



The torn and twisted corrugated iron sheets and bamboo from makeshift stalls on the Patenga Beach in Chittagong after Cyclone Roanu devastated the tourist spot yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

MH17 victim families sue Putin, Russia

AFP, Sydney

Families of victims of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, which was shot down over Ukraine in 2014, are suing President Vladimir Putin and Russia for Aus\$10 million each in the European Court of Human Rights, The Sydney Morning Herald reported Saturday.

The compensation claim was filed with the Strasbourg-based court by Sydney legal firm LHD Lawyers on May 9 on behalf of 33 next of kin from Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia, the Herald said.

All 298 passengers and crew -- the majority of them Dutch -- died when the Boeing 777 was hit by a Russian-made BUK anti-aircraft missile over war-torn eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014.

The documents filed by LHD Lawyers allege that the Russian Federation has worked to keep its involvement in the plane disaster hidden.

Jerry Skinner, a co-associate of LHD whose signature is on the claim, told the Herald that his clients wanted accountability.

"They want enough money to reflect that the Russians take this seriously," the paper quoted Skinner as saying.

3 killed

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The fire broke out around 5:45am and spread in the warehouse quickly.

Being informed, 11 fire engines from Narsingdi and Dhaka rushed to the site and brought the flames under control after around three hours of hectic effort.

A fireman named Mazharul Islam was injured.

The extent of loss could not be known immediately.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Dhaka range) Mahfuzul Haque Nuruzzaman and Narsingdi Superintendent of Police Amena Begum visited the spot.

The DIG directed the Narsingdi SP to take necessary actions after proper investigation into the incident.

App to give

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to such death traps, the organisers said.

Initially, the app identifies around 20 spots in the capital where such uncovered manholes and unmarked speed bumps exist.

Addressing the launching ceremony at the Brac Centre Inn, the organisers called upon all to use the app and report manholes without lids and unmarked sleeping policemen to enrich the service. They declared rewards for the best performing user.

They urged the authorities concerned to address the problems.

City life

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Ilias Hossain, who manages a meagre livelihood being a porter at Karwan Bazar, said there was hardly any customer until noon due to the rain. He said he could earn only Tk 10 until noon.

Many city roads wore a deserted look and those in Shanti Nagar, Rajarbagh, Mouchak, Malibagh, Mirpur, Sheorapara, Arambagh and Badda were submerged in the rainwater as the city's clogged storm water system failed to drain the water.

Most of the low-lying areas in the city also went under rainwater.

Roanu takes 23 lives

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Bhola, and one each in Patuakhali, Laxmipur, and Feni.

In Feni, four people were reported missing. In Bhola, a cargo vessel with four crew members went missing in the Meghna.

The storm also left hundreds of people injured. At least 20 people were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital alone.

The number of injured was increasing with time in Tajumuddin upazila of Bhola, said Tajumuddin Police Station officer-in-charge, who himself got injured during rescue operations.

At least 41 people were injured as Roanu uprooted trees and flattened homes in Cox's Bazar's Moheshkhali, Kutubdia and Ramu upazilas.

Damage to properties was extensive. Several hundred shops of Jhinuk Market in Patenga of Chittagong were swept away, said witnesses.

Around 500 shacks were damaged in Banskhali.

Sea water entered the shops and warehouses in Khatungaj, Chaktai, Asadganj and Korbaniganj areas in Chittagong city during the storm.

In Tajumuddin of Bhola, around 1,200 homes were damaged.

Roanu forced tens of thousands of people to leave their homes.

Over 80 villages in Patuakhali and Barguna were flooded as a dam broke forcing people to move out.

Fish worth several lakh taka were washed away there.

Patuakhali Met office recorded a total 214.5mm rainfall between Friday and yesterday noon.

Power supply was cut in all seven upazilas of Patuakhali since Friday evening, said sources in Patuakhali Polli Biduyt Samity. There were power cuts in Barisal and in Pirojpur and even in Chittagong city.

IS 'claims'

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talking about Christianity. Sanaur's brother-in-law Obaidur said he never propagated any anti-religious views.

Machete-wielding assailants killed Sanaur and injured his friend Saifuzzaman, assistant professor at Islamic University in Kushtia, at Botoili near Sadar upazila on Friday, barely a week after an elderly Buddhist monk was hacked to death inside a temple in Bandarban.

The IS and al-Qaeda in the Indian Sub-continent (AQIS) have been claiming responsibility for the recent attacks on bloggers, publishers, free-thinkers, academics and people of different ideologies in the country.

Denying the claims repeatedly, the government insisted that the attacks were carried out by home-grown militant outfits like Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Ansarullah Bangla Team.

Meanwhile, doctors at Apollo Hospitals in the capital kept Saifuzzaman, 42, under observation. His wife Sonia Sultana said doctors operated on her husband yesterday. With injuries in his shoulder, neck, chest and hands, he was flown to Dhaka by an air ambulance soon after the attack.

Police and locals said Sanaur and Saifuzzaman were on a bike on way to the homeopath's home at Shishirmath village around 10:45am when three youths aged between 25 and 30 intercepted them at Botoli.

The assailants forced the two to get down from the vehicle, hacked them repeatedly and left the scene within less than a minute.

The victims are known to be ardent lovers of Baul philosophy. Sanaur used to arrange Baul programmes at his village home, around six kilometres away from Kushtia town. He would

"At least 5.38 lakh people took refuge in 3,554 storm shelters in different coastal districts of the country," said Shah Kamal, secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

"We have arranged power supply, sanitation, medical assistance and enough dry food at the shelters," he told the media.

Almost all places of the country witnessed rain and thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty winds since early morning.

Operations of all sorts of river transport had remained suspended during the storm but three vessels at Chittagong port ran aground.

Flight operations from Chittagong airport remained suspended.

The Met office had issued cautionary signal-7 for Chittagong, Mongla and Payra ports, while maritime port at Cox's Bazar was asked to hoist cautionary signal-6.

After around a 24-hour halt, launch and ferry services resumed across the country yesterday evening, said authorities concerned.

Ferry and launch services were suspended Friday evening due to the rough weather.

Restriction on the movement of small launches, with lengths below 65 feet, remains in the coastal districts.

Holidays of all civil servants in the coastal districts had been cancelled. Officials of Roads and Highways Department in the coastal districts had been asked to stay put and be ready to clear the roads once the storm passed.

The name of the cyclone came from the Maldives and it means "rope made by coil".

Our correspondents in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Barisal, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Noakhali contributed to this report.

strongly oppose use of amulet to ward off diseases, according to locals.

Some Bauls said Sanaur was a good man and they received treatment from him for free. "I went to Sanaur's village several times to sing. I never had any problems," said one of them.

There has been a sense of insecurity among the followers of Baul philosophy in Kushtia following the attack, said a Baul singer, who wished not to be named fearing attacks on him.

Including Sanaur, at least 12 people have been hacked to death in similar fashion so far this year.

Earlier, the IS had claimed responsibility for the killings of Jhenidah homeopaths Jamiruddin Khaza and Abdur Razzak, Panchagarh Hindu priest Jogeswar Dasadhikari, Kurigram Christian convert Hossain Ali, Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee of Rajshahi University and Tangail Hindu tailor Nikhil Joardar.

CASE FILED
Sanaur's elder brother Anisur Rahman yesterday filed a case with Kushtia Police Station, accusing four unnamed people.

Anisur said his brother had no enmity with anyone. As a homeopath, he had been treating poor people for the last 25 years for free.

Saifuzzaman's wife Sonia said they would file a case for the attack on her husband.

However, police were yet to find a clue to the attack. Proloy Chisim, superintendent of Kushtia police, said they were probing the incident keeping in mind all probable motives.

About the IS's claim, the SP said they will investigate it.

Sanaur was buried in Kushtia Paura Graveyard around noon yesterday after an autopsy at Kushtia General Hospital in the morning.

Our Kushtia correspondent contributed to this report.

INDIA GOES TOUGH

People attending child marriages can be jailed

TNN, Mysuru

The women and child development department (WCD) in India is going all out to stop child marriages in the district. Besides the bride and bride groom's families, even those attending such marriage and facilitating it by letting out choultry will be booked under the Child Marriage Prohibition Act. The attendees will face Rs 1 lakh fine and two years jail.

And there's also the possibility being booked under Pcoso Act and facing minimum of seven years of imprisonment. K Radha, deputy director, WCD department, Mysuru district, said, "If it's found that the minor was pushed to have sex or if she becomes pregnant, those who attended and facilitated the marriage will be booked under the Pcoso Act."

In the past two years, the department stopped 216 child marriages in the district. However, no stringent action was taken against the violators. Now, the department will be going tough against such violators.

Child marriages are common in poor and rural communities. They only perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

More often than not, child brides are pulled out of school, depriving them of education and meaningful work. They suffer health risks associated with early sexual activity and child-bearing, leading to high rates of maternal and child mortality.

"With the help of voluntary organizations we will try to create more awareness including by visiting schools and villages about the consequences of child marriage. In days to come, the punishment will be stringent and no one can escape from law," Radha told TOI.

Dr Radhamani, superintendent, Cheluvamba Hospital, said: "Every month, around 1,200 deliveries happen in the hospital. About 5% are related to teenage pregnancy that is below 18 years of age."

Abortion chances are high among teenage pregnancy. Besides, there are chances of preterm delivery, high BP and sugar and anaemia. Also there are chances of more health complication during delivery."

A deadly affair

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While it may seem like a show of affection, this offering lowers the chances of the male spider ending up as the female's dinner, the study says.

And it can't be just any teeny weeny gift.

In some cases, the bigger the gift, the longer the spiders' mating time, the study shows.

In a study of more than 280 spider pairs, researchers discovered that females that ended up with stingy, no-gift males were six times more cannibalistic than females staged with generous, gift-carrying males.

"The presence or absence of a gift was the most important factor in determining whether females cannibalized the males," the study says.

Fifteen male spiders that tried to court without gifts were eaten even before they could mate, according to the study.

"The results showed that pre-copulatory sexual cannibalism was enhanced when males courted without a gift," the journal Biology Letters said.

The risk of sexual cannibalism for the nursery web spiders that didn't give gifts declined when mating occurred while the female was feeding, according to the study.

Giving the female food doesn't eliminate all risks of getting eaten.

In the study, one male spider that came bearing gifts was eaten after mating.

Hate campaign

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on Islam," Kasimi, nayeb-e-ameer of Hefajat, told The Daily Star.

"That's why the Hefajat leadership didn't instruct its leaders to stage protests against the teacher."

He added, "I don't know on whose instruction Hefajat's Narayanganj unit had arranged Friday's meeting. We are looking into the matter."

From Friday's rally, the Islamist groups threatened to paralyse Narayanganj as well as the country with hartal and blockade on Dhaka-Chittagong highway if the demand was not met.

Rifat Hossain, a class-X student of Shyamal's school, was also brought to the rally. Addressing the gathering, he said the headmaster made anti-Islam comments while beating him up in class.

But earlier, talking to different media outlets, Rifat categorically said the teacher beat him up but didn't say anything against religion.

Sources said the schoolboy was taken to a mosque before the rally and tutored to speak against the teacher.

The Daily Star could not contact Rifat to get his version in this regard.

On May 13, Shyamal, headmaster of Piyar Sattar Latif High School in Bandar area of Narayanganj, was physically assaulted by a mob over the allegation that he made derogatory comments about religion while beating up a student in class.

Salim Osman then made Shyamal do squats holding ears in public, sparking outrage across the country.

After several attempts to label Shyamal as an anti-Islam element failed, Salim Osman has engaged Hefajat and Tehrik-e-Khatme Nabuwat to spread negative propaganda against the Hindu teacher, according to well-informed sources, local journalists and politicians.

Contacted, the lawmaker refused to reply to any question.

At a press conference on Thursday, he said the teacher admitted demeaning Islam and later did squats willingly. But Shyamal said that's a blatant lie.

Now under treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the teacher yesterday told this newspaper that some vested quarters are misguiding schoolboy Rifat.

He regretted that his student is being used to counter the countrywide protest against his humiliation.

The education ministry probe report mentioned that the headmaster physically punished a student in class on May 8. He later apologised to the student's family.

The family next day lodged a written complaint with the school managing

committee against the teacher. The complaint did not mention anything about hurting anyone's religious sentiment, said a top official of the education ministry, citing the probe report.

The ministry reinstated him following the probe body recommendation.

Shyamal's wife Sabita Halder said they are seriously concerned about their security after Friday's rally.

Asked about the threat posted on Facebook, Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh Police Station Abu Bakar Siddique said they are aware of this and they have taken adequate security measures in this regard.

LOCAL AL MEN BACK SALIM

While ministers and central Awami League leaders are castigating Salim Osman for humiliating the teacher several local leaders of the party and its front organisations are speaking in favour of the Jatiya Party lawmaker.

Those local leaders are also against the government decision to reinstate Shyamal and dissolve the school managing committee, reliable sources said.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader on Friday said the decision to reinstate Shyamal as headmaster was made as per the prime minister's directives. He also said all the ministers support the education ministry's action to this end.

Besides, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim, Law Minister Anisul Huq and Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid condemned the public humiliation of Shyamal.

But from a protest meeting at Narayanganj Chasara intersection yesterday, local Jubo League and Swechchhasebak League leaders warned that they will not tolerate if anybody from Dhaka comes to Narayanganj and speaks against Salim Osman.

Besides, Narayanganj district unit of Chhatra League on Friday held a rally in front of Narayanganj Press Club, protesting "propaganda against Salim Osman".

The programme was attended by Shah Nizam, joint secretary of the city AL; city's Jubo League President Shahadat Hossain and Narayanganj district Chhatra League President Safayat Alam.

Salim Osman is elder brother of Shamim Osman, Awami League lawmaker from Narayanganj-4.

Also on Thursday, Khokon Shaha general secretary of Narayanganj city Awami League; Qamrul Hasan Munna, executive member of the city AL, and Abdur Rashid, president of Bandar upazila AL, joined the press conference of Salim Osman.

EgyptAir jet sent

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Jean-Marc Ayrault yesterday said that nothing was being ruled out.

"At this time... all theories are being examined and none is favoured," he told a news conference in Paris after meeting relatives of passengers.

Egypt said its navy had found human remains, wreckage and the personal belongings of passengers floating in the Mediterranean about 290 km (180 miles) north of Alexandria.

Analysis of the debris and recovery of the plane's twin flight recorders are likely to be key to determining the cause of the crash - the third blow since October to Egypt's travel industry, still reeling from political unrest following the 2011 uprising that ousted Hosni Mubarak.

A suspected Islamic State bombing brought down a Russian airliner after it took off from Sharm el-Sheikh airport in late October, killing all 224 people on board, and an EgyptAir plane was hijacked in March by a man wearing a fake suicide belt.

The October crash devastated Egyptian tourism. Egypt's tourism revenue in the first three months of the year plunged by two thirds to \$500 million from a year earlier.

Officials added that the priority now was to find the two flight recorders, known as black boxes, containing cockpit voice recordings and data readings, from the Airbus A320.

The plane came down in one of the deepest parts of the Mediterranean, a source in the Egyptian-led investigation said. Another person familiar with Western naval estimates said the wreckage could be in waters 2,000 to 3,000 metres deep. That would place the black box locator beacons, which last for 30 days, on the edge of their detectable range from the surface.

Egyptair said in a statement that officials met family members and told them the process of gathering body parts and information would take time. DNA testing to identify victims would require weeks, the airline said.

The flight data transmitted before the crash was sent through an automatic system called the Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System (ACARS), which routinely downloads maintenance and fault data to the airline operator.

Aviation Herald, a respected Austria-based website specialising in air accidents, first published a burst of seven messages broadcast over the space of three minutes. These included alarms

about smoke in the lavatory as well as the aircraft's avionics area, which sits under the cockpit.

While suggesting a possible fire, the relatively short sequence of data gives no insight into pilot efforts to control the aircraft, nor does it show whether it fell in one piece or disintegrated in mid-air, two aviation safety experts said.

The data fragments also included alarms related to cockpit window heating and two flight control computers, both of which have backups.

"The question now is whether the fire that caused the smoke was the result of an electrical fault - for example a short-circuit caused by damaged wiring - or whether some form of explosive or incendiary device was used - for example by a terrorist - to generate a fire or other damage," aviation safety expert David Learmont said.

The ACARS data suggested the fire had spread quickly and "that might explain the fact that there was no distress call", Learmont wrote in a blog.

The aircraft was carrying 56 passengers, including a child and two infants, and 10 crew. They included 30 Egyptian and 15 French nationals, along with citizens of 10 other countries.

France sent an airplane and navy ship to help search for the jet. The naval search is centred on an area north of Alexandria.

A European satellite spotted a 2 km-long oil slick in the Mediterranean, about 40 km (20 nautical miles) southeast of the aircraft's last known position, the European Space Agency said.

Teacher beaten

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workers blocked the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road, Narayanganj-Demra Road, and Pagla-Narayanganj Road for about half an hour in the afternoon, demanding punishment of the teacher.

They left the scene after police assured them of looking into the matter.

Robin Ahmed, headteacher of the school, said he saw Khalil being beaten up by some locals during the time of the incident. The accused teacher was rescued by his colleagues.

Khalil said he was being "framed" by the parents of the girl as he did not allow her to have her registration for the SSC exams after the deadline.

"The whole thing is a lie and aimed at landing me in trouble," he said.