rights violations of religious minorities, he added.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convener of Nagorik Oikya, said the worst incident of human rights violation in Bangladesh occurred on January 5 when the incumbent prime minister "snatched the rights of franchise of 16 crore people".

Barrister Sara Hossain sought intervention of the Supreme Court in probing rights violation to ensure justice for the victims and their families.

Sakhawat Hossain, president of Narayanganj Bar Association, said the government might not be interested in bringing back Noor Hossain, prime accused in the Narayanganj seven-murder case, as it would unmask many godfathers. The accused fled to India and is now behind bars in Kolkata.

OTHER EVENTS

Speaking at a programme at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University, NHRC Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman said building a better society would not be possible without ensuring human rights for all. He demanded the state take a strong stance against the perpetrators of rights violation.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir alleged that human rights in Bangladesh was on the verge of obliteration as the state itself was snatching people's rights away.

"When the whole world is making all-out efforts to protect human rights, Bangladesh remains an exception as people's basic rights here are being snatched away by the state every day," he told a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office.

Different rights bodies and civil society platforms in the morning brought out a procession from the TSC which ended at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The UN general assembly in 1950 had proclaimed December 10 as the Human Rights Day. This year's slogan, Human Rights 365, encompasses the idea that every day is a Human Rights Day.

Behind CIA's torture plan

FROM PAGE 16
where they were based before.

It was at the elite school, often used to train Special Forces troops, that the doctors subjected American soldiers to "coercive interrogation techniques that they might be subjected to if taken prisoner by countries that did not adhere to Geneva protections".

Neither doctor had any experience as an interrogator; neither had knowledge of al-Qaeda. Swigert, however, had reviewed literature on "learned helplessness in which individuals might become passive and depressed in response to adverse or uncontrollable events".

Such helplessness, he imagined before joining the CIA's programme, could "encourage a detainee to cooperate and provide information".

After the detention of Zubaydah, the doctors' programme - authorised by Justice Department lawyers - was expanded with detainees taken to secret prisons in Poland, Romania, Lithuania and other countries, or "partners" as they are referred to in the report.

During Swigert's pitch for the programme he described 12 SERE techniques that could prove useful to the CIA. They were: "The attention grasp, walling, facial hold, facial slap, cramped confinement, standing, stress positions, sleep deprivation, water-board, use of diapers, use of insects,

and mock burial."

A year after Swigert and Dunbar began the torture (or "enhanced interrogation techniques"), a senior CIA interrogator would tell colleagues that their model at SERE was "based on resisting North Vietnamese physical torture" and "designed to extract confessions".

Indeed, the interrogation was prioritised over the health of the detainee. One declassified cable says the interrogation team understood that "interrogation process takes precedence over preventative medical procedures".

Four years after it began, the programme was at an end when George W Bush ordered detainees to be taken to Guantanamo Bay, and another form of torture began.

But Swigert and Dunbar had by that time realised their invention was lucrative and formed a company to conduct their work with the CIA.

The CIA's contract with that company was in excess of \$180million and the pair received in excess of \$81m before the deal was terminated in 2009.

Before that, the CIA had provided a "indemnification agreement" to "protect the company and its employees from legal liability arising out of the programme".

But by then, the doctors had completed their work.

Tarique faces arrest order for calling Mujib Pakbandhu

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman in a case filed against him for calling the founder of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman "Pakbandhu" (friend of Pakistan).

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ataul Haque passed the order after Tarique failed to appear before his court as per its previous order on November 17.

The court asked the officer-in-charge of Paltan Model Police Station to submit a report before it by January 29 on execution of the arrest warrant.

The arrest warrant was issued after Monir Khan, assistant secretary of Awami League's central sub-committee, plaintiff of the case, submitted a petition to the court seeking Tarique's arrest as he failed to appear before the court yesterday.

Soon after the order, Pro-BNP lawyers brought out a procession on court premises and demanded withdrawal of the arrest warrant against Tarique.

Earlier, on November 17, the court summoned Tarique asking him to appear before it in connection with the case.

The court also sent a copy of the summon order to the BNP central office at Naya Paltan. It was later posted to the wall of the party office on November 23 failing to find him at his address which was mentioned in the case.

In his case statement, Monir alleged that Tarique called Sheikh Mujibur Rahman "Pakbandhu" at a discussion in London on September 29 last.

"Sheikh Mujibur Rahman cannot be the Father of the Nation. He returned to the country with a Pakistani passport. Someone who accepts Pakistani passport even after Bangladesh's independence is a citizen of that country in the eyes of the law," Tarique reportedly told the programme held at York Hall in East London.

Tarique, now in London, is a fugitive accused in the August 21 grenade attack cases. He is also faces charges in 15 other criminal cases.

BNP REACTION
Meanwhile, lambasting the arrest warrant against Tarique Rahman, BNP yesterday said the government would not be able to intimidate the opposition's upcoming movement by filing "false" cases against BNP men.

"The defamation case against our leader Tarique was filed only to stop the opposition's democratic movement. But we want to say unequivocally that the present repressive government would not be able to sustain through filing false cases and killing opposition men," Fakhrul said in a press briefing at BNP's central office in Naya Paltan.

Meanwhile the youth front of BNP, Jubo Dal, yesterday announced agitation programmes at all city and district headquarters today in protest of the arrest warrant against Tarique.

Jihadist attack in Iraq kills nine Shia militiamen

AFP, Baghdad

A suicide car bomb killed nine Shia militiamen in an attack near the Iraqi city of Tikrit yesterday, army and hospital sources said.

The suicide attacker rammed his explosives-laden vehicle into a gathering of Shiite fighters around 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Tikrit.

An army lieutenant colonel said nine of the Shiite volunteers were killed and 13 other people were wounded, including five civilians.

A medical source in Samarra, further south, confirmed the toll.

The past few days have seen a surge in violence south of Tikrit and around Samarra between pro-government forces and the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group.

Buried body

FROM PAGE 16
According to police, Saiful took Tk 10 lakh from Wadud in the name of sending the latter's relatives abroad six months ago. But he went into hiding after he got the money.

On December 2, Wadud tricked Saiful into coming at him workshop and started beating him in order to get back the money. At one stage, Saiful died.

Rab denies HQ's link

FROM PAGE 1
The High Court bench yesterday expressed doubt about the report whether it mentioned the names of all the Rab men who had made confessional statements before courts but said it would pass an order on the report next month.

The report said Tareque and Arif were involved throughout the abduction, murder and dumping of the bodies.

Narayanganj panel mayor Nazrul, his driver and three associates, and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker and his driver were abducted separately but around the same time on April 27 from Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road. Their bodies were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river a few days later.

The elite force's probe team, led by Additional Director General (administration) of Rab Aftab Uddin, handed over the report to the attorney general's office on November 23, so that it could be placed before the court.

Yesterday, during the hearing on a suo moto rule, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam placed the report before the bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and read out the part of the report where Rab had expressed its opinion on the sensational seven-murder.

The bench observed that the enquiry might be incomplete, since some Rab men reportedly gave confessional statements before other courts after the report was prepared, and their names might not have been included.

On Tuesday, ex-additional secretary to the public administration ministry Shahjahan Mollah was transferred and removed from the head of a committee investigating the seven-murder.

The HC yesterday ordered that Shahjahan would continue with the probe.

After the court proceedings yesterday, the attorney general told reporters that the credibility of the Rab report would not be harmed even if it was missing a few names. He said the trial of the seven-murder case would be based on the investigation of the Detective Branch of Police.

The Rab in its report said Tareque, former commanding officer of Rab-11, and Arif, its former company

commander, were involved in the entire process, from abductions to the dumping of the bodies in the river.

Lt Commander (ret'd) MM Rana, another Rab official who was fired after the killings, was "partly involved" in the abduction, the report said.

The Rab probe team took statements of Director (Intelligence) at Rab headquarters Lt Col Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad, Director (Operations) Lt Col Md Rezaul Islam, Additional Director General (Operations) Col Ziaul Ahsan, and Director General (DG), Rab and Additional Inspector General of Police Md Mokhlesur Rahman.

According to the report, Rab DG Mokhlesur, Col Ziaul and Lt Col Azad had called then commanding officer of Rab-11 Tareque on April 27.

Tareque had told them that he was aware of the incident, the probe report claimed, adding that Tareque told his superiors that he was trying to find out what was going on and who abducted the seven.

Most of the high officials of Rab came to know about the abduction and murder from the media, the report went on to say.

It said the elite force's headquarters was misled as the commander of Rab-11 concealed information.

After knowing about the incident, the Rab DG on April 28 took action against Tareque, Arif and Rana.

The other 18 Rab men found by Rab to be involved in the incident were: Sub-Inspector Purnendu Bala, AB Arif Hossain, Nayek Nazim (driver), Nayek Delwar (driver), Lance Nayek Hira Mia, soldiers Mohiuddin Munshi, Abdul Alim, Alamin, Asad, Tajul, Sipoy Toiyab, constables Shihab Uddin, Alamin, Havildar Emdad, Lance Nayek Belal Hossain, Sergeant Enamul, ASI Bazlu, and Havildar (driver) Nasir.

The Rab claimed that they had executed unlawful orders of their superiors and Rab men subordinate to them might have felt that following such orders were their official duty.

The Rab probe report said Chandan and his driver Ibrahim had seen the abduction of the others and they too were kidnapped for the cover up.

Police team attacked

FROM PAGE 1
reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

Assistant sub-inspectors of the police station Shahinur and Rezaul Karim were left with gashes in their heads and other parts of their bodies, said Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station.

They are undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital, he added.

Witnesses said the policemen went to Abdullah's house on a motorbike around noon and arrested him. Other residents of the house and neighbours were then locked into an altercation with the law enforcers.

As the policemen refused to set him free and attempted to take him to the police station, men and women attacked them with sticks and sharp machetes. The family members and neighbours finally got Abdullah released, leaving the policemen injured.

Body lies in KL hospital

FROM PAGE 2
called her on the day of Eid-ul-Azha this year and informed her that she would be released soon from the detention centre, and return to Bangladesh within a month after her release.

She also alleged that her mother could not communicate with Bangladesh High Commission as the Malaysian police didn't allow her to do that.

Sayedul Islam said they came to know about the body from a relative of the victim in Kuala Lumpur last week, and contacted the immigration police. But they were yet to receive any official report in this regard.

The body would be sent back home after completion of all procedures, he added.

Kulum had worked in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman for

several years as a domestic help. She returned home from Oman in October last year.

Runa has been living with her maternal grandmother since her mother went abroad. Her parents got separated long ago, she claimed.

Meanwhile, Abul Bashar, a construction material trader, said he was yet to bring back the body of his brother Mohammad Monir Hossain who was killed in a road accident in Saudi Arabia two years ago.

"Two years have passed. But we couldn't bring back my brother," he told the BBC Bangla Service yesterday.

"We completed all procedures required by the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) and all government agencies concerned but to no avail," he alleged.

Monir used to work as a driver.

Train crashes

FROM PAGE 16
passengers around 5:30am, but its engine (shunting engine) along with a bogie veered off the tracks and crashed into the platform as the train master failed to stop the train at the designated place.

Due to the accident, front side of the shunting engine, a portion of the platform and glass of "Exit and Entry" point of the station were damaged.

The train, however, left for Dhaka with passengers around 7:50am, about 50 minutes later, the station manager added.

Railway communications were not disrupted following the incident.

Mozammel Haque, general manager of Bangladesh Railway (east zone), said he came to know that the driver was sleeping when the accident happened.

Additional Chief Engineer (Bridges) of Railway East Zone Mafizur Rahman, also a member of a probe committee, termed the incident unusual while talking to journalists at the station.

Soon after the formation of committees, they rushed to the spot and started their investigation, he said. "We will submit our report within the shortest possible time," Mafizur said.