

PRE-POLLS CLASH

Injured youth dies at Sylhet hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Another person, injured in a clash between two factions of the ruling Awami League over Osmaniganar Upazila Parishad election in Sylhet, died yesterday.

Sohel Mia, 30, son of Mahmud Mia, of Kalicharan village, died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital, said police.

On Sunday, Saiful Islam, 17, was shot dead and at least 50 others were injured during the clash over the election to be held on March 6.

DEATH OF MEDICAL STUDENT ON ROAD Driver, assistant held

CCTV footage shows bus was plying wrong side

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The driver The assistant

The driver of a bus, which rammed a CNG-run autorickshaw killing a female medical student at Bangshal in the old part of Dhaka on Saturday, was placed on a one-day remand yesterday.

Reaz Bagha, 28, the driver of the bus owned by "Tanjil Paribahan", was arrested from Bahadur Shah Park area in the capital around 8:00pm on Sunday, said Noor-e-Alam Siddique, officer-in-charge of Bangshal Police Station. Reaz's assistant Milon was also arrested, and the killer bus was seized.

Yesterday, police produced the duo before a Dhaka court seeking five-day remand for each.

But Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Nabi granted a one-day remand for the driver.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Ibrahim Khan of Lalbagh division said they first identified the bus scrutinising footage of CCTV cameras installed on North-South Road in Bangshal.

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A group of students from Daffodil International University hands over a sketch of Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, who was killed in the Holey Artisan terrorist attack last year, to his grandfather Latifur Rahman, chairman and chief executive officer of Transcom Group, to honour the bravery of the young man during a programme at the university in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

AC-land makes a leap to serve people



Assistant Commissioner (Land) Ruhul Amin speaks to service seekers at the service booth he set up to eliminate middlemen from the Sitakunda land office in Chittagong.

PHOTO: STAR

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

Almost everyone shudders at the thought of the land office because of complex documents, corruption by the staff, and shrewd manoeuvring by the middlemen capitalising on the naivety of service seekers. Like most offices, Sitakunda's was not any better, and in some aspects, it was worse. But one man changed it all.

Now visitors at the land office first meet the assistant commissioner (land), the top official there, instead of the middlemen, and discuss their problem, and leave with a solution in the quickest possible time.

Ruhul Amin, the AC (land), took charge of the Sitakunda land office on July 13 last year and eliminated the middlemen altogether.

For Kamal Uddin, a villager, who recently visited the office for mutation of land ownership, it was a big surprise when he did not see any middleman around.

"There was only the assistant commissioner at the gate and some service takers. As soon as I went to him with my problem, he gave a solution without the necessity of spending money," he said.

Kamal said every time he came to the land office in the past, he was compelled to get the job done through middlemen and spend Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000 for each service.

"When I came here I found nearly a hundred hustlers who controlled the land office. When people would come here for service, the middlemen would tell them that the AC (land) was not in office or he is an executive magistrate, he cannot meet everyone," he said.

"I have seen many people who paid up to Tk 40,000 to Tk 50,000 to middlemen for services that could have been done instantly."

Before Ruhul Amin took charge, service seekers would hear things like "The document has many problems", "It'll take a long time", or "Come another day". It would make people fall prey to the middlemen and pay hefty amounts for services meant to be free.

The first thing the middlemen, in connivance with the staff, used to do is make the assistant commissioner inaccessible to the public.

But the top official of the Sitakunda land office is the first person everyone meets now. Instead of sitting in the comfort of his office, Ruhul Amin set up a service booth at the gate of the office building, where he meets service seekers, listens to their problems, and asks the employees concerned to solve them quickly.

But what was the motivation for which Ruhul Amin took this measure?

An old woman, he replied. "Within a week of the taking charge, an old woman came to my room. She said she came to process a land document but the middlemen said it could not be done due to a plenty of problems. When she wanted to talk to me they said I was not in office. She did not believe them and entered my office to tell her problem. I found it to be a simple problem that could be solved instantly," he said.

"On that day, I decided to change the practice of the land office by taking a new measure."

For people with the experience of frequenting the land office, it is an end to

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CABINET OKAYS MARINE FISHERIES ACT Foreign vessels can fish in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved a draft law which will allow foreign shipping vessels to fish in Bangladesh maritime area upon taking licence from the authorities concerned and following rules.

The draft law titled "Marine Fisheries Act-2017" -- approved in principle at the weekly cabinet meeting at the Secretariat -- proposed imprisonment, fine, confiscation of the foreign vessels or arrest of its owners for fishing or entering into Bangladesh territory without having a licence.

In this connection, one will have to face maximum three years of imprisonment and pay a fine of Tk 5 lakh.

However, the foreign fishing vessels could only enter into Bangladesh maritime territory without a licence under certain conditions. According to the draft law, those are: to travel to another place through the country's maritime territory, to avoid danger of any endangered ships or its crews, to provide assistance to endangered people or ships or airplanes, to take emergency medical treatment of any sailor or for any cause stipulated in the international law.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiul Alam said the proposed law is being framed after translating it into Bangla in line with a High Court directive. It was an ordinance earlier.

The cabinet also approved in principle Sheikh Hasina National Youth Development Centre Act-2017 in order to turn the centre, which has been operating since 1998, into an institute. According to the law, there will be an executive council to run the institute. Secretary to the ministry of youth will be the chief of the council. The main objective of the institute is

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ARSON, SEDITION CASES Khaleda asked to appear before court March 14

COURT CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday again asked BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to appear before it on March 14 in connection with 10 cases including a sedition one.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Sanaullah Miah submitted 10 separate petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing.

In the petitions, the lawyer said Khaleda could not appear before it because she was busy with foreign guests.

Of the cases, nine were filed with Jatrabari and Darussalam police stations in January, February and March in 2015 for arson attacks on vehicles while the other for making a "seditious" comment about

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'TORTURE' IN PATUAKHALI COP CUSTODY HC asks IGP to transfer ASP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the inspector general of police (IGP) to immediately transfer assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Patuakhali's Baufal Circle Saiful Islam for allegedly torturing Hafizur Rahman Bijoy, an accused, in the office room of officer-in-charge of Baufal Police Station on February 12.

During hearing a writ petition, the court asked the authorities concerned of the government to provide security to the members of Hafizur's family.

The HC exempted ASP Saiful and OC of Baufal Police Station Azam Khan Faruki from personal appearance before it after they offered unconditional apology for their role in the incident.

ASP Saiful and OC Azam appeared before the bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah yesterday as per its earlier order and offered the apology to the court.

The bench fixed March 19 to hear the petition further, petitioner's lawyer Faruk Hossain told The Daily Star.

Following the writ petition filed by Hafizur's mother Josna Begum, the HC on February 20 issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain as to why the alleged incident of torture on Hafizur should not be declared illegal

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Brilliant Achievements of Bangladeshi Doctor in Singapore



Doctor Muntasir Mannan Choudhury (right side) joined as Fellow in 2016 in the Singapore Academy of Medicine and Surgery, after successfully accomplishing the Singapore Surgical Advance Specialist Training. At present he is serving as a specialist and Associate Consultant in the department of Hand & Reconstructive Microsurgery at Singapore General Hospital.

He was nominated as one of the best doctors in 2016 and honoured with 'Star Award' by Sing Health. Previously he obtained MBBS from the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) and MRCS from Royal College of Surgery (UK).

It is worth mentioning here that he is the 2nd son of Professor Dr. Abdul Mannan Choudhury and Morsheda Choudhury.

TORTURE ON RAJSHAHI BOY HC directs cops to report in 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed police to submit a report on the steps taken for prosecuting and punishing the persons who were involved in torturing 12-year-old boy Nazmul Haque in Rajshahi's Puthia upazila on February 21.

The superintendent of police in Rajshahi and the officer-in-charge of Puthia Police Station have been asked to submit the report before the HC in seven days, Deputy Attorney General Mokhlesur Rahman told The Daily Star.

The newspaper on February 22 published a report headlined "12-yr-old boy tortured over trivial matter".

According to the report, the boy working as a bus helper suffered torture and degrading treatment for several hours in Puthia on February 21 at the hands of other staff who accused him of damaging wires of an onboard CD player. The boy of Baroipara village was beaten, tufts of his hair cut and face smeared in burned engine oil, all the while tied to a truck, said police and witnesses, it said.

Yesterday, the HC issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why their failure to prevent the incident of torture and to initiate legal proceeding against the offenders involved in the torture should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman passed the order and rule following a writ petition jointly filed by Supreme Court lawyers Abdullah Mahmud Hasan and Arafat Hossain Khan. They annexed The Daily Star report with the writ petition. The HC yesterday fixed March 7 for further hearing.

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