

# Lalbagh man 'missing' for ten days

His manager tells press conference, says people claiming to be lawmen abducted him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The manager of a business firm in the capital's Lalbagh yesterday alleged that his employer had remained missing after people claiming to be law enforcers abducted him 10 days ago.

The owner of Bismillah Metal Industries, Md Saifuddin, 38, was forcibly taken from home on the morning of October 28 by around five plainclothes men who said they were from Lalbagh Police Station, Manager Badsha Miah told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Quoting witnesses, Badsha said some of the men claimed they were officials of the Rapid

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R Basil, chief executive officer of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, centre left, and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, hold documents after signing an agreement at the newspaper's office yesterday, to launch a campaign, "Healthy Living", on World Diabetes Day.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star and Apollo Hospitals yesterday signed an agreement for a campaign styled "Healthy Living" meant to create health awareness among the public.

R Basil, chief executive officer of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, and Mahfuz Anam editor and publisher of The Daily Star, signed the deal at the newspaper's office.

Under the initiative, the English newspaper will launch the campaign on November 14, World Diabetes Day, through its online platform.

The readers can make queries on health issues, and receive advices from specialist doctors from Apollo Hospitals Dhaka.

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# Give legality to land ownership claims of ex-enclave dwellers

ALRD, ASK, TIB urge govt after identifying problems arising from lack of records

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special legal framework should be put in place by the government to protect land rights of the former enclave dwellers, who do not have any proper record of land ownership but have been living on that land for years, three rights organisations recommended yesterday.

They noted that many of the land records lay with the Indian authority across the border, and the new Bangladeshi citizens of the former Indian enclaves could not collect those documents.

The concern about the land rights of former enclave dwellers was expressed by the Association for Land Reforms and Development (ALRD), Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), and

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at a joint news conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Bangladesh received 111 enclaves of 17,160.63 acre land with 44,500 people in a historic deal with India, through which the countries exchanged 165 enclaves on August 1 after 68 years, giving more than 60,000 residents of those areas citizenship rights.

To create land records of the new Bangladeshi territories, the land and agricultural ministries and upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) jointly started a land survey on October 16, which will continue till November 15.

Against the backdrop, representatives from ALRD, ASK, and TIB visited three enclaves -- Dasiarchhara,

Banshkata and Balapara Khagrabari in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Panchagarh between August 29 and September 1 and talked to locals to understand the problems they were facing regarding land ownership.

They also collected information from two other enclaves in Panchagarh -- Dohola Khagrabari and Kotbhajni, said ABM Shamsul Huda, executive director of ALRD, while presenting their statement.

During the visit, they found that because of the difficulty in visiting India to obtain land documents, many of the land transfers were done using stamps of India and sometimes those of Bangladesh. Transfers were also made on white papers or even orally.

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# Politically blessed grabbed legal hawkers' markets

Alleges Mosharraf Hossain at Buet dialogue saying footpaths must be cleared for public mobility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must free of illegal occupation pedestrian passages, particularly those in the capital, to help public mobility, said Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

"I will still demand this even if the prime minister is offended," he told the closing of a three-day dialogue on formulating an urbanisation agenda, "Megacities: Bridging Reality and Aspiration", in the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Many hawkers' markets have been built to rehabilitate street vendors and free roads and footpaths but politically-backed and powerful people have grabbed the markets' shops, in some cases each occupying a dozen, he said.

As per Dhaka's city corporations, there are nearly 400 kilometres of footpaths and sidewalks meant for pedestrian movement but most have been occupied for decades

with shops, hawkers, illegal car parking, construction materials and garbage piles. City corporation authorities and police are responsible for freeing footpaths.

One of the foremost reasons for Dhaka's distressing traffic congestion is an unrestricted number of vehicles and wealthy powerful people's defiance to traffic law, said Mosharraf.

"We hardly can remove illegally-built structures because of courts' stay orders," he said, adding that the Buriganga, Balu, Shitalakhya and Turag rivers around the capital have been turned into mindless dumping grounds for sewage and effluent.

Buet's architecture and urban and regional planning departments organised the discussion on the campus in the capital on urbanisation, drawing in 134 relevant practitioners and professionals under a UN-Habitat initiative, Urban Thinkers Campus,

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# Clear Tejgaon terminal by Nov 27

Mayor Anisul Huq orders truck owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Anisul Huq issued a November 27 ultimatum to the truck owners to clear the illegal infrastructures from Tejgaon terminal to increase parking space to reduce traffic congestion in the area.

The ultimatum was given after a meeting with the owners and leaders at the terminal yesterday.

Anisul said the railway did not give any allotment to anybody; those structures at the truck stand are illegal.

Rustam Ali Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Truck Covered-Van Owners Association, told The Daily Star that most of the places are occupied with shops

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# BNP's Aman finally freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained BNP leader Amanullah Aman finally got freed after being released from Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

"Aman who was under treatment in the hospital was released around 5:30pm as he was granted bail," said in-charge of the DMCH Police Camp Inspector Mozzamel Haque.

Sagir Hossain Leon, lawyer of Amanullah Aman who is an accused in total 69 cases, said the BNP leader was granted bail by the lower courts and the High Court in all the cases in different phases in last two months and finally got the release order from the High Court on November 5.

On August 2, a Dhaka court sent Aman, also joint secretary general of the party, to jail as his bail petitions in 47 arson cases were rejected.

Later, the Dhaka Central Jail authorities sent him to DMCH when he felt sick.

# Textile engineers demand arrest of two Noman Group officials

Threaten to go on daylong strike otherwise on Sunday over alleged beating of a peer working for the company

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Textile engineers will observe a daylong work stoppage at all garment factories on Sunday if the managing director and the director of Noman Group, who allegedly beat up their fellow engineer, are not arrested by Thursday.

The announcement came from a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, organised by the Institute of Textile Engineers and Technologists, and Engineers Institute of Bangladesh.

Around two hundred engineers joined the event, eventually turning it into a demonstration against the alleged torture of their fellow engineer Masum Azad, a senior general manger (GM) of Noman Composite Textile Ltd at Bhaluka in Mymensingh.

According to a case, Managing Director ASM Rafiqul Islam and his sister Noor-e-Yesmin Fatima, a director, beat Azad up for "stealing" the company's money.

A recent Facebook post accompanied by three pictures showing injuries on Azad's back and his plastered right hand has sparked the protest.

At the press conference, Azad said that on the allegation of embezzling money, he was brought to the head office of Noman Group in the capital's Motijheel on Tuesday.

The MD, Rafiqul, beat him up with an iron rod and Director Yesmin pointed a pistol at his head and threatened that he would face dire consequence if he spoke out in this regard, he said. The owners of the group also took his

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# Nation worried due to PM's comment about IS, int'l pressure

Claims BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday said the nation was worried over Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks that there was tremendous international pressure on her administration to admit the presence of Islamic State in Bangladesh.

Addressing a press conference at its Naya Paltan headquarters in the capital hours after Hasina's one at her Gono Bhaban residence, BNP's spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon urged the government to immediately build national unity to resist militancy.

Criticising Hasina for rejecting BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's offer for national dialogue, he said, "The offer is not a weakness of BNP. The government was in luck to have got the BNP offer...even after conducting immense oppression upon the party men."

On BNP's stance on the war crimes trials, he said it was clear. BNP wants a transparent trial of international standard over crimes against humanity. But it does not support any trial fulfilling political desires, said Ripon.

"There are several observations of the international community. It is the government's duty to meet the observations," he said.

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