

Liberian footballer found dead in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Liberian national, who used to play football in Bangladesh, was found dead in the capital's Rampura on Wednesday night.

Ballah Kysah, 34, was found lying on a couch at his rented flat on the ground floor of a six-storey building around 8:30pm, Proloy Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station, told The Daily Star.

There were no injury marks in the body. However, his legs were swollen, the OC said. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Ballah was suffering from heart and kidney complications for a long time, his friends told police.

The building's caretaker, Jasim, told police that he served Ballah food around 3:00pm on the day. Around three hours later, he found Ballah lying on the couch with the food left untouched, the OC said.

On information, police rushed in and found that he was already dead.

Ballah played football for various clubs including Chittagong Mohammedan. He had documents that validated his stay in Bangladesh.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was informed of the matter for the next course of action. The body will be kept at DMC mortuary until any further decision.



HELLISH RIDE TO HEAVEN

There is a piece of heaven right on earth -- in Sylhet's Jaflong. But the road leading to this popular tourist destination is quite the opposite. However, most people, awestruck after witnessing the ravishing beauty the nature has to offer here, 1, tend to forget the terrifying experience they have had on the one kilometre of road, 2 to 6, from Mamar Bazar to the final destination. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: MD ATHIR RAHMAN

Commuter sufferings soar again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Hundreds of passengers of five routes from Barisal are again suffering as buses stop plying from Rupatoli bus stand in Barisal city since Wednesday morning.

The transport ban started again amid disagreements between the Barisal and Jhalakathi bus associations.

Commuters have to travel by auto-rickshaw to Raiapur, which is seven km away from Rupatoli, to board buses. The commuters complained that they have to spend extra money for this.

The Jhalakathi Bus Owners' Association is again operating its buses from Raiapur, where they had made a temporary bus stand.

The passengers have to pay high fares to auto rickshaw or three wheelers to travel this 7km stretch before boarding buses.

"We have to spend higher fares for commuting to Jhalakathi," said Kartik Chandar Das, a college teacher of Rajapur Degree College in Jhalakathi, also a regular commuter of the route.

Innocent people are suffering due to the conflict of interest between the two transport associations, said locals in the Rupatoli bus stand area.

Previously, both the associations were in

disagreement and the bus service was also suspended from December 17 to 21.

Uttom Kumar Roy, deputy commissioner (traffic), said the commissioner of Barisal division called a meeting on December 20 to settle the issue.

Following the meeting, bus services resumed between the two districts the next day.

Barisal Bus Owners' Association charged extra money for entering Rupatoli bus stand, their Jhalakathi counterpart claimed, adding, "We have been forced to cut off all ties with Barisal Bus Owners' Association as they always violate our rights".

Contacted, Kawser Hossain, secretary of Barisal Bus Owners' Association, denied all allegations and said, "It is a whimsical decision of Jhalakathi Bus Owners' Association."

The commissioner of Barisal division, Said Md Shahiduzzaman, called a meeting with both the associations on Tuesday to solve the issue, but the Barisal association did not attend it, alleged Sardar Mohammad Shahalom, the president of Jhalakathi Bus Owners' Association.

"I called Barisal association asking why they did not attend the meeting; they assured me that they would sit with Jhalakathi association as soon as possible," added the Barisal divisional commissioner.

7 bKash agents held over illegal remittance transfer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested seven agents of a mobile financial service (MFS) provider for allegedly receiving remittances from abroad via Hundi, an illegal cross-boundary financial transaction system.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) conducted a drive following a report of Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) and arrested seven bKash agents in different districts in the last one week, Molla Nazrul Islam, special superintendent of CID, told a press briefing at its headquarters in the capital's Malibagh.

The arrestees were Mannan, 30, Sangeet Kumar Paul, 45, Jaminul Huque, 38, Mojammel Molla, 33, Hossain Ali, 45, Didarul Huque, 31, and Abu Bakar Siddique.

In September, BFIU, the anti-money laundering wing of Bangladesh Bank, ordered bKash to suspend activities of 2,887 agents for breaching laws and sent account details of the agents to law enforcers for further probe and legal actions.

"Following investigation, CID came to know that some Hundi agents abroad receive money from Bangladeshi wage earners there and instruct some bKash agents in the country through internet transactions to cash in the same amount of money in local currency for the recipients here," the police official said.

"Such illegal transactions were decreasing the flow of remittances," he claimed.

He said the seven had been doing this for the last few years and transacted crores of taka.

Contacted, Shamsuddin Haider Dalim, head of corporate communications and public relations at bKash Ltd, said, "The investigation into the activities of suspected MFS agents has been conducted on the basis of information provided by bKash Ltd as part of its regular monitoring to identify suspected or unusual transactions."

Writ petition seeks compulsory observance of eight days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court (SC) lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition seeking High Court order on the authorities to ensure that eight particular days are observed by all political parties and citizens.

The days to be observed are those involving liberation war, Bangabandhu and four national leaders, the petition said.

Advocate Shahidul Islam Titu submitted the petition praying a stay on national election to allow Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to remain in power until all political parties compulsorily observe the days.

The eight days include the National Mourning Day, Mujibnagar Day, Victory Day, Independence Day, Intellectual Killing Day, Jail Killing Day on November 3, writ petitioner- Nourul Hossain told The Daily Star. The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah yesterday fixed next Monday for hearing the writ petition.

NEWS IN brief

One held with 40,000 Yaba pills in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested a man with 40,000 Yaba pills from the city's Mohammadpur area on Wednesday night.

The arrestee is Md Hasan, 30, of Karnaphuli upazila. Tipped-off, a team of DB police raided a flat on the fourth-floor of "Rajdhani Bhaban" and made the arrest, said Inspector Habibur Rahman.

Worker dies falling from building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A construction worker died after falling from the roof of an under-construction four-storey building in Cement Crossing area of Chittagong city yesterday.

The deceased is Md Allad, 35, of Habiganj, said police. Allad was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, said Assistant Sub-inspector Alauddin Talukder of CMCH police camp.

Youth's body found in Gazipur drain

UNB, Gazipur

Police recovered the body of an unidentified youth from a drain near Dhaka-Maymensingh highway in Gazipur city yesterday morning.

Local people spotted the body wearing jeans pant and black shirt in Malekerbari area and informed police.

Sadekur Rahman, sub-inspector of Joydebpur Police Station, suspects that miscreants might have killed him one to two days ago and dumped the body there.



Commuters are trying to hire a CNG-run three-wheeler for going to Raiapur, 7km away from Rupatoli bus stand in Barisal city. Thousands of passengers are suffering following the sudden suspension of bus service on six routes from Barisal city. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

'Missing' woman, grandson found dead at home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A "missing" woman and her nine-year-old grandson were found dead inside a locked room of a rented house in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj where she lived with her son-in-law and grandchildren.

The woman, Parvin Akhtar, 50, wife of late Abdur Rahim from Comilla, used to look after her grand daughter and grandson, Mehedi Hasan, as her daughter Shilpi Akhtar is an expatriate worker in the UAE.

Her son-in-law Nabi Awal, who lived with them at the rented house in Painadi Modhyapara are of Siddhirganj, on Wednesday (January 3) filed a general diary (GD) with Siddhirganj Police Station, claiming that his mother-in-law and son had gone missing since the morning of December 30, said Nasir Uddin, sub-inspector of the police station.

Yesterday morning based on complaints from locals regarding foul odour emitting from a room in the house, police discovered the decomposing corpses after breaking open the door of the room around 11:00am, he added.

Police have detained Nabi Awal for interrogation and sent the corpses to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy, said Additional Police Super (ASP) of Narayanganj Mohammad Sharfuddin.

Both the woman and the child might have been killed before their bodies were locked inside the room.

The causes of their death would be found after the autopsies, he also said.

N'ganj pro-AL man hacked dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A Jubo League activist in Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj was hacked to death allegedly by a rival group early yesterday.

Mohammad Ali, 30, is the son of late Arjon Ali of Paschim Kandarpar in Pirojpur union of the upazila.

Abdul Jabbar, inspector of Sonargaon Police Station, said a rivalry was going on between Pirojpur union Jubo League president Zakir Hossain and union parishad member Mosharrif Hossain over filling a piece of land, owned by a private company, with sand.

While returning home at night, Ali, also nephew of Zakir Hossain, was hacked by some miscreants, he said.

He was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died at around 2:30am, the police official said.

Abdul Jabbar said police detained six persons including UP member Mosharrif in connection with the incident.

The process of filing a case is underway, he added.