

Cops yet to confirm nature of Gonojagoron Mancha activist's death in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to confirm whether the death of Sylhet Gonojagoron Mancha activist Shahriar Majumdar was a suicide or murder. Subel Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station, yesterday said as they have not yet received the autopsy report, they cannot say whether Shahriar committed suicide or was murdered.

He added that they would get the autopsy report soon. Shahriar, also a final year architecture student at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, was found hanging at a student mess on Thursday night.

An autopsy was conducted at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue on Friday night, according to police. Although an unnatural death case was recorded with Kotwali police, Shahriar's friends doubted the committed suicide.

"He was not frustrated," Shahriar's friend Jahangir Noman wrote on his Facebook post following Shahriar's death.

Moreover, Shahriar repeatedly received death threats over the years. Police recovered his body breaking into the room on the top floor of a three-storey building in Surma residential area, half-an-hour walk from his university. His roommates had called police as he was not responding to their repeated knocking.

Shahriar was also convener of SUST Sangskritik Jote and adviser of SUST Sahitya Sangsad and Cartoon Factory, according to his Facebook profile.

Sylhet district truck, covered van workers go on indefinite strike tomorrow

UNB, Sylhet

Truck and covered van workers will go on an indefinite transport strike in Sylhet district tomorrow demanding removal of the officers-in-charge of Goainghat and Osmaninagar police stations, citing "extortion". Sylhet Truck and Covered Van Workers' Union announced the strike yesterday.

The decision was taken after a views-exchange meeting among the leaders of different organisations, including Sylhet Truck Owners' Group.



The temporary bus terminal at Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area in Chittagong city is a nightmare for south bound passengers as it has no passenger shed and the area easily becomes waterlogged and muddy. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

PORT CITY TERMINAL FOR SOUTH BOUND BUSES

Temporary relocation becomes prolonged nightmare

Over 1 lakh suffer every day due to absence of necessary facilities

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

To the passengers bound for 19 routes of South Chittagong, including Bandarban and Cox's Bazar, the temporary bus terminal at Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area in the city remains a nightmare for having no necessary facilities for them.

The terminal was shifted from its permanent station in Bahaddarhat to this location in 2012 as the connecting road between Bahaddarhat Bus Terminal and Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway had become dilapidated due to the ongoing construction work of Bahaddarhat flyover.

Transport leaders said at that time without building proper infrastructure for a bus terminal, the authorities instructed them to shift their station to this place temporarily compelling passengers and transport workers to go through untold sufferings for over three years.

However, the terminal has not been relocated to its earlier station though Bahaddarhat Flyover opened on October 12, 2013 and over 1,000 buses, including some counter service buses, still have to use the terminal as their station.

According to Passengers' Welfare

Association and Transport associations, over one lakh passengers commute everyday through these routes.

Since there is no passenger shed, except a few small ticket counters, passengers need to remain standing for long for their bus to arrive.

Sometimes passengers are seen darting here and there to find their buses among parked vehicles haphazardly.

The situation worsens during rain as many of the passengers get drenched failing to find any shed and the place becomes difficult to walk on as it gets muddy and waterlogged.

Debdulal Chowdhury who went to the terminal to go to his village home in Patiya, got drenched as heavy shower started soon after he had reached there despite having an umbrella.

"I was desperately looking for a shed but could not find any," he told The Daily Star, annoyingly adding, the authorities could not make a waiting shed for passengers in these three years.

Children, elderly and disabled passengers are the worst sufferers here, he added.

Rehana Akter, an NGO official of Chandanaish upazila, said she had to face

a lot of trouble everyday as she had to hop on buses at this terminal to reach her workplace.

"Sometimes I have to stand for hours on the road under the scorching sun while waiting for a bus and sometimes I get drenched in sudden rainfall," she said.

"Most distressing matter is, there is no toilet here for passengers," she added.

Apart from that the place has become a constant source of traffic jam in the area since the local buses stay on the road for hours to board passengers, some locals alleged.

Traffic Inspector of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Selim-ur-Rahman admitted that it was not a proper place for bus terminal.

"They try heart and soul to keep the place free from traffic jam but most of the times we cannot do so for the buses", he added.

Abdus Sattar Rony, general secretary of South Chittagong Passengers' Welfare Association, said Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) was supposed to build a permanent bus terminal for South Chittagong routes which they

could not do in more than three years.

They demanded the authorities build a shed for waiting passengers several times but in vain, he added.

Demanding a permanent bus terminal, Abul Kalam Azad, secretary general of Chattagram Jela Sarak Paribahan Malik Group, said the temporary terminal is a source of misery not only for the passengers but also for the transport workers.

Traffic police often fine the drivers of the local buses as they cannot but wait on roads to board passengers which create traffic congestion, he added.

Contacted, Abdus Salam, CDA chairman, said since Bahaddarhat Bus Terminal was located in a vital area of the city, the terminal was not shifted again there to keep the city free from traffic jam.

They have a plan for building a permanent bus terminal for South Chittagong routes outside the city for which they submitted, he said.

Regarding the shed for waiting and other facilities, the CDA chairman said they told the transport leaders to build makeshift sheds for passengers.

Hatirjheel to offer more entertainment facilities

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken an initiative to introduce some new entertainment facilities to make Hatirjheel project more attractive for visitors.

The Hatirjheel Area Integrated Development Project authorities in its fourth revised version added some more facilities, including a theatre, laser show, waterbus and water-taxi service, fast food shop and restaurants so that the city dwellers can spend quality time there.

Since the partial launching of the project on January 2, 2013, the site has drawn huge visitors as the city dwellers have little scope to pass their leisure time in an open space.

The project, kicked off in July 2007, was first scheduled to be completed by December 2010. As per the fourth revised version approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Eneec) on August 25, 2015, the project will be completed with an estimated cost of Tk 2,236.02 crore by 2016.

Rajuk, assisted by the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED), Dhaka Wasa, and Special Work Organisation (16 Engineers Construction Battalion) of Bangladesh Army are implementing the project.

Project Manager Nazrul Islam said the theatre would have the capacity to accommodate 2,500 people and a car-parking area will also be built for 250 vehicles. The laser show will be arranged for the visitors through a ticketing system.

Waterbus and water-taxi service will be introduced so that visitors can roam around the project area as well as travel to Rampura Moghbazar-Karwanbazar area for daily purposes.

Restaurants will be built at 22 spots and will be leased out to intending people.

The project might exceed the expected completion year 2016 if the deputy commissioner of Dhaka delays to fix land for constructing a flyover on Hatirjheel-Rampura road, said Project Officer Maj Shakil.

About the security of the area, he said, "We have sent a proposal to the home ministry to establish a police station named 'Hatirjheel' to ensure fool-proof security in the area."

Attackers of religious minorities

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capital's Palashi intersection yesterday, marking Janmashtami, a religious festival marking the birth of Lord Krishna.

"Bangladesh is a country for all -- Muslims, Hindus, Christians and all other citizens. Our prime minister has specifically given us directives that those, who are involved in such activities, will not be spared," he added.

"The perpetrators, who attack religious minorities, are cowards... Sheikh Hasina's politics does not allow looting, grabbing of lands and properties dividing people on the basis of religion," said Ashraf.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon and over a dozen of Hindu community leaders spoke at the inaugural ceremony of Janmashtami procession that ended at Bahadur Shah Park near Sadarghat.

Addressing the event, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad General Secretary Rana Dasgupta urged the government to take necessary steps to establish a congenial atmosphere where people of all the communities can live with equal dignity and rights.

Lord Krishna, the incarnation of God, descended to this world some 5,500 years ago on the 8th lunar day of dark fortnight in the Bangla month of Bhadra to establish love, truth and justice, and to safeguard the good and pious people from

the hands of evils, according to the Hindu mythology.

Hindus observed the day fasting and thinking divine of God to purify their hearts.

Thousands of people, some dressed as Lord Krishna, Krishna's father Basudev, mother Deboki, brother Balam and maternal uncle Kongsha, on foot and on over 100 trucks joined the traditional procession.

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad and Dhaka Mahanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee jointly organised it.

The parishad's President Kajal Debnath said around 110 different social, cultural and religious organisations joined the procession.

Similar processions displaying the events of the life of Krishna were brought out in different other cities.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, a colourful procession was brought out from Andarkilla Intersection by Sree Sree Janmashtami Udjapan Parishad, Bangladesh, which marched different thoroughfares in the city.

Our Barisal correspondent adds, the Hindus with musical instruments, placards, banners, and festoons brought out similar procession in the city.

Rakhal Chandra Dey, president Dharma Rakkhini Sava, presided over the inaugural function of the festival on Line Road-Sadar Road crossing.

Police yet to make headway

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people. Every Thursday, a mahfil used to be held at the shrine where devotees donated money and the murders occurred on Friday which hints that money can be a possible motive behind the killings. Besides, motives

like dispute over the shrine land and anti-shrine sentiments are also being checked, he added.

Meanwhile, Bayezid police emphasised that a police camp should be set up in the hilly area of Bangla Bazar to prevent crimes.

Govt univ

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Equality should be brought between professors in selection grade and senior secretaries, and between professors and secretaries, they said, adding that the university teachers have to be included in the warrant of precedence.

Students

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equipped with modern teaching techniques to handle students of the digital era who are eager to learn more.

The chief guest, Matiul Islam Nowshad, chief corporate and people officer of Robi Axiata Ltd, said, interactive presentation methods can capture and hold students' attention throughout the class.

Shireen Hasan, founder executive director, X-cel, the Institute of Interactive Learning, with her team conducted the training.

Physically

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National Human Rights Commission, said it is the state's duty to ensure rights of people with disabilities.

Chaired by Prof Dr Shakhawat Ali Khan, the programme was addressed, among others, by Sightsavers Country Director Khondoker Ariful Islam and a number of journalists and representatives of different organisations promoting the cause of physically challenged people.



Prof M Omar Rahman, vice chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh addresses the orientation programme for the students admitted to the university in the autumn semester at its campus yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Over 400 spots to be fixed

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over the phone, "Based on a recommendation by the prime minister, this year for the first time we are asking people to sacrifice the animals in designated spots instead of anywhere they like."

He said out of the spots, 207 are in Dhaka north. Contacted, Mohammad Nurul Hossain Khan, assistant chief waste management officer of Dhaka South City Corporation, said each of the 56 wards will have four designated spots.

"Councillors of the wards are identifying the areas and it has not been finalised yet," he said.

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