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Mystery shrouds JCD leader's death

Bullet-hit body found on Friday; family heard about his 'arrest' earlier; police deny

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal leader was recovered from the capital's Rupnagar on Friday, about 15 hours after he had allegedly been picked up by detectives.

The victim, Ariful Islam Mukul, was a joint secretary of JCD's Charfashion unit in Bhola, says a central committee press note of the pro-BNP student body.

His family identified the body at Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday.

The 22-year-old was shot thrice in the chest and abdomen, morgue sources said.

Mukul, who was a fifth-semester student of law at a private university in the capital, used to live at a mess in Farmgate.

His Facebook page is full of photos and news links regarding pro-BNP activities. A number of posts and photos show JCD processions in Farmgate area in support of the recent hartals and blockades. He was



seen among the agitators in those photos.

His uncle Tawhidul Islam told this correspondent yesterday they came to know that a body was kept at the mortuary. He later went to the morgue and found it to be his nephew's.

Rupnagar police recovered the body from Berybadh area around 9:00am on Friday.

Mukul's father Mostafa Kamal, a madrasa teacher, said a neighbour told them that his son had been arrested from a launch at Sadarghat on January 29.

He said his son was going to Bhola that day and remained missing since.

"A neighbour named Abdul Hannan called me over the phone. He came to know about the arrest from another neighbour who was on the same launch as Mukul," he added.

Mostafa claimed a relative in the capital went to the Kotwali police that day to seek information about Mukul's arrest.

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FEAR OF ARREST

Khaleda's
Gulshan
office wears
deserted look

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Gulshan office of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia wore a deserted look yesterday as the party men stayed away, fearing arrest and police harassment.

No newsman was allowed in. The snapped telephone, cable and internet connections to the office are yet to be restored.

Meanwhile, two Dhaka courts yesterday placed Khaleda's advisers

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PRAYER TIMING

FEBRUARY 3

Faz Zohr Asr Magrib Esha

AZAN 5-35 12-45 4-15 5-46 7-15

JAMAT 6-10 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Magna Carta united for the first time

BBC ONLINE

The four surviving original copies of the 1215 Magna Carta have been brought together for the first time in London.

Magna Carta is one of the most important, well-known documents in history and this year marks its 800th anniversary.

More than 40,000 people entered a public ballot to see them, with 1,125 getting the chance to see all four at the British Library over three days.

The Magna Carta was authorised on 15 June 1215 at Runnymede. The document was agreed by King John to appease rebel barons in the heart of battle.

It is considered one of the first steps towards parliamentary democracy and includes the principle that no one was above the law, including the king.

After three days, the documents will be taken to the House of Lords for one day before two are returned to the British Library and the others are taken back to Lincoln and Salisbury Cathedrals.

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