

Arrestees

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gone by in their 10-day remand.
They could not even appoint lawyers to defend the two.
Like the last five days, police refused to talk to journalists yesterday.

Mamunur Rashid, a sub-inspector of Kaunia Police Station and also the investigation officer of the case, did not answer phone calls.

Meanwhile, Biplob's wife Shirin Akhter Diba yesterday held a press conference at her Guptapara house.
"I demand that the right of a general citizen to get legal aid be given. And, I should be allowed to appoint a lawyer for my husband," Diba told The Daily Star after the press conference.

She said she could not even get the case statement from Kaunia Police Station where the murder case was lodged.

"I request the prime minister to look into the matter, as my husband is undoubtedly innocent."

Diba had chosen lawyers Aftab Uddin and Abdul Kuayum Mondal to defend her husband in the court but could not get their appointments approved by Kaunia's Judicial Magistrate Court on Wednesday.

"Our petition was turned down as it did not have the signature of our client [Biplob]," said Kuayum.

Kuayum said they went to Kotwali Police Station to get Biplob's signature on Tuesday. "We were not allowed to meet him."

Aftab Uddin said, "... Police cannot keep someone in their custody for more than a day or take him on remand without giving him the chance of defence through a lawyer."

Public Prosecutor Abdul Malek, however, said it was not right that the suspects' families were not aware of the remand.

Hira's wife, Sultana Khatun, too could not appoint a lawyer for her husband.

"I am completely in the dark about the state of my husband," she said.

RELATIVES 'TARGETED'

Sultana alleged that police even picked up her younger brother's in-laws in Rajshahi on Thursday midnight and released them around 5:00pm.

"My husband has been framed, my father was detained, and now they [police] are going after my younger brother's in-laws," said Sultana.

Contacted, Abul Kalam Azad, additional superintendent of police in Rajshahi, and Tanvir Haider Chowdhury, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, said they were unaware of such detentions.

Tanvir Haider last night told The Daily Star that a police team from Rangpur was working in Rajshahi. He, however, said he had no idea on what the team was working on.

The reported harassment of Sultana's relatives came after the detention of her father Zafar Ali on Tuesday. Ali was released later that day.

"My brother has gone into hiding out of fear," said Sultana, adding, "They [police] have also ordered my father not to leave Rangpur under any circumstances."

KUNIO'S BURIAL

The Japanese embassy yesterday called Rangpur City Corporation Mayor Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu to know if Kunio could be buried in the city, said the mayor's personal secretary Ador Rahman.

Tajul Islam, muazzin of Munsipara Quaderia mosque in Rangpur, said he yesterday afternoon signed a statement brought to him by the mayor, which says Kunio had converted to Islam.

The mayor could not be reached for his comments.

Employer chops

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to get help from a Tamil Nadu native, she was locked up inside a room and was subjected to mental and physical torture ever since. Once when she received death threat from the women, she tried to escape through the window of her room.

However, when she got out, her hand was chopped off allegedly by her employer. According to reports, Kasturi was unable to recall the incident.

Currently, the Tamil Nadu wing of Indian Social Forum is taking care of the woman. The Indian embassy officials have met her and extended all support to her.

The investigation, which was carried out by Al-Sahafa police, has been handed over to Saudi Investigation Bureau, reports said.

Kasturi is the breadwinner of her family, which consists of her ailing husband, three daughters and one son.

Obama apologises

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Fact-Finding Commission has been in existence since 1991. It requires a request by one of the 76 nations that have signed on to it for it to begin its work. Its job is to investigate whether international humanitarian law has been violated.

"Governments up to now have been too polite or afraid to set a precedent," Dr Joanne Liu, president of Doctors Without Borders, said Wednesday. "The tool exists, and it is time it is activated."

On Wednesday morning, Obama called and apologised directly to Liu. In a White House statement on that conversation, he highlighted a US military investigation into the strike and pledged full support to a joint NATO and Afghan government probe.

But there was no mention of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission.

"President Obama expressed regret over the tragic incident and offered his thoughts and prayers on behalf of the American people to the victims, their families, and loved ones," the White House statement said.

"Acknowledging the great respect he has for the important and lifesaving work that MSF does for vulnerable communities in Afghanistan and around the world, the President assured Liu of his expectation that the Department of Defence investigation currently underway would provide a transparent, thorough and objective accounting of the facts and circumstances of the incident."

The Doctors Without Borders chief acknowledged Obama's apology, but doesn't want him to stop there. She pushed for the United States to allow an international investigation.

"We reiterate our [request] that the US government consent to an independent investigation led by the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission to establish what happened in Kunduz, how it happened, and why it happened," Liu said.

The attack in the embattled city Saturday killed 12 medical staff members and at least 10 patients, three of them children. It was "the biggest loss of life for our organisation in an airstrike," Liu said.

Pluto has blue

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Horizons principal investigator from Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), Boulder, Colorado, in a statement.

The blue in the picture allows scientists to judge how exactly it is made.

"That striking blue tint tells us about the size and composition of the haze particles," said science team researcher Carly Howett, also of SwRI. "A blue sky often results from scattering of sunlight by very small particles. On Earth, those particles are very tiny nitrogen molecules. On Pluto they appear to be larger -- but still relatively small -- soot-like particles we call tholins."

Nasa also said that it had found small, exposed regions of ice on the dwarf planet. Those bits of ice correlate with previously seen red patches on the surface -- and scientists aren't sure why.

"I'm surprised that this water ice is so red," says Silvia Protopapa, a science team member from the University of Maryland, College Park. "We don't yet understand the relationship between water ice and the reddish tholin colorants on Pluto's surface."

The water only appears in patches. Scientists are planning to explore why exactly those patches form, and why they appear where they do.

"Large expanses of Pluto don't show exposed water ice," said science team member Jason Cook, of SwRI, "because it's apparently masked by other, more volatile ices across most of the planet. Understanding why water appears exactly where it does, and not in other places, is a challenge that we

Another 37 people were wounded, according to the global charity group, which works in conflict zones to help victims of war and other tragedies, reports CNN.

Direct presidential apologies to victims of American actions abroad are rare, but not unheard-of. In 2012, Obama wrote a letter of apology to President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan after several copies of the Quran were burned by American military personnel, leading to violent protests across that country. In 2004, President George W Bush apologised for the treatment of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib military prison, telling world leaders that he was "sorry for the humiliation."

Whether to deliver an apology is a difficult and sensitive decision for any president, but particularly for this one. Obama has been pilloried since the beginning of his presidency by Republicans who accuse him of being a serial apologist for America.

Mitt Romney, the Republican candidate for president in 2012, wrote a book titled "No Apology," a not-so-subtle dig at Obama. And Dick Cheney, the former vice president, recently published a book renewing the apology criticism of the president.

In this case, Obama proceeded with caution. Two days after the bombing, he expressed his "deepest condolences" to families of the hospital victims, calling it a "tragic incident."

But he and other White House officials resisted further comment for several days, citing the need to let investigations continue, reports New York Times.

That changed on Wednesday after grim and detailed congressional testimony by Gen John F Campbell, the American commander in Afghanistan, who told lawmakers the attack was "a US decision made within the US chain of command."

Gen John Campbell, commander of US forces in Afghanistan, said the hospital was hit accidentally during an American airstrike. The Pentagon is carrying out an investigation, as are NATO and Afghanistan.

Bangladeshis' Probe finds

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934 injured in the stampede remain accurate, said Saudi officials, though an investigation is on to find out the reasons behind the stampede.

Two weeks before the Mina incident, 107 people died as a construction crane collapsed into the Grand Mosque in Makkah.

Many countries that sent pilgrims to this year's Hajj estimated the number of deaths in stampede alone at more than 1,000.

News agency Associated Press yesterday claimed that both the tragedies during the annual hajj pilgrimage to the kingdom killed at least 1,264 people.

The number is based on the tolls offered by 17 countries through their officials or state media broadcasts.

Health authorities in the kingdom had said civil defence officials would be offering any new casualty figure but no new toll has been released since September 26.

The disaster in Mina happened as two waves of pilgrims converged on a narrow road, causing hundreds of people to be suffocated or trampled to death, said the Saudi authorities.

But Iran has blamed it on the kingdom's "mismanagement." It also accused Riyadh of a cover-up, saying the real death toll exceeds 4,700, without providing evidence to support its claim, according to an AP report.

Diplomats in Indonesia, Pakistan and India have said Saudi officials gave them some 1,100 photographs of dead victims of the Mina disaster. Saudi officials, however, say the photographs include pilgrims who died of natural causes during Hajj.

A paradise for birds

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Expressing their resolve to protect the birds, they say they alert newcomers and visitors and prohibit them from hunting.

Shamuk-khol is an Asian openbill or Asian openbill stork. It is a large wading bird in the stork family Ciconiidae. This distinctive stork is found mainly in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. It is greyish white with glossy black wings and tail and the adults have a gap between the arched upper mandible and recurved lower mandible.

During a visit to the spot on Tuesday, 15km off the district headquarters, this correspondent saw over one thousand birds on the trees, while a few of them were flying in and out.

Several visitors were also seen there. Some of them were taking snaps.

The chirping of the birds in the evening makes the surrounding fascinating. During daytime, they leave the tree in groups and come back again gradually.

trees.
"The chirping of these birds soothes the mind, and the way they fly overhead adds some adventure to our rural life," he said.

Mollan village's resident Wahedul Islam and his four brothers started conserving the huge Shamuk-khol birds eight years ago as the birds lived near their houses.

"It's a matter of pride for us that people from far-flung areas come here to see the birds," he said.

Villagers said BGB men from Bakher Ali Border Observation Post (BOP) under BGB 9 Battalion in Chapainawabganj keep regular vigil.

The trust and bonding that these birds and villagers have developed is worth admiring.
Sundarpur Union Parishad Chairman Matiur Rahman, who pays regular visit to the area, urged the authorities concerned to declare the village a bird sanctuary.

ASG Mostofa, forest ranger of Chapainawabganj, said the department is keeping a watch on the birds and trying to conserve them.

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi on Fatehpur border in the district's Shibganj upazila on Wednesday night.

The dead, Anwar Hossain, 25, is the son of Sentu Mia of the upazila's Gaipara village.

The BSF members of Thakurbari camp of Malda in West Bengal opened fire on Anwar around 10:00pm, killing him on the spot, said Maj Nazmul Alam, acting commanding officer of 9 BGB Battalion in Chapainawabganj.

In a company commander-level flag meeting yesterday, he said the BSF claimed Anwar entered Indian territory to smuggle goods from there. When the BSF men chased him, Anwar attacked them and the BSF troopers fired at him.

Indian police recovered the body. The BSF agreed to send back the body of Anwar to Bangladesh, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) official added.

Canadian

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updated its travel advisory for its citizens and also asked them not to hand their passports over to any unknown person.

In a Facebook post, it also mentioned that the government enhanced security measures for foreign nationals.

The embassy wrote in details in Japanese language as to what steps its nationals should take and how support from nearby police stations can be sought.

In another development, 36 foreigners who had been working at the under construction Siddhirganj Power Plant in Narayanganj came to Dhaka on October 6 for safety reasons, police there said.

Probe finds

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He said a Peace Committee was formed on April 30, 1971 in the island thana where Pakistan army and their local collaborators, the accused, committed atrocities mainly between May 1 and 6. "Such a huge scale of atrocities committed within five or six days is very rare."

Eighteen of the accused are Salamat Ullah Khan, 77, Moulavi Zakaria Sikdar, 78, Md Rashid Miah, 83, Oli Ahmad, 58, Jalal Uddin alias Jalal Ahmed, 63, Moulavi Nurul Islam, 61, Md Saiful alias Sabul, 53, Momtaz Ahmed, 60, Habibur Rahman alias Habib Munshi, 70, Moulavi Amjad Ali, 70, Abdul Majid, 85, Badsha Mia, 73, Osman Gani, 61, Abdus Shukur, 65, Md Zakaria, 58, Md Jinnah alias Jinnat Ali, 58, Moulavi Jalal, 75, and Abdul Aziz, 68.

Investigators didn't disclose the name of the other accused.

Of the accused, Salamat, Nurul Islam, Badsha, Osman Gani and Jinnat Ali are behind bars while Rashid Miah is on bail for ill health. The rest are on the run.
IDENTITIES OF ACCUSED
According to the agency, Salamat Ullah was a former vice president of Maheshkhali Convention Muslim League and convener of Maheshkhali Peace Committee in 1971. In 1978, he became the founding president of Cox's Bazar district BNP. He is still involved with BNP as a member.

Moulavi Zakaria was a former president of Maheshkhali unit Nezam-e-Islami and a vice-chairman of the thana Peace Committee in 1971. He contested the Provincial Assembly election in 1970 in the then East Pakistan from Cox's Bazar on Nezam-e-Islami's ticket.

He is now involved with Hefajat-e-Islam, a Qawmi madrasa-based Islamist organisation. The accused went into hiding after the International Crimes Tribunal-2, now inoperative, issued arrest warrants for him and two others in March this year, said the investigation agency.

Rashid Miah was a former president of Maheshkhali Convention Muslim League and another vice-chairman of the upazila Peace Committee in 1971. In 1978, he became vice-president of Cox's Bazar district BNP and was elected as a lawmaker in 1979.

The other accused were also involved either with the Peace Committee or Razakar or Al-Badr in 1971. Most of them are now involved in politics of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, found the agency.

The probe in the case opened on May 12 and completed yesterday. Investigation Officer Nurul Islam recorded statements of 126 people, the agency said.

Islam said they handed over the probe report and other documents to the Chief Prosecution Office around 3:00pm yesterday. Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta confirmed receiving the documents.

Tk 676cr legalised

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As per the law, an individual taxpayer has to pay between 10 and 30 percent tax depending on the amount of the income unless it is tax-free. In the current fiscal year, the tax-free threshold is Tk 250,000, which was Tk 220,000 in fiscal 2014-2015.

The NBR official said since the tax rate for some sectors, including fish farming, was as low as 3 percent in the last fiscal year, some people showed their previously earned money as income from fish farming, and paid a 10 percent penalty on top of 3 percent tax.

"That is why the amount of tax money didn't increase in proportion to the undisclosed money legalised in the last fiscal year. We are looking into the matter. We will take steps if we find that anyone took advantage of the facility, violating the law."

NBR officials said the government brought changes to the income tax law in the current fiscal year to check the illegal practice.

Now, a taxpayer, while submitting tax returns, cannot show his previously earned money in sectors with reduced tax rates that were applicable in that particular year, they said.

NBR data shows that 157 people whitened their undisclosed money in fiscal 2013-14. Almost half of them were from the tax zone in Comilla,

four tax zones in Chittagong, Tax Zone-2 in Dhaka and the tax zone in Sylhet.

In fiscal 2014-15, there was a rise in the number of taxpayers from Chittagong and Sylhet.

In the port city, 38 taxpayers declared their previously earned income in fiscal 2013-14. The number rose to 115 in fiscal 2014-15.

In Dhaka, 11 taxpayers under Large Taxpayer Unit whitened their undeclared income of Tk 306 crore in the last fiscal year, according to the NBR.

In July 2013, the government offered tax concessions for fish farming for two years to encourage diversification and boost fish production.

Sources said some businessmen politicians and even government officials abused the privilege. It was easy for them to claim any amount of income from fish farming, as it's tricky to assess fish stocks in ponds.

The government has retained the facility of reduced tax rate for fish farming in the current fiscal year as well.

Under the privilege, first Tk 10-lakh income from fish farming will be tax-free. Five percent tax is applicable on income between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 20 lakh, and 10 percent for any amount above Tk 20 lakh.

The facility also applies to poultry farming and shrimp hatcheries.

PM orders timely

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Sheikh Hasina Hall and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall at Chittagong University, Kazir Bazar Bridge over the Surma in Sylhet, Nayakandi Bridge, Kitingchar and Satoria bridges on Hemayetpur-Singair-Manikganj regional highway under Manikganj district, Ballbhadra Bridge on Sarail-Lakhai regional highway, Postagola Govt Modern Flour Mill and the activities of Bangladesh Nirapad Food Authority.

Besides, she laid the foundation stones of a railway overpass at Morail level crossing in Brahmanbaria, upgradation of Airport Bypass intersection-Lalbagh-Salutikor-Companiganj-Bholaganj road to National Highway and upgradation of Hemayetpur-Singair-Manikganj regional highway (Manikganj Bus Stand-DC Residence road part) to four-lane one.

The premier said there was a severe crisis of electricity when her previous government took office in 2009. "At that time, we took some steps, including short- and mid-term ones to address the power crisis. We're delighted now that Bangladesh hit a century, like in cricket, in establishing power plants during the tenure of my government...it's a huge achievement," she added.

Hasina expressed her firm resolve to surpass the power generation capacity of 20,000 MW by 2021.

She said her government initially took steps for setting up small power plants, but later took up some mega projects. "Our government has been working tirelessly so that the country never witnesses power shortage."

Other than the power sector, the country witnessed massive development in agriculture, infrastructure, health, food security and environment sectors, she noted.

She urged all to plant trees massively to protect the environment. She also requested the authorities concerned to keep a provision of a water reservoir in all new projects.

The PM said Bangabandhu liberated the country with a dream of establishing a prosperous and developed country free from hunger and poverty. "We've been working to materialise that dream. We want to

accelerate the pace of development by using technology."

During the programme, the PM talked to ministers, lawmakers, political leaders and government officials at DC offices in Sylhet, Chittagong, Habiganj, Manikganj and Brahmanbaria and at the Department of Food in Dhaka.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Railways Minister Mujibul Haque, PM's advisers HT Imam, Mashur Rahman and Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury, State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid Bipu, PM's Principal Secretary Md Abul Kalam Azad and secretaries concerned were present.

DHK-CTG EXPRESSWAY

The PM yesterday asked the authorities concerned to make sure that the proposed Dhaka-Chittagong Expressway and Dhaka-Chittagong Express Railway projects could ensure long-term benefits for the country's people.

She was addressing the top officials of the road transport and bridges and railways ministries at the Gono Bhaban.

The PM said people's income is increasing, so as the price of commodities. "We'll have to keep in mind the changing context of the next 20 to 25 years."

Highlighting the importance of the BCIM Economic Corridor alongside the BBIN regional connectivity initiative, Hasina said Chittagong is an important place for materialising the BCIM initiative for which the project would be helpful.

"The communication network is expanding so as the businesses. If there's no strong regional connectivity, the country's economy won't get dynamism and we should keep it in our mind," she added.

Road Transport and Highways Secretary MAN Siddique made power-point presentation on the proposed Dhaka-Chittagong Expressway PPP project while Railways Secretary Md Feroz Salah Uddin on the Dhaka-Chittagong Express Railway scheme.

After the implementation of the Dhaka-Chittagong Expressway project, it will take passengers only two hours to travel from Dhaka to Chittagong.

Nadiya wins

FROM PAGE 20
see a victory for Nadiya, who was born to Bangladeshi parents in Luton.

She beat Ian Cumming, who faltered when he forgot to add sugar to the dough of his spiced buns for the signature bake.

And Tamal Ray struggled when the creme patissiere for his toffee and marmalade iced buns failed to set in time.

Nadiya is the sixth winner in the show's history.

She said: "Bizarrely, I found the final was one of the least scariest [rounds] and I really enjoyed the experience the most out of all the filming days."

"I felt at that stage that I could do really well or really badly, I had nothing to lose, so I went into the tent and gave it everything I could."

The showstopper was a celebration cake, and as I never had my own wedding cake, I wanted a proper iced wedding cake."

For the showstopper, the bakers were asked to create a classic British cake with at least three tiers.

Nadiya, who did not have a wedding

cake because she got married in Bangladesh, chose to bake her husband's favourite -- lemon drizzle. Its stand was decorated in red, white and blue sari material.

She said: "At the very end of the filming I took the cake out to my family's table and we all had a slice. So my husband and I did get our wedding cake after all."

Nadiya emerged as the winner despite coming last in the technical challenge in the very first episode.

She said her family life would now "carry on as normal".

"Being a mum to three small children under 10 is pretty time consuming, but I wanted to have my own adventure, which with a very supportive husband and a belief in my own ability, I can now carry on having my adventure," she said.

"I am really looking forward to see what will happen."

The three finalists were asked to make iced buns for the signature bake and raspberry millefeuille for the technical challenge.

Ten million people tuned in to last week's semi-final -- the biggest audience