

Man drowns falling from Ctg waterfall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man drowned after falling from a waterfall in Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

Deceased Animesh Dey, 26, was the son of Nironjan Kumar Dey, of Oxygen area in the port city. He was a former student of Petroleum and Mining Engineering Department at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) in Sylhet, police said.

Animesh along with his two friends went to visit the waterfall at Napitta Chhara and started bathing there. Suddenly, he fell 30-40 feet down into the bottom of the waterfall around 3:30pm, witnesses said.

Later, divers from Chittagong and a team of Mirsarai Fire Service and Civil Defence recovered the body around 7:30pm, said Intiaz Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Mirsarai Police Station.

Animesh completed his graduation from SUST two years ago and was preparing to go the USA for studies after obtaining a very good score in Graduate Record Examination (GRE), said his friend Sohrab Mostafa Rekon, director of GRE Centre, Chittagong.

He added that Animesh had been working part-time at his centre for the last few months.

Animesh already got into a couple of universities in the USA and was trying for a scholarship, Sohrab added. Sohrab said his friend did not know how to swim.

The body would be handed over to the family without autopsy as the family did not file any complaint, said the OC.

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get to the bank, Sabbir said.

Good Samaritan Sarwar, a bachelor from Barguna, then dove into the canal to save them.

Sarwar rescued the duo and also got hold of the ball.

He even handed the ball over to a 10-year-old boy who had gone into the water to retrieve it. But as soon as he handed the ball over, he was washed away by the current, said Sabbir.

Sarwar's body was recovered around 4:50pm by the divers of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Inspector Merron Miah of Baridhara Fire Station, who led the six-member diver team, said they found the body about 100 yards away from the spot.

He said the depth of the canal where Sarwar drowned was about seven to eight feet but the place from where the body was found was 20 feet deep.

The body was handed over to his relatives.

Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, said apart from driving the pickup, Sarwar also worked at a shop in Gulshan. He used to live with his relatives in Natun Bazar of Dhaka.

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Commenting on the additional costs, McDonald said: "There is no expected escalation of cost as a result of the extended time, since we are operating 'milestone' contracts for the tendered works."

The only hike in budget from the original estimates is as a result of an increase in the scope of works as agreed by all the parties as well as some costs related to national and global inflation affecting the cost of materials, he added.

Under the original plan, the renovation was to take 16 months and cost \$50 million or Tk 400 crore.

The renovation, which is part of a 30-year management deal signed in February 2012 between Ruposhi Bangla's owner, the state-run Bangladesh Services Ltd, and InterContinental Hotels Group, was to start on November 1, 2014.

But due to a wide gap between the price quoted by the lowest bidder and the estimated cost, the authorities failed to wrap up the tendering process in time.

However, the issues were settled later through negotiations.

The hotel was shut on September 1, 2014, for early preparation such as asset and equipment disposal and rearrangement and transfer of employees.

InterContinental had earlier run the iconic Dhaka hotel from 1966 to 1983, after which Sheraton took over. Its contract ended in December 2008 but the government requested it to continue the operations until April 30, 2011, for the ICC Cricket World Cup.

Starwood, the parent company of Sheraton, gave Bangladesh Services Ltd a conditional extension offer in 2009, but there was a disagreement between the two sides over the renovation cost and the fate of the employees.

Eventually, Bangladesh Services took over the hotel's operations, renaming it Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.



The chair on which Bangabandhu was supposed to sit on August 15, 1975, at the DU is on display at the TSC yesterday. PHOTO: DHAKA UNIVERSITY

The chair that Bangabandhu

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inaugurated the chair's display, lifting a curtain.

"As it [chair] is linked to history, it should be preserved," said TSC Director AMM Mohiuzaman Chowdhury.

The chair gathered dust as it had been uncared for a long time, he told The Daily Star.

Talking to this correspondent, the DU VC said the chair would be kept at TSC auditorium for visitors.

Addressing a discussion at the TSC auditorium earlier, he said, "Bangabandhu lost his studentship on March 26 in 1949 as he demonstrated for the rights of fourth class employees of DU. He was offered a deal to get his studentship back in exchange for an apology and Tk 15 fine, but he rejected the proposal as he never compromised with injustice."

He urged all to unite against militancy and terrorism following the ideology of Bangabandhu.

Various programmes, including hoisting national flag at half-mast, milad mahfil, special prayers, and

children's art competition, were held on the campus to commemorate Bangabandhu and most of his family members who were killed on August 15 in 1975.

Earlier in the day, teachers and officials of the university, led by Arefin Siddique, placed floral wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu on Dhanmondi Road-32.

Special prayers were also offered after Zohr prayers at the university's central mosque and mosques of its dormitories and places of worship of other faiths.

Dhaka University Journalists Association organised a photo exhibition at the TSC where 115 rare photos of Bangabandhu were on display.

The children's art competition was also held at the Fine Arts faculty.

Meanwhile, Jahangirnagar University observed the National Mourning Day through various programmes, including mourning procession and paying homage to Bangabandhu by placing a floral wreath at his portrait on campus.

Verdict given

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Mourning Day. Judges, lawyers and officials of the SC and the High Court attended the programme.

Justice SK Sinha said that after the lower had delivered the verdict, the death reference of Bangabandhu murder case went to the High Court for confirmation of death sentence of the convicts, but the HC faced many hurdles.

Many dramas took place in constituting the HC bench for hearing and disposing of the case, he said.

"Then the trial proceedings were finished. I am lucky as I was a member of the bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in hearing the case and in giving its final judgment," Justice SK Sinha said.

The SC also gave judgment in the case filed for the killing of four national

leaders inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975, he added.

The chief justice said the SC scrapped the eighth amendment to the constitution, which had split the SC to make the judiciary paralysed.

The apex court had also given judgments cancelling the fifth and 13th amendments to the constitution, he said, adding that an appeal against the HC verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution is pending with the Appellate Division.

The chief justice said the judiciary had always played its due role during the transitional periods of the nation and would not backtrack in future.

Around 100 people have voluntarily donated blood at the programme, Sabbir Faiz, deputy registrar of the HC, told The Daily Star.

Trump sidesteps Clinton

Says he's running against 'the crooked media'; Republicans launch campaign in Israel to convince dual citizens

AGENCIES

Donald Trump, clearly angered by news reports that he has grown depressed and sullen over his fading presidential prospects, has issued some of his sharpest attacks on the media.

"I am not running against Crooked Hillary Clinton," the Republican presidential candidate said in a speech late Saturday in Fairfield, Connecticut. "I'm running against the crooked media."

Trump seemed particularly upset with a New York Times article that quotes unnamed associates of his as saying that in private "his mood is often sullen and erratic." Republicans close to his campaign were quoted as saying he was "exhausted, frustrated and still bewildered" by the political process.

The real estate tycoon returned to his message on Sunday, tweeting: "My rallies are not covered properly by the media. They never discuss the real message and never show crowd size or enthusiasm."

Later, amid a flurry of further tweets on the subject, he added: "It is not

'freedom of the press' when newspapers and others are allowed to say and write whatever they want even if it is completely false!"

Trump has complained for months about media coverage. He has stripped a long list of news organizations -- including the New York Times, BuzzFeed, Politico and The Washington Post -- of their credentials, and vowed that as president he would make it easier to sue news outlets, reports AFP.

"Trump is right that most of the media want him to lose," wrote The Wall Street Journal editorial board Sunday, noting that is "true of every Republican presidential nominee. The difference is that Mr Trump has made it so easy for the media and his opponents."

The national news outlet recommended the Republican party "write off the nominee as hopeless" if Trump fails to act more presidential by Labor Day, in which case it said Trump should "turn the nomination over to Mike Pence," the Republican candidate's running mate.

Modi terms

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BJP to signing of LBA by contending that the deal with Bangladesh would be crucial for India's national security.

"I say to our neighbours, let's fight poverty. By fighting our own people we will destroy ourselves, only by fighting poverty together will we prosper," the Indian PM yesterday said in an apparent reference to his government's "neighbour first" foreign policy.

During his 90-minute Independence Day speech from the ramparts of historic Red Fort here, Modi flayed Pakistan for glorifying terrorists and contrasted it with India's reactions to killing of children in Pakistan's Peshawar by terrorists in 2014.

"In [Indian] parliament, there were tears in every lawmaker's eyes for all the innocents killed in Peshawar in the terror attack there by Pakistanis. Every Indian school wept for the innocent Pakistani children. This is the example of our humanity but there are some countries who glorify terrorists," the PM said.

Police detain

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The shooting appeared to be the most violent attack against local Muslim leaders in recent years, said Ibrahim Hooper, national communications director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

A report by the CAIR and the University of California at Berkeley said the number of recorded incidents in which mosques were targeted jumped to 78 in last year, the highest since 2009.

Hooper said he could recall incidents in which an imam was pushed, called names or otherwise harassed. "Things like that, but nothing of this nature, nothing where people were killed," he added.

CAIR said it was offering a \$10,000 reward for information that would lead to the arrest and conviction of the shooter.

The killings have been deeply unsettling for the neighborhood and left many worshippers grieving but also fearful.

Anwar Miah, who moved to the US from Bangladesh as a child and saw the political climate intensify, said it has gotten infinitely worse this election.

"We're targets now. Our kids are growing up in this environment now -- they're scared to live as Muslims," he told New York Times.

Rokeya Akhter of Jamaica said women are especially fearful because they wear the head scarf.

"We've been trying to go outside less and avoid the dark or empty places, but this was in the middle of a busy street during the day. It makes you feel like nowhere is safe," she noted.

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A waterfall

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president of Education Centre Management Committee of Madhabkundo Punjee Education Centre, said he first heard about the fall when he worked as teacher at the punjee school 25 years ago.

"Most students would share stories about Porikundo, retelling stories told by their grandparents for generations," he said.

Assistant Sub-inspector Feroz Ahmed, a tourist police of Madhabkundo waterfall, said the path leading to Porikundo is difficult and risky and one needs local guides to get there.

"It is a walk through a slippery path over the stream leading to the waterfall. It's just 25-30 minutes' walk from Madhabkundo along knee-deep water body filled with moss-covered rocks," he said.

However, the treat that awaits the eyes is well worth this risky journey. A large variety of wild flowers and deep green foliage along the path create a rather mesmerising atmosphere around the fall, especially on a rainy day. The sound of drops of water fills the air with a harmonious tune while chirping of small birds adds to the serenity of the place making it as enchanting as it can be.

Nearly 150 feet high, the water of the fall whizzes down a steep hill spreading out below. The surrounding nature soaks itself in the cool and peaceful ambience of the fall creating a picture that can only be imagined in a dream.

For a refreshing dip in this mystical spring water, one should take a chance and visit this point, where fairies come down to earth, even if for a little while.

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Olympic medal

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roared in delight as the couple hugged.

"We've been dating for six years, but I didn't expect him to propose today," He told the BBC. "He said a lot of things, made a lot of promises, but I think the thing that touched me the most is I think this is the guy I can trust for the rest of my life."

Qin and He join another Olympic couple who became engaged at the Games: Marjorie Enya, a volunteer manager at the Deodoro Stadium, proposed to her girlfriend and Olympic rugby player Isadora Cerullo on the pitch following the medal ceremony for the women's rugby sevens.

Marzan missing

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Marzan, a "top-level militant organiser", was the "operational commander" of the Gulshan café attack.

They claimed that the Gulshan attackers were sending pictures and situation reports to Marzan from inside the café during the siege on the night of July 1.

And he sent those pictures to Tamim Chowdhury, a suspected mastermind of the café attack. The photos were published by propaganda wings of Islamic State.

According to DMP's Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime unit Chief Monirul Islam, Marzan had the overall charge of the Gulshan attack.

Police also said Marzan looked after the information and technology affairs and operational issues of "New JMB", an offshoot of Jama'atul Mujahedeen Bangladesh.

A police team visited the house of Marzan in Afuria village around 8:30pm on Monday when reporters were present.

Nazim was later picked up by law enforcers for interrogation, according to his relatives and local police sources. But contacted around 10:00pm, Superintendent of Police Alamgir Kabir said that Pabna police have no such report.

Second among 10 brothers and sisters, Marzan studied at a local madrasa before his admission to the

university, according to the family.

Nazim, who is a local yarn trader, said it is beyond his imagination how his son, who earlier was a "polite boy", could be involved with any militant group.

"I don't know how he got involved in terrorist activities. He might have got in touch with a militant group after his admission to the university," he said.

After enrolment in Chittagong University three years ago completing Alim (equivalent to HSC) from Pabna Alia Madrasa, he started to limit his communication with the family.

"My son used to visit home after long gaps. He didn't come home even for Eid-ul-Fitr [last month]," he said. "We hoped that he would come during the upcoming Eid holidays. We were waiting for him."

The father claimed nobody in the family use cell phone and they had no way to contact Marzan.

After hearing the news of her son's alleged involvement in militancy, his mother Salma Begum fainted.

"My son, a militant ..." after regaining consciousness, she kept saying while in tears.

Though Nazim claimed Marzan has been traceless for the last eight months, locals say they haven't seen Marzan for over one year.

"He was last seen here more than a year back," said Md Alauddin, a fellow villager.

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