

## ILLICIT RELATIONSHIP Pabna trader attacked for protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A fertiliser trader was brutally attacked with sharp weapons and critically injured in Failzana village of Pabna's Chatmohar upazila on Sunday night after he protested the illicit relationship of a man with a woman from his own community. The victim, Ranjit Rosario, 30 son of Judge Rosario of Failzana village is undergoing treatment in Pabna Medical College Hospital and remains in critical condition.

The local Christian community is now worried over the attack and are demanding exemplary punishment of his attackers.

A group of men numbering four or five led by Badsha Miah from Nengri village in the upazila attacked him with sharp weapons, the victim said.

"Badsha had an illicit relationship with a Christian woman in my village. I caught him three months ago with the woman and took him to the local elders. They forbade him from coming to our village again which angered him and Badsha has threatened to kill me several times since then," Ranjit said.

"I filed a general diary about the incident with Chatmohar police station a month ago but he did not stop threatening me," Ranjit said.

His older brother Autul Rozario said, "We have rescued him and admitted him to Chatmohar upazila health complex from where he was shifted to Pabna Medical College Hospital Monday morning." "We fear there might be more attacks from this group on us," he said.

Victim's wife Pollobi Rosario told The Daily Star her husband who is a fertiliser dealer in the village keeps to his own business but these men are threatening to kill him now because he protested Badsha's illicit involvement with a woman from their own community.

"This woman in question has now left for Dhaka which has enraged Badsha and he wants to take revenge on my husband," Pallabi said.

Member of Failzana Union Parishad Md Haran Ali, also a resident of the same village, said the local Christians are very worried about the attack.

Officer in charge of Chatmohar police station Subroto Kumar said, police is trying to nab Badsha and his men but they remain absconding right now.

Victim's family were preparing to file another case against Badsha at the time this report was filed.

## CID asked

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Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) filed the petition, asking for the HC directive on the CID to submit a progress report on its probe.

The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir is likely to hear the writ this week.

Talking to reporters, ASK lawyer ZI Khan Panna said as the investigation officer of the case cannot submit the probe report to the court without any autopsy report, the writ was filed seeking HC directives for placing the autopsy reports.

The court's directive was also sought for a statement of the Cantonment Board on the issue, he added.

## Noble effort

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Musa yesterday told The Daily Star over the phone, "Our lives have been ruined just for trying to send back an abducted boy to his parents in India." He wanted their sufferings to end.

Musa's son Ferdaus Hossain said they left home in fear of arrest in the false case. Betagi Police Station's Sub-inspector Abdul Jalil said Nanna was arrested for assaulting a woman on April 11. The case was filed on Sunday night by the woman's daughter Hasi Begum.

The officer, however, refused to talk to this correspondent further.

This is not the first time that Musa faced cases. Earlier, the abductor's family members filed four cases against Musa and his relatives. Musa spent 41 days in jail in two phases and lost his job.

But nothing could deter the 52-year-old man from Barguna from making all the arrangements to reunite Sonu with his family in New Delhi. After getting released on bail, he went to New Delhi and traced the parents of Sonu there.

Earlier, Musa informed the police about the alleged torture of the boy by the "abductor's family members". As police did not pay heed to his appeal, he took the boy to a Barguna court and the court sent him to the juvenile correction centre on December 22 last year.

After the news spread, both the Indian and Bangladesh government took initiatives to reunite the boy with his family members and the process is underway.

# Worker killed at shipbreaking yard

4 others injured when iron plate fell on them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker was killed and four others were injured as an iron plate fell on them while they were working at a shipbreaking yard in Chittagong's Sitakunda upazila on Sunday.

The dead is Rana Miah, 30, of Gaibandha, said the shipbreaking yard officials.

Abdur Rahman, assistant sub-inspector of Sitakunda Police Station, said the accident took place at Seiko Steel Shipbreaking Yard in Sonaichhari around 6:00pm. Five workers were wounded in the incident.

Rana was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. The four others wounded were taken to the hospital of Bangladesh Ship Breakers' Association at Bhatiyari in Sitakunda.

Abdul Hai Khan, deputy inspector

general of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment in Chittagong, said their inspector visited the shipbreaking yard.

"We are investigating whether the workers were provided safety equipment," he said.

Asked, Osman Gani, manager of Seiko Steel Shipbreaking Yard, said the workers were provided all safety equipment, but they took off those due to severe heat.

"We will compensate the victims' families as per the labour law," he said. An unnatural death case was filed in this connection.

Including Rana, at least four workers have so far been killed in accidents in different shipbreaking yards in Chittagong this year. Around 13 workers were killed in accidents in shipbreaking yards last year.

## Breaking the convention

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also worked for an NGO, which required bicycle rides to villages. The latter was tiring and both jobs lacked freedom," said the strong-willed woman.

"I wanted to work independently, that is, to be my own boss," she said, adding that she took driving training at Ma Fatema Training and Development Complex in Shariakandi.

She initially faced difficulties obtaining bank loan for purchasing the three-wheeler.

Finally, with the help of District Women Affairs Officer Shahidul Islam, she got Tk 3.28 lakh from Bank Asia's Bogra branch. Adding to that her own fund of Tk 95,000, she finally became the first female owner cum driver of an auto-rickshaw in the district.

Nazma, who lives with her husband, two sons and mother in a tin-roofed house at Madhya Malgram in the town, dreams that one of her sons will become a doctor and the other a technician.

Her elder son Jannatun Nayeem, 16, is a student of class IX at RSF Model School and College in Shajahanpur upazila. He has obtained full-free scholarship because of excellent results. Her younger son Jahid Alam, 14, is also a student of class IX at Baghopara Technical Training College under Sadar upazila.

"I hope my new profession will contribute to the family income so that my sons can make my dreams come true," she said.

Initially, choosing such a profession, which anyone would deem highly unusual for women in Bangladesh, was not so easy. She had to bear insults from her brother-in-law Shahjalal, who said male passengers would stalk her.

Her nephew Mamun threatened to cut off all family ties with her. But she is hopeful her relatives will soon overcome the misunderstanding and welcome her new profession.

Her husband Jahangir Alam, 36, however, extends all-out support for Nazma.

"First I was discouraged by locals

and relatives, but then I felt that woman should stand up on their own feet and encouraged her to take up the profession," said Alam, who works at an iron-made product factory.

Nazma wakes up early in the morning, prepares food for the family and leaves for the 20-km Bogra-Shariakandi Road to transport passengers.

She hopes to earn on average Tk 1,000 per day after spending Tk 250 for gas and other miscellaneous costs.

With that income, she plans to pay off her loan in 33 months at Tk 11,600 monthly instalments. She however has a three-month loan moratorium period, during which she does not have to pay the instalments.

On the road, Nazma primarily faced harassment from fellow workers and chain masters, who decide and control the routes and often charge drivers for parking at the auto-rickshaw stands.

"They raised questions about my work and often behaved adversely. But leaders of local motor owners and workers association intervened and urged them to treat me as a fellow worker and a sister," she said.

Sangram Singha, president of Chelopara CNG-auto-rickshaw owners' association, said they would provide all-out support to female drivers if more women join the profession.

Even Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Bogra Md Ashraf Uddin, who was present at the bank-financed auto-rickshaw handover ceremony, hailed her unprecedented career.

He said the district administration and police would provide full support to every female driver.

Nazma's endeavour has already encouraged other women to venture into the driving profession.

Golzar Hossain of the locality said his wife Shefali Begum, 22, is considering taking loan to buy an auto-rickshaw.

The bank would work to empower women and ensure their economical solvency, said Mozaffar Hossain, executive vice-president and manager of Bank Asia, Bogra branch.

## PM goes to Saudi Arabia

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Saudi King, which includes full opening of labour market, particularly for male workers, seeking Saudi investment for development of major infrastructure in Bangladesh, further increasing of Saudi assistance and investment, increasing imports from Bangladesh, among other things.

Officials said several deals in the areas of investment, education and cultural cooperation are expected to be signed. Officials were still working on the details of the visit and agenda for discussion.

Sources said the PM is expected to welcome the Saudi initiative to form a 34-nation coalition of like-minded Islamic countries to fight terrorism, but at the same time she will cite the government's policy that requires a UN approval for its participation in any military operation of the alliance.

"Bangladesh will consider sending troops to Saudi Arabia only if UN Security Council approves it and in case the two holy mosques face threats," said a foreign ministry official.

Sources in the foreign ministry said Hasina during her meeting with the Saudi King and other high officials would express interest in enhancing defence cooperation with the Kingdom.

The prime minister will also meet Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Deputy Crown Prince and second Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud.

Besides, she is expected to meet important members of Saudi royal family, investors and expatriate Bangladeshis.

## Japan rescuers expand forest search for missing boy

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese rescuers yesterday expanded the search for a seven-year-old boy missing for three days after his parents left him in a mountain forest inhabited by bears as punishment in a case that has infuriated public opinion.

The parents originally told police the boy got lost on Saturday while they were hiking to gather wild vegetables but later admitted they had left him in the forest to punish him.

missing in mountains on the northern main island of Hokkaido inhabited by wild bears.

Yamato, his older sister, mother and father came to a park near the forest on Saturday, but the parents became angry as the boy threw stones at cars and people, Japanese police and media reports said.

On the way back home, they made Yamato get out of the car and left him alone in the forest, driving the car about 500 metres (some 550 yards) away, TV Asahi and other reports said.

## Bogra teacher suspended for 'demeaning religion'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A schoolteacher at Sherpur upazila in Bogra was suspended yesterday afternoon on the allegation of demeaning religion.

The allegation, however, could not yet be verified.

This newspaper also has failed to contact the suspended schoolteacher and decided not to disclose his identity.

The managing committee of Kalyani High School suspended him based on the allegation raised by some locals and formed a three-member probe body.

According to school and police sources, it was alleged that the teacher "liked a derogatory comment on Islam" on Facebook.

Contacted, UNO Sarwar Jahan said whether the Facebook profile indeed belongs to the suspended teacher will be proved after examinations by IT specialists.

The headmaster, Sudev Kumar Paul, said after the allegation was raised by the locals, he informed the matter to the managing committee.

The committee called an urgent meeting and decided to suspend the teacher, who was absent in the school yesterday.

The probe body formed by the school committee will have to submit its report within seven days.

## Police want

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hear arguments today on a 10-day remand prayer in the sedition case against Aslam after his lawyers sought adjournment of yesterday's court proceedings, saying that the High Court earlier asked the lower court concerned not to put their client on fresh remand until a further order.

The HC passed the order two days after Aslam filed a petition with the court on May 22, seeking a directive on the government to cancel his seven-day remand. Police took him on remand for seven days on May 16 after he was shown arrested under section-54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The sedition case had been filed against Aslam allegedly for hatching a conspiracy with Israel's Likud Party and its intelligence agency Mossad to oust the government.

Aslam's lawyers -- Sanaullah Mia and Masud Ahmed Talukder -- yesterday appealed to the court to not hear the remand prayer until the writ petition filed with the HC is disposed of.

The court then fixed today to pass an order on the remand prayer in the sedition case filed with Gulshan Police Station in Dhaka on May 26.

Later in the day, Aslam was produced before two other courts in Dhaka with a 10-day remand prayer in each of the two arson cases he was shown arrested on May 24.

The cases were filed with Motijheel and Lalbagh police stations last year in connection with arson attacks during the BNP-led anti-government movement.

The courts set June 6 to hear the remand prayers.

The BNP leader was picked up from the capital's Khilkhet area on May 15 over the alleged plot to topple the government.

## Navy gets

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Shahriar Ahmed and Ripa Akhter were awarded for their outstanding performance, says an ISPR press release.

The Navy chief directed the new sailors to work sincerely in the spirit of the Liberation War for building the nation.

Senior naval officers were present.

## New photo of missing Japanese journo emerges

AFP, Tokyo

Japan said yesterday that it believed a new photo posted online of a Japanese journalist missing in Syria -- showing him for the first time since a video released earlier this year -- is authentic.

The photo, which received widespread coverage in Japanese media, shows freelance journalist Jumpei Yasuda, who has been out of contact since June last year, wearing an orange shirt, his hair and beard grown long.

He is seen holding a piece of paper with a handwritten message in Japanese that says: "Please help. This is the last chance, Jumpei Yasuda."

It was not clear when or where the image was taken, but Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters that the man is likely Yasuda.

"The government is now analysing the image," he said.

## Accused dies after arrest

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demanding punishment to those involved in the alleged torture.

Assured by the district administration of proper investigation into the incident, locals withdrew the blockade. The demonstration had caused a tailback several kilometres long.

Billal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sarishabari Police Station, denied the torture allegation, saying Hashem attempted suicide by hanging himself from a pipe using his trousers in the bathroom of the police station.

Hashem died from his injuries several hours later, he added.

Hashem was accused in a murder case filed with Sarishabari Police Station in connection with his wife's killing. He was arrested on Sunday from his cousin's house in the capital's Gulshan area where he had been hiding, according to police.

His wife Lucky Begum, 30, was found hanging from the ceiling of their house at Tariapara on April 14. An autopsy found that she was killed by

strangulation, OC Billal said.

Momtaz Uddin, resident medical officer (RMO) of Sarishabari Upazila Health Complex, said Hashem was taken there by police around 4:30am yesterday in critical condition.

"I found him with weak heart beat and weak pulse, and he was not responding to pain. He died several minutes later," the RMO said.

He added that there was a mark on the victim's throat which could be from strangulation.

The body was sent to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The county's top court on May 24 upheld a 2003 High Court verdict against arbitrary arrest on suspicion and torture of arrestees on remand.

The HC judgment was delivered following a writ petition filed by rights bodies and individuals after the tragic death of Shamim Reza Rubel, a student of Independent University, in police custody on July 23, 1998.

## Govt probe hints at

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The committee submitted an interim report on April 20.

Farashuddin said the final report to a great extent contradicts the interim report because the first one was prepared and submitted in haste.

About 90 percent of the interim report has been changed, he said, crediting the radical changes to the contribution made by three teachers of BUET -- a former professor and two associate professors -- after the submission of the interim report.

The former governor also said it was not possible for the committee to find out the external cyber criminals involved in the theft.

The probe body gave an outline as to how much money could be recovered.

"We have given an encouraging picture," Farashuddin said.

"The report highlights the sort of involvement on the side of Bangladesh Bank," he said, without elaborating further.

Asked whether the report had been prepared under any pressure, the panel chief answered in the negative.

Upon receiving the report, Muhiith told reporters that the main objective of the report was to bring in internal discipline.

"We have so many lacuna and faults. The main goal was to highlight them."

He, however, declined to comment on the findings, saying that it would be public in about 20 days after he reads it.

Muhiith said he would not get any scope to go through the report before the

announcement of the annual budget on June 2.

On February 5-10, hackers tried to pull off 35 bank transfers, totalling \$951million from the BB account with the Fed.

They succeeded in transferring \$81 million, all of which ended up at Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation in the Philippines. Within days, much of the money was withdrawn and laundered through casinos in and around the Filipino capital Manila.

Kim Wong, a gambling junket operator in Manila, who admitted to receiving around \$15million from two Chinese nationals, has given the money back to the Philippines' Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC).

The AMLC said another \$28 million was still with the Solaire casino resort in Manila and \$17 million with PhilRem, a remittance company. Another \$21 million was believed to be somewhere in the casino system.

The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Transactions (SWIFT) denied that its systems were at fault for the heist. The New York Fed also rejected claims that it had executed five payment orders without receiving confirmation it sought from the BB, which caused Bangladesh to lose the money.

Earlier in May, BB Governor Fazle Kabir met New York Fed President William Dudley and senior SWIFT officials in Switzerland in an effort to expedite the recovery of the stolen funds. The parties said they would work together to trace the funds still missing.

## EC receives scores

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chairman candidate Pir Maznu Miah in Goalabazar union of Sylhet's Osmaninagar upazila yesterday demanded re-voting in three polling centres, claiming that ballot boxes were stuffed there by the supporters of independent candidate Anhar Ahmad, who is also a Jamaat leader.

Returning officer, presiding officer and law enforcers did not take any action despite repeated complaints in this regard, the AL candidate alleged.

Maznu alleged that men of the independent candidate cast fake votes and stuffed ballot boxes at three polling centres. Moreover, presiding officer of polling centre-1 cancelled 102 votes that were cast for "Boat" symbol without proper grounds.

Maznu had lost the election.

Abdul Wahab, AL chairman aspirant in Arjuntola union of Noakhali's Senbagh upazila, alleged that presiding officer of a polling centre illegally withheld the results of the centre to favour the BNP-nominated candidate.

Yunus Ali Mandal, a member candidate in Udaypur UP of Joypurhat's Kalai upazila, alleged that presiding officer of a polling centre helped another member candidate stuff ballot boxes and manipulated the election results.

Asked, EC's Secretary Sirazul Islam said the commission would go through the allegations and look into those complaints.

## Man pays

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"For me, it's a protest. It's what's right versus wrong. I didn't hurt anybody. I didn't endanger anybody's life," Sanders told NBC 5.

"When my fine came due I decided I might as well pay with pennies and make a big spectacle of it."

He hammered the coins out of their paper casings in the garage of his home and spray-painted the words 'extortion money' on two large buckets.

A Youtube video shows Sanders shovelling the pennies into the buckets before driving to the municipal court.

He asks the clerk whether the court accepts exact change, and when she confirms, tells her he has to go get the money from his truck and that he'll be right back.

Sanders can be seen carrying the

two heavy buckets into the court building.

"You're in luck - I found exact change," he says before emptying the two buckets on the counter - despite the clerk's pleading.

He walks out with the two empty buckets dangling from his arms, telling the woman: "Just mail me the receipt!"

The video has received more than 44,900 views and almost 600 comments so far. One of the comments, which has received the most likes, call Sanders' actions 'illogical'.

"You exceeded the speed limit and are now upset with being fined for doing so, so you take it out on someone who has nothing to do with your case. This is why it's illogical," the comment states.