

Police failure

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firemen ran off safe, but Abdul Matin, 43, of Matikata Vata village of Godagari, slipped on wet ground.

Matin, a father of two, was critically injured as a "militant" exploded his suicide vest and others attacked him with sharp weapons. He was declared dead at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Superintendent of Rajshahi police Moazzem Hossain Bhuiyan, who led operation "Sun Devil", termed Matin's death a "bad luck and operational accident". He said police announced Tk 10 lakh compensation for his death.

In a press release emailed journalists on Sunday night, the SP gave details of the 36-hour operation and said, "Policemen always risk their lives to save colleagues, and there was no exception on that day."

Police showed professionalism through arresting a female "militant" alive and rescuing her two children unhurt, the release added.

Police decided to spray water on the militant den as part of their "well-planned operational strategy" after "militants" refused to respond to their call for surrender.

The footage shows Matin in police protection, but "militants" attacked him even after they had been shot, it claims.

The release also says militants' coming out of the den and carrying out suicide attacks was a new experience for police.

Police fired from a submachine gun (SMG) and three pistols as soon as five militants, Sazzad Ali, his wife Lutfunnesa Bely, son Al Amin and daughter Karima, and BSc student Ashraf, emerged from the den, brandishing local weapons.

Shot, Al Amin fell near Matin and then detonated his suicide vest. The blast blew off Matin's left ear and also hurt three policemen. In the meantime, Karima and Bely exploded three improvised explosive devices (IEDs), targeting police.

A sub-inspector shot Sazzad when he attacked Matin with a pointed rod. Police also shot Bely, who attacked him with a sickle, and Karima, who attacked Matin with a knife.

Fire service probe team chief Nurul disagreed with the police claim that "militants" had attacked Matin even after being shot.

Law enforcers might have opened fire, but missed targets, he said. Police might have delayed going after the "militants" as water was being sprayed, he said, agreeing on police explanation of "operational accident".

He also added that they had completed the investigation and were going to publish a report next week.

30 PCs

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"A large number of organisations are trying to hide information since they consider that revealing the information might damage their reputation," Zoha added.

Researchers, experts, and policy makers said this was a wake-up call for all. Earlier, Faria Hossain, a joint news editor of Asian TV, said four of their desktops were "attacked" Friday evening. Security experts said the risk of being infected was high as many individuals and companies in Bangladesh use pirated software.

They urged users to be more careful when it comes to downloading attached links, software or antivirus. Users should be alert even when they download mobile phone applications. "We are very fortunate that nothing serious happened this time, but we need to go for massive campaign immediately," said Sumon Ahmed Sabir, chief strategy officer of Fibre@Home, an international internet gateway firm.

Yesterday, the Posts and Telecommunications Division organised a meeting on cyber security. A decision on launching a separate awareness campaign, involving the media, against cyber attacks was made at the meeting.

Subir Kishore Choudhury, acting secretary of the Information Communication Technology division, said Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission would launch the campaign soon.

State Minister for Post and Telecommunications Tarana Halim chaired the meeting in which the ICT division, the telecom regulator and other security and law enforcement agencies were present.

Subir Kishore said the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) on its website mentioned about six points related to cyber safety and security of individuals.

The country as a whole was safe so far from the attack, the ICT secretary noted, adding that there were some vulnerabilities on individual level.

In the meeting, stakeholders said everybody was working separately and that there was no coordination.

The telecom division would write to the Prime Minister's Office, asking it to organise a coordination meeting on cyber security.

A dying hospital

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The case of Dhanful was not an isolated one. Lives of many other patients could have been saved had the hospital functioned properly.

Take the example of Rezia Begum of nearby Sarderpara village.

A couple of months back, the 45-year-old critically injured herself slipping on a wet floor. She was collecting water from a tube-well. Finding Dahagram hospital closed, her husband Mosharaf Hossain tried to take her to the Patgram Upazila Health Complex.

She, however, died on the way in a rickshaw van.

The emergency unit of any government hospital is supposed to stay open round the clock.

Another woman, 19-year-old Shahnaz Begum, suffered the same fate.

On April 21, she gave birth to a baby in her home in Golpurtari village with the help of a local midwife. However, her condition started to worsen immediately. She too died on way to the Patgram hospital.

Some 15,000 residents of Dahagram and Angarpota no longer receive treatment from the hospital, which once was equipped with modern machines.

They go to the hospitals in Patgram, Lalmonirhat and even in Rangpur.

"Many patients, especially pregnant women, have died on the way to other hospitals as the Dahagram hospital hardly has any use," Dahagram Union Parishad Chairman Kamal Hossain Prodhann said.

The hospital, established in 1995, was later turned into a modern one with a well-equipped operation theatre, ultrasound machine, modern X-ray machines, and a high-powered generator for uninterrupted power supply.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the facilities on October 19, 2011. Prior to it, four medical officers, two of them for emergency healthcare, seven nurses and required number of staff were appointed for smooth operation of the hospital.

With that, the local's long-cherished demand for a hospital with both outdoor and indoor services was fulfilled and they stopped going to Patgram, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur for treatment.

"People were very happy. But their happiness was short lived. Unfortunately, doctors stopped coming to the hospital within a month of the inauguration," lamented Abdus Samad, 68, of Bangerbari near Dahagram.

Two of the doctors stopped coming to the remote hospital within a month of the inauguration programme. Later, the doctors got themselves transferred to other hospitals using their political influence, according to hospital sources. This newspaper could not verify the claim.

Later, Dr Noor Arefin Kollol joined the hospital. However, he too is quite irregular there, said sources.

Over a month ago, our Lalmonirhat correspondent visited the hospital from 10:00am to 2:00pm for two consecutive days. He saw no doctors there. The hospital sources said Noor lives in Rangpur city and practices at various clinics, including one owned by him, in the city's Dhap area.

Contacted, Noor admitted that he does not go to the hospital "every day".

Asked why he lives in Rangpur even though there were accommodation facilities for doctors at the government hospital, he said, "There is hardly any patient at Dahagram hospital and I can't practice properly if I don't have enough patients."

During the visit at the hospital, the correspondent, however, saw many patients collecting free medicines from the medicine point. They went there

mainly with complaints of fever and stomach pain.

Contacted, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Golam Mawla said the government stopped paying salaries to the doctor for the last six months because of his absence from work.

At the medicine point, Sub-Assistant Community Medical Officer Zillur Rahman was seen prescribing medicines to patients. A man, who was actually the cook at the hospital, was giving away medicines to the patients. The pharmacist was absent.

The ambulance, generator, X-ray machine, operation theatre along with other equipment and furniture were taken to Patgram Upazila Health Complex.

"The hospital, which remains locked most of the time, seems to be a ghost house at night," said Dildar Hossain, who lives in Angarpota village.

"The prime minister inaugurated the hospital so that we can avail healthcare service easily, but her initiative went in vain due to absence of doctors," said Afzal Hossain of Dahagram.

The scenario at the hospital was pretty much the same, hospital sources told the correspondents yesterday.

At least 20 letters were sent to the director general of the health directorate, seeking departmental action against the doctors for their unauthorised absence, Ahsan Ali, the immediate-past civil surgeon in the district, told The Daily Star, adding that the sorry state of the hospital also came up prominently in different health directorate meetings.

Dr Amiruzzaman, who has replaced Ahsan recently, said, "A good number of letters were sent to the health ministry and health directorate, requesting it to make the hospital a fully-fledged one."

The DG of the directorate issued a posting order and asked a medical officer to join the Dahagram hospital by May 11. But he hasn't joined, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The ministry has assured us that the hospital would become a fully-fledged one very soon," he added.

Putin

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"It's too bad that the piano wasn't good and it was difficult to play," Putin told reporters yesterday after China's Belt and Road Forum, which brought together almost 30 world leaders.

The songs date back to his childhood and are dedicated to his home town of Saint Petersburg and to Moscow.

"I can't say that I played. I merely touched the piano keys with my fingers," he quipped, adding that he thought the video "would be for private use."

"But that's okay. I hope I didn't disappoint you."

While Putin remained modest about his performance, he won some praise on social media in China.

"He doesn't play bad at all," said one person on China's Weibo microblogging website.

"An accomplished secret agent. He can do everything," said another, referring to Putin's KGB past.

Others were less impressed. "Mate don't give up your day job," wrote one person on Twitter.

Putin has projected a tough guy image in the past through photographs showing him shirtless on a horse, hang-gliding, playing ice hockey and sparring with judo opponents.

But he has also displayed his artistic side, singing Fats Domino's "Blueberry Hill" in English at a charity event in 2010.

Hasina for promoting

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Hasina hinted that more young leaders would be given party tickets to run for parliament in the next polls, cabinet sources told The Daily Star.

About the young leadership, she said many senior leaders, who had long been involved with the party, should keep the young leaders in mind for promoting them in the party activities and elections.

"She wanted to mean that those [ministers] who grew old would be replaced by young leaders," said a senior minister, seeking anonymity.

The PM, however, didn't name anyone.

She reminded the cabinet members that nominations would not be given to all the sitting AL lawmakers, particularly to those who were isolated from people and the party in their respective constituencies, added the sources.

Hasina, also the AL president, directed the ministers to keep a close eye on the local body elections in their constituencies so that the party nominees could do well.

Saying that the next parliamentary

election would not be like the one of 2014, she advised AL leaders to step up communications with grassroots, unite the feuding factions, be active and work for the people.

The BNP's "Vision 2030" also came up for discussion at the meeting. Some ministers said the BNP copied the concept the AL's "Vision 2021" and its plan mostly reflected the thoughts of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

The meeting discussed the issue of a recent High Court verdict that declared running mobile courts by executive magistrates unconstitutional. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan raised the issue saying that local administrations were facing difficulties as they couldn't run mobile courts.

The PM in response said a court stayed the HC order until Thursday. The HC on May 11 declared unconstitutional the rules under which executive magistrates run mobile courts.

Seeking anonymity, a minister said: "The government thinks mobile courts must run under the executive magistrates. The government will go to the Supreme Court to this end."

ATTACK ON POLICE

Gurudaspur mayor, 3 others held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Police yesterday morning arrested the mayor of Natore's Gurudaspur municipality and three alleged Awami League activists who were with him in front of the High Court in the capital in a case filed over an attack on police on May 11.

The mayor, Shah Newaz Ali Mollah, also AL's Gurudaspur upazila unit secretary, Mohammad Babu, Bokso Sonar and Amirul Sonar were later produced before a Natore court, which sent them to jail.

The mayor, along with 200 of his supporters, had tried to forcefully enter a law and order meeting in the upazila parishad auditorium on May 11, Gurudaspur Police Station Sub-inspector Saiduzzaman told The Daily Star.

When barred by police, they attacked, leaving eight law enforcers injured, he said, adding that he filed the case against Newaz and 200 unnamed others and that the three arrestees were AL activists.

Pro-AL teachers

FROM PAGE 2

"misconduct by some top DU officials".

Some teachers of the faction alleged that the VC was backing the Nazma-led faction.

Prof Samad said: "We want a united Blue Panel. The division within the platform would bring no good to anyone."

Prof AJM Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan, a candidate from the Nazma-led faction, claimed the panel that submitted nominations with signatures of the Blue Panel convenor and co-convenors was the "real Blue Panel and the other was a rebel or independent panel".

The teachers should not get confused in this regard, he added.

In another development, the Nazma-led faction yesterday wrote to the Chief Election Commissioner of the senate election Prof Kalam Uddin, also the DU treasurer, claiming that theirs was the "real Blue Panel" and sought permission for using blue paper in their electoral activities.

Traditionally, the Blue Panel uses blue paper and the pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers' White Panel uses white paper in their electoral activities.

Contacted, VC Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star that there was a long-time tradition of the senate election. He hoped all the teachers would follow the tradition.

Refuting the allegation of backing the Nazma-led faction, he said: "I am the guardian of the university. I have no faction."

Sayedee has to serve

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review of its previous verdict. Sayedee pleaded for acquittal from the charges, while the government sought for his capital punishment.

The grounds on which the apex court dismissed the review petitions could not be known instantly as the full text of the order was not released yesterday.

However, the chief justice during hearing on the petitions on Sunday said the majority of judges of the apex court bench had sentenced Sayedee to imprisonment until death, considering all relevant issues including the evidence and documents.

After the order yesterday, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam expressed disappointment, saying he would bear the pain and sorrow in his mind that Sayedee was not sentenced to death.

Among the convicted war criminals, Sayedee was the most cunning and harmful for the country and human civilisation, but he was not given the capital punishment, he told reporters at his office.

The attorney general, however, said the prosecution could not produce the documents and evidence properly against Sayedee.

Sayedee's defence lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain told reporters that they had accepted the apex court order despite bearing sorrow and anger.

Talking to reporters, Sayedee's son Masood Bin Sayedee claimed that they had been deprived of justice.

He also added only acquittal was justice for his father.

The apex court bench yesterday expunged some of its observations in the appeal judgement of the case

Hundreds

FROM PAGE 3

"Two months ago, we verbally requested the developer company not to bring heavy cement mixer trucks in the alley, but it did not pay any heed," he alleged.

During a visit to the spot, this correspondent yesterday found numerous cracks on parts of the remainder of the road while workers of the construction firm were filling up the void in the road with sand bags.

When contacted, Sharif Hossain, Zone 5 executive engineer of DNCC (Dhaka North City Corporation), said despite a DNCC rule, the construction firm neither informed the DNCC nor it acquired prior permission to use heavy equipment in the alley.

The DNCC is dumping sand in the collapsed portion of the road so vehicles can pass by, he said, adding that they would soon file a case against the developer company for failing to ensure safety measures during the construction work.

Dhaka Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Kan told The Daily Star last night that necessary steps were being taken to restore services for residents of Jahanara Gardens Road.

against the war criminal.

It passed the expunge order following a petition filed by prosecutor Haider Ali, his lawyer Advocate AM Aminuddin told The Daily Star.

In the judgement, the SC had observed, "Similarly, in our views the prosecutor appears to be a novice law officer, who has no elementary knowledge in conducting a case on behalf of the prosecution and also the method of examination-in-chief of a witness. There are serious loopholes in the way the case has been conducted and he has not endeavoured to rectify those defects."

It adds, "The prosecutor has examined almost all the witnesses without comprehending which facts to be disclosed from their lips. The prosecution ought to have filed application for expunging ext A [exhibit-A] but in this case, we have noticed that the prosecutor took no positive step in this regard and allowed a forged document to remain with the record as evidence."

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on February 28, 2014 sentenced Jamaat-e-Islami leader Sayedee to death.

Later on September 17, 2014, Sayedee's capital punishment was commuted to imprisonment until death after the war criminal moved an appeal with the Supreme Court.

On January 12 last year, the government filed a review petition with the SC, seeking death penalty of Sayedee for his war crimes.

Sayedee also filed a plea on January 17 last year seeking review of the SC verdict. In the petition he sought acquittal from all the charges in which he was found guilty by the SC.

SC annoyed

FROM PAGE 1

or two weeks' time. Now the AG sought four more weeks and might seek another eight weeks later.

A seven-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha finally gave the government two weeks to issue the gazette notification while hearing the Masdar Hossain case, popularly known as the judiciary separation case.

The chief justice hoped the government would issue the gazette notification and then submit it to the court within the timeframe.

Earlier in the day, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam sought adjournment of the hearing for four weeks.

Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, a senior bench member, told the AG that Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, another member of the bench, would retire on July 7, the chief justice in January next year and then he would follow suit.

"I feel really ashamed," Justice Wahhab said in an apparent reference to the possibility that the gazette notification may not be published during their tenure.

The judiciary was officially separated from the executive in November 2007.



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- আত্ম-নির্ভরশীল বাংলাদেশ গড়ে তুলতে সম্মানিত করদাতাদের সাথে নিয়ে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে। কর আয়কর, করদাতা নিবন্ধন, রিটার্ন দাখিলসহ কর পরিপালনের সকল ক্ষেত্রে সম্মানিত করদাতাগণ রাজস্ব প্রশাসনের প্রতি যে আস্থা ও সমর্থন ব্যক্ত করছেন জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড সে জন্য সকলের প্রতি গভীরভাবে কৃতজ্ঞ।
- সম্মানিত করদাতা ও অংশীজনদের আস্থার প্রতি সাদা দিয়ে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কর সেবা কার্যক্রমকে আরো সম্প্রসারিত করছে। বাংলাদেশকে ২০২১ সালের মধ্যে মধ্যম আয়ের দেশ এবং ২০৪১ সালের মধ্যে উন্নত সমৃদ্ধশালী দেশ হিসেবে গড়ে তোলার উদ্দেশ্যে সামনে রেখে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড নতুন ভ্যাট আইন বাস্তবায়ন, শুল্ক আইন আধুনিকায়ন ও নতুন আয়কর আইন প্রণয়নের কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছে।
- মাতৃভাষা বাংলায় যোগ্যযোগ্য একটাই আয়কর আইন উপহার দিতে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড সংকল্পবদ্ধ। রাজস্ব প্রশাসনের সকল কাজে সম্মানিত করদাতা, অর্থনীতিবিদ, ব্যবসায় সংগঠন, মিডিয়া, আইনজীবীসহ সকল অংশীজনের মতামতকে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড সর্বোচ্চ গুরুত্ব প্রদান করে।
- বাংলাদেশের আর্থ-সামাজিক বাস্তবতার সাথে সংগতি রেখে আন্তর্জাতিক সর্বোত্তম চর্চা অনুসরণ ও ডিজিটাল কর ব্যবস্থাপনা সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধান অন্তর্ভুক্ত করে বাংলা ভাষায় (অফিসিয়াল ইংরেজি পাঠসহ) যে নতুন আয়কর আইন প্রণীত হতে যাচ্ছে সে আইনের কাঠামো, দর্শন, বিষয়বস্তুসহ সার্বিক বিষয়ে সকলের কাছ থেকে মতামত আহবান করা হচ্ছে। আপনার মূল্যবান মতামত প্রণীতব্য নতুন আয়কর আইনকে সমৃদ্ধ ও কার্যকর করবে।
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