

# Janata Bank to reward night guard for foiling robbery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Janata Bank has decided to reward one of its night guards with Tk 2 lakh for his bravery to foil a robbery bid at Jigatola Satmasjid Road branch of the bank.

Abdul Wahab Talukder sustained head injury when he tried to resist the robbers from looting the bank on Wednesday night.

He immediately informed the high officials of the bank about the incident over the phone. On information police rushed their and foiled the robbery.

Janata Bank Chairman Shaikh Md Wahid-Uz-Zaman said, "Such bravery is not expected from a person like him. The bravery he has shown definitely deserves recognition."

"So we decided to contribute a little for his great job. It may remain as inspiration for others who do such kinds of job," said the chairman adding, they had lost crores of taka in the past in robbery incidents in which few of the guards had even hands with the robbers.

Wahab is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

# Rare Kanak

FROM PAGE 20

leaves in dressing the wounds. The wood is made into walking sticks. The plant has attractive yellow flowers. Its seeds are initially green but turn jet black later.

# Jam free Dhaka

FROM PAGE 3

into a reality when city mayors in the country have little authority to take decisions independently about development programmes.

One of the significant features in Ahmed's manifesto is that he will protect the interests of tenants.

He also promised to rehabilitate floating people and beggars.

"I will make sure that pedestrians can use the footpaths throughout the year," he said.

He also would allot specific places for holding rallies and fight corruption in the city corporation.

# Outrage keeps

FROM PAGE 4

DU demanding resignation of the university's proctorial body if it fails to ensure security on the campus.

BraC's project Meyerder Jonno Nirapad Nagorikotto Karmasuchi formed a human chain before Jatiya Press Club.

A hundred eminent citizens under the banner "Shata Nagorik Jatiya Committee" issued a statement urging the authorities concerned to investigate why law enforcers did not take any timely steps to stop such assault.

Bangladesh Mahila Oikyo Parishad, Manusher Jonno Foundation and Bangladesh Mahila Ainjibi Samity also condemned the incident.

On Tuesday, at least 20 women and children were sexually assaulted on DU campus for over an hour by unidentified criminals.

# No good news

FROM PAGE 20

words that added to the distress of the already grief-stricken family which had been keeping the agony buried deep inside.

"None says anything positive about him. Only negative words... there is no assurance from anyone whatsoever. We can't bear it anymore," Luna told The Daily Star after repeated attempts over several months to reach her.

Luna, mother of three children, has not given up hope even though three years have gone by. She believes that her husband is alive and will return home one day.

"We are counting days with the hope that he is alive," was her last words during the five-minute conversation over the phone.

Ilias, organising secretary of BNP's Sylhet Division and former lawmaker, was born on January 1, 1961, at Ramdhana of Bishwanath in Sylhet. He came under the spotlight when he was a student of Dhaka University during HM Ershad's regime.

He was elected the general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, a pro-BNP student body, during the BNP rule after the Ershad regime fell.

The Chhatra Dal committee was dissolved within a few months after its pro-Ilias faction evicted Ovee-Niru group from DU campus following several murders that rocked the university.

Ilias was also sent to jail.

In 2001, he was elected a member of parliament from Sylhet-2 constituency. He was very vocal against the

Tipaimukh Dam construction and border killings.

Eight people, including three at his hometown, died and scores more were injured on April 23, 2012 during a countrywide hartal enforced by BNP protesting his disappearance.

Soon after the disappearance, Luna filed a general diary with Banani Police Station. Three investigators were appointed to probe the incident but no progress was made.

Police had recovered his abandoned car near his Banani home and found his driver's mobile phone on the passenger seat on April 17, 2012, the day of their disappearance.

Inspector (investigation) Kazi Mainul Islam of Banani Police Station had begun the probe and after his transfer, his successors Nasir Uddin and Ashrafal Islam continued with the investigation.

None of them could come up with any clue, insiders said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Officer-in-Charge Bhuiyan Mahbub Hasan of Banani Police Station admitted that there was no notable headway made.

They were continuing with the investigation and had employed a number of informers, he said, adding that they had submitted progress reports to the court every month since the disappearance.

BNP chief Khaleda Zia had alleged that a government agency and Rab had picked up Ilias from his car.

Both the government high-ups and Rab outright rejected her claim.

# Doctors leave patients

FROM PAGE 20

meeting which is part of Nasir's electoral campaign, former election commissioner M Sakawat Hussain said as per electoral code of conduct, non-government official or staff can join any electoral campaign meeting.

"If government doctors take part in such a meeting, it is definitely a violation of code of conduct," he viewed.

Whenever such incidents come to the notice of the returning officer, he must investigate and take necessary action, Sakawat said.

Contacted, Shafiqur Rahman, assistant returning officer, said no government official could participate in electoral campaign.

"There is no specific rule in the electoral code of conduct as to whether a government official, as an audience, can attend a meeting of any candidate," he said.

Although there was no name of the organiser in the banner, Sheikh Shafiqul Azam, president of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (Swachip), Chittagong, who presided over the meeting, said the programme was organised by Swachip leaders in the name of Socheton Chikitsak Parishad.

He said they did not use the name Swachip as organiser to avoid violating the electoral code of conduct.

During a visit to the hospital yesterday, this correspondent found that most of the doctors for outdoor patients were not in their rooms. Only a few doctors were seeing patients.

Contacted, CMCH Director Brig Gen Khondakar Shahidul Ghani said he had visited the outdoor around 10:30am as part of his daily visit and asked doctors to be careful so that treatments of patients could go

unhindered.

"The hospital has the capacity to treat 1,010 patients but the doctors have to serve almost double that," he said.

Regarding doctors' absence from the workplace during duty hours to attend a meeting of a mayoral aspirant, he said, "It's an academic hospital and there might have had other commitments."

He claimed that patient treatment was not hampered.

Pranab Kumar Chakraborty, head of Child Health, told The Daily Star that, "As a member of Bangladesh Medical Association, we have some thoughts to exchange with the public leaders. Moreover, as a conscious citizen, I can hear the speeches of public leaders."

"We stayed there for only around an hour and sufficient doctors were in the ward to serve the patients during that time," he added.

Asked if a government doctor can attend such a meeting, Nurul Huda, associate professor of Nephrology department, said, "I asked my colleagues about it and they told me that if we have the right to cast vote, we also have the right to listen to speeches of public leaders."

Meanwhile, Nasir at the meeting said the two major problems of the city -- waterlogging and poor waste management -- cannot be solved only with city corporation fund.

"The government's assistance is necessary to solve these problems," he said. If he is elected mayor, it would be easier for him to get the assistance from the government as he is blessed by the prime minister, he added.

# Kiwi agency 'shared intel with Dhaka'

FROM PAGE 20

2001. The Herald analysed the documents in collaboration with US news website The Intercept, which obtained them from the NSA whistle-blower Edward Snowden.

The documents shine light on the major role played by New Zealand's Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) in electronic spying operations conducted in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh spying is revealed in an April 2013 US National Security Agency (NSA) report about its relationship with New Zealand.

In a section called "What Partner Provides to NSA", it says "GCSB has been the lead for the intelligence community on the Bangladesh CT [Counter-Terrorism] target since 2004."

The GCSB provides "one of the key SIGINT [signals intelligence] sources of [Bangladesh counter-terrorism] reporting to the US intelligence community."

The intelligence gathered by the GCSB staff was also being forwarded to foreign intelligence agencies, including Bangladesh's state intelligence agency. A New Zealand government source told the Herald that Bangladesh is the main focus of one of the GCSB's four analysis sections, called ICT, and has been for over a decade.

ICT, the Transnational Issues section, was set up in April 2002 in the wake of the September 11 attacks to focus on terrorism threats.

The Bangladesh project appears to have begun in 2003, under Prime Minister Helen Clark, at a time when her Government was receptive to US

post was mostly being used by the GCSB to intercept mobile phone calls.

The intelligence gathered by the GCSB staff was being forwarded to foreign intelligence agencies. The April 2013 NSA report said the "GCSB's Bangladesh CT [counter terrorism] reporting provided unique intelligence leads that have enabled successful CT operations by Bangladesh State Intelligence Service, CIA and India over the past year."

It is unclear from any of the NSA documents whether New Zealand sought or received any assurances from Bangladesh over how intelligence it shared could be used for detentions and interrogations, or whether there was any effective oversight of how the country's agencies ultimately used the information.

But the documents do reveal that the GCSB adopted a dual-edged approach, and while it was sharing the intelligence with Bangladesh's security agencies, it was secretly monitoring the internal communications of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

The report contained an intercepted image of a Rab officer speaking on the force's internal video conference system. It said that "Rab has been an active target for the GCSB in the past and this information could well be of high interest for future operations if the domestic security situation in Bangladesh were to deteriorate".

Bangladesh has low levels of terrorist activity compared with many countries in that region, is remote from New Zealand and there is no suggestion that the GCSB work was in response to any direct threat to New Zealand.

The report said the covert listening

# Tarique seen in public amid Interpol notice

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, London

BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman, on whom Interpol has issued a red notice recently, was seen at the namaz-e-janaza of a Jasas leader in England's Birmingham on Wednesday.

His public appearance has raised questions if he could be arrested and deported from the UK following the notice.

According to the UK government, a request from Bangladesh to extradite a person like Tarique, now in London, would need approval by both the UK secretary of state and court.

On Wednesday, the BNP leader was flanked by 10 to 15 bodyguards when he went to a mosque to attend the janaza of Angur Miah, who was the president of Birmingham unit of Jasas, BNP's cultural wing.

BNP sources said Tarique had also travelled to Belgium on April 14 to discuss party activities with party members in that country.

Home ministry officials in Dhaka said a request to find and arrest Tarique was made to Interpol General Secretariat about three months ago but the notice was issued recently.

The Interpol notice was served in connection with Tarique's alleged involvement in the August 21, 2004, grenade attack on an Awami League rally in Dhaka that left 24 people dead.

The Interpol website also shows Tarique's photo and his details in its "wanted persons" section.

The BNP leader came to the UK six years ago for treatment and now resides in this country with his family. However, his residency status is not clear.

Some sources said he had claimed to be a political asylum-seeker.

Tarique has created a lot of controversy with his views on Bangladesh's historical events expressed while addressing various BNP meeting in the UK.

# Muggers shoot

FROM PAGE 20

who works in a shop near Badal's and was passing by the spot when the incident took place.

Hearing the gunshot, local people came forward to help. The muggers then fired two more blank shots and exploded three crude bombs before fleeing the spot, he added.

Officer-in-Charge Abul Hossain of Kotwali Police Station said they were looking into the matter. No arrest was made as of 10:00 last night.

# Abbas goes

FROM PAGE 20

of causing a loss of around Tk 15.52 crore to the state by allocating land to journalists at a lower rate.

Abbas was not originally an accused in the case.

Abbas, who is a mayoral candidate in the Dhaka South City Corporation polls, has sought bail in the case as police had pressed charges against him along with other accused, apprehending that he might be arrested in this case.

On April 15, the bench of Justice Quamrul and Justice Gobinda passed split orders on two bail petitions filed by Abbas in connection with two vandalism and arson cases.

Additional Attorney General Moutaz Uddin Fakir yesterday told The Daily Star that the judges of the bench would now forward the bail petitions along with their dissenting orders to the chief justice.

After receiving the petitions and the split orders, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha would refer those to another HC bench for disposal, he added.

# Humans can

FROM PAGE 20

The scientists took sweat from the armpits of people who watch films designed to make them happy, afraid or in a neutral state. They were then given to other people to smell while their facial muscles were monitored by an electromyograph.

"Exposure to sweat from happy senders elicited a happier facial expression than did sweat from fearful or neutral senders," the team wrote in the journal Psychological Science.

"Our findings suggest that not only a negative state, but also a positive state (happiness) can be transferred by means of odours."

"Happiness benefits the individual on multiple levels, as it restores the damaging impact of negative emotions on the cardiovascular, neuroendocrine, and immune systems, and broadens attention to inspire creative ideas."

"Humans are a social species with the capacity to share these positive effects, using not only modalities such as vision, hearing, and touch, but also - as this exploratory study indicates - the sense of smell."

# New morning at Mujibnagar

FROM PAGE 20

government, to counter the Pakistan occupation forces.

"They argued that it was wartime and the leadership would emerge out of that. Participants in the meeting were mostly in favour of a revolutionary council," said barrister M Amir-Ul Islam yesterday on the eve of Mujibnagar Day.

Then a young lawyer and politician, Islam accompanied Awami League leader Tajuddin Ahmad to India immediately after the Pakistan army's crackdown on Dhaka and the arrest of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 25, 1971.

They moved to Delhi after holding meetings with Indian officials in West Bengal, he said in an interview with The Daily Star.

In a meeting with Indra Gandhi, the then Indian prime minister, Tajuddin sought Delhi's assistance in the campaign to liberate Bangladesh.

Amir-Ul Islam, a member of the country's constitution drafting committee, recalled that Tajuddin was embarrassed when most of the leaders at the April 8 meeting were insisting on forming a revolutionary council.

Islam told the meeting, "One should not forget that Bangladesh is a country of Baro Bhuiyan. Nobody knows whether or not forming one council would follow forming more."

Explaining the danger of a disorganised campaign for independence, Islam questioned how and to whom the armed forces, police, East Bengal Regiment, Ansar, government and semi-government officials would report if there was a revolutionary council.

"Who will represent Bangladesh while dealing with the Indian government, military and paramilitary officials?"

Without a government, Bangladesh's war of independence could be defined as a separatist movement as was the case of the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, mujahids in Kashmir and so on. And no other country would support the war.

"We said the Yahya government was illegal and unconstitutional but ours would be legal and constitutional."

The right to forming a government with the people's representatives was also recognised in the 1966 UN International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, he added.

The meeting decided to constitute the government. It would be made up

# Afroza Abbas

FROM PAGE 3

at Jatrabari yesterday, Khokon urged the people to vote for him because he said if Abbas was elected, BNP would perpetuate violence.

"BNP will again push the country into a dangerous situation like they did it in the last three months. Vote for me if you are to live in peace," he said. Khokon promised to the voters to end the nagging waterlogging in the area.

There are several problems in Dhaka city, and waterlogging is one of the major crises, he said. "My father [Mohammad Hanif] had almost ended the problem. He was with you all time. I promise I will be beside you like my father."

ANNISUL HUQ

AL-backed candidate in Dhaka north Annisul Huq yesterday criticised Bikalpadhara Bangladesh-backed candidate Mahi B Chowdhury for saying the former's manifesto lacks

of parliament members who had been elected through the 1970 general elections.

After the meeting, when everyone went to bed, Amir-Ul Islam drafted the Proclamation of Independence, incorporating the principles of "equality, human dignity and social justice".

Later, a secret parliamentary session was held in a jungle tent and the government formation and its activities were approved.

Initially, Chuadanga was selected for the oath taking ceremony.

But, due to air attacks by the Pakistani army, Amir-Ul Islam proposed the mango orchard at Baidyanathala in Meherpur as the venue, which was surrounded by Indian territories on three sides.

Amir-Ul Islam and Abdul Mannan - both elected whips of parliament - were given the responsibility of bringing in foreign journalists from Kolkata on April 17.

For the first time, two representatives of Bangladesh government met hundreds of journalists, including dozens from foreign media, when they went to Kolkata Press Club on April 16 and requested them to be present in Meherpur.

On April 17, leaders and journalists gathered in the mango orchard by 11:00am. Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam was accorded a guard of honour. Chief Whip Professor Yusuf Ali read out the Proclamation of Independence.

During the oath-taking ceremony, on the stage were acting president Syed Nazrul Islam, prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed, MAG Osmani, commander-in-chief of Mukti Bahini; Abdul Mannan, chief of the government's press department, and cabinet members.

Amir-Ul Islam was in charge of organising the historic event. The area was then part of greater Kushtia and he was president of Kushtia Zila Awami League apart from being a member of national assembly (MNA).

Tajuddin renamed the place as Mujibnagar.

The Mujibnagar government led the Liberation War and mobilised world support. The nation was freed on December 16, 1971.

Asked if Bangladesh has achieved equality, human dignity and social justice -- the three fundamentals of the Proclamation of Independence, Amir-Ul Islam said it has not.

But, he added, the country is bound to move towards this goal.

"substance".

He requested Mahi not to carry out propaganda, and instead work unitedly to build a green, beautiful Dhaka city.

He made the comments while talking to reporters at Mirpur.

He also expressed astonishment that just four days ago, Mahi appreciated him, but now was calling him a "bloodsucker".

ELECTORAL VIOLATIONS

Dhaka metropolitan executive magistrates yesterday issued show cause notices to two mayoral candidates and five more councillor aspirants of DSCC for the violation of electoral code of conduct.

The mayoral aspirants are Sayeed Khokon and JP-backed candidate Saifuddin Ahmed Milan.

Besides, the magistrates also fined four councillor aspirants Tk 7,000 for violations.

# Two killed on Hajee

FROM PAGE 20

They were stabbed during a clash that ensued after participants of a cultural programme marking Pahela Baishakh were attacked by a BCL faction around 8:00pm, witnesses said.

The faction is led by Iftekharul Islam Real and Arun Kanti Roy, president and general secretary of the campus BCL.

Students and guardians, among others, were present at the programme organised by veterinary department at the university auditorium.

Minutes before the attack, power connection to the auditorium was snapped from outside. Then several crude bombs were blasted in quick succession, which created panic, campus sources said.

On hearing the news, another faction led by Asaduzzaman and Nayan swooped on the rivals with sharp weapons, triggering a clash that

spread in other parts of the campus.

Apart from sharp weapons, both factions used wooden sticks in the attack.

On information, police rushed to the scene and fired 30 rubber bullets to disperse the clashing groups.

Another police team entered the campus around 10:30pm and recovered Zakaria's body from the roof of Nur Hossain Hall.

Milton, the other victim, died at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Proctor ATM Shafiqul Islam blamed Arun and his group for the attack. Arun's phone was found switched off.

Additional police were deployed in and around the campus as tension remained high.

Following the attack, the university authority sat in an emergency meeting to decide the next course of action. The meeting was on at 1:00am today when this report was filed.

# Pro-Russia journalist gunned down in Kiev

APR 16

Russia was a columnist and editor of the daily newspaper Kommunist, financed by the Russian government, who was shot and killed in Kiev on Tuesday.

The journalist also regularly appeared on Russian television commenting on the Ukraine crisis.

Some of his colleagues said he was shot in the street while walking to his car.

Some have called for a probe to establish the truth about the shooting.

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