

Ministry employee goes missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



An employee of the education ministry has remained missing since Thursday.

Nasir

Uddin, an upper division assistant of the ministry, went missing from the capital's Banani area. He was also the secretary general of the secondary and higher secondary government staff and officials' welfare association.

His father-in-law filed a general diary with Banani Police Station on Thursday night, said Borhan Uddin, inspector (investigation) of the police station.

The last location of his cell phone was found near Road No-11 in Banani, the official said, adding they are investigating the incident.

Family suspected he was abducted as Nasir had a feud with a man in Khilkhet over some issues of a local club.



POISONING A RIVER... The water of Turag has become murky due to excessive industrial pollution. In addition, grabbing and dumping of household wastes continue to threaten its very existence. The photo was taken in Ashulia yesterday.

PHOTO:
PALASH KHAN

20 AL, BCL men hurt as car hits them in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

At least 20 leaders and activists of local Awami League and Bangladesh Chhatra League were injured as the private car of Finance Minister AMA Muhith hit them in Sylhet city's Shibganj area yesterday.

Some of injured are Kabirul Islam Kabir, assistant personal secretary (APS) of Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury who is general secretary of the district unit AL; Abul Hossain, APS of AK Abdul Momen Chowdhury (brother of the finance minister); and BCL leaders Mosarraf Hossain, Jakir Ahmed and Lokman Ahmed.

Among the injured, 12 were admitted to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, hospital sources said.

The car's brakes failed while they were waiting for the minister alongside a road after the Juma prayers, Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Gousul Hossain quoted the driver as saying.

The minister was not in the car, OC added.

Why cultural events curtailed on DC Hill premises

JS committee on cultural affairs ministry asks Ctg DC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The parliamentary standing committee on cultural affairs ministry has sent a letter to the deputy commissioner of Chittagong asking about the "cap" on cultural programmes on the Chittagong DC Hill premises.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor told it to reporters in the sideline of a programme at Chittagong District Shilpakala Academy on Thursday.

Contacted, DC Zillur Rahman said he had received the letter. He, however, could not specify the date.

"We have received the letter recently and are preparing a draft...", he said. "We haven't banned cultural programmes at the DC Hill, but we want to bring a discipline in this regard," he said.

"... Many organisations have mushroomed and they want to hold programmes there [DC Hill]," he said. "If all of them are allowed to hold events, there will be at least three programmes a day."

"Alongside the residences of divisional commissioner and deputy commissioner, there is a residential area consisting around a hundred houses in the area," he said. "If programmes take place every day, it will become impossible to live there."

Moreover, the place gets dirty and use of loudspeakers during the events creates sound pollution.

"We want to formulate a rule under which it would be mentioned which programmes could be organised on the DC Hill premises and who would be permitted...", he said.

Contacted, Rashed Hasan, president of cultural organisation Prama Abritti Sangsad, said if the DC's intention was not to allow just any organisation to hold programmes, it could have been done so under the present rule. There was no need to restrict cultural programmes.

"Under the present rule, interested organisations have to apply to the DC for permissions. He could then easily verify which organisations are genuine and which are not."

On September 23 last year, Housing and Public Works Minister Eng Mosharraf Hossain after joining a cleaning campaign at the DC Hill told journalists that different organisers dump rubbish on the premises during programmes and make the place dirty.

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With the month-long Dhaka International Trade Fair drawing to a close, a huge weekend crowd throngs the ground in the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

PHOTO:
STAR

1969 mass

FROM PAGE 3

Asad was also the DU unit president and Dhaka city unit general secretary of erstwhile East Pakistan Chhatra Union.

Then President Ayub Khan was forced to step down amid a mass revolt fuelled by the incident.

Different socio-political organisations, including Shaheed Asad Parishad, have chalked out elaborate programmes that include placing wreaths at the memorial plaque of Asad in front of the DMCH and his grave at Shibpur in Narsingdi.

Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia issued separate messages paying homage to the memory of Asad.

They also prayed for the eternal peace of Asad's departed soul.

Maintain pressure

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bilateral relations for regional stability."

A "remarkable progress" has been made in the areas of security, connectivity, development cooperation, cultural exchange, power trade, commerce and defence exchange during the last nine years since Prime Minister Hasina assumed office in 2009, he added.

The foundation of strong relations between Bangladesh and India was laid by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who took the initiative of regional cooperation in

South Asia back in 1972, the foreign minister said, adding that Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina has effectively pursued that policy.

Earlier, Indian Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar in his speech at the dialogue said India worked relentlessly to encourage and promote a stronger sense of connectivity, cooperation and contacts in its immediate neighbourhood. "At times, we may encounter obstacles, but that has not stopped us persevering. As a result, ties with neighbours like Bangladesh stand truly transformed."

I'm a vandal. Arrest me.

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representatives, they added.

One of the students, Rajib Kumar Das of political science, said, "I also demonstrated and took part in the vandalism that day... Arrest me."

Meanwhile, agitating students yesterday evening under the banner of "Students

against Repression" brought out a torch procession from the Teacher-Student Centre, demanding withdrawal of the case and resignation of the proctor for "his inability to punish the BCL men".

Despite several attempts, the proctor could not be contacted over the phone for his comments.

Amid policy

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He rather put the onus on some unfavourable policies pursued by the government that hiked up the LPG prices. He cited high licence fee of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) and limitation in importing over 3,000MT LPG vessels as examples.

Energy Division Additional Secretary Muhammed Ahsanul Jabbar, now in-charge of LPG related affairs, admitted the inordinate delay in finalising the LPG price policy. "We're working on it and the retail pricing formula will be in place within the next six months."

Contacted, State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid expressed his frustration over the delay. "I'm not happy with the overall performance of the Energy Division as it achieved only 9 percent in the ADP (annual development programme) implementation."

Industry insiders noted that in spite of the high price, LPG market is growing gradually in the country. In 2016, the total LPG market was around 400,000 MT and the demand shot up to over 500,000 MT this year.

MPO teachers

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strike at Jatiya Press Club on January 15 pressing home their demand.

Earlier, they staged a sit-in protest for five days since January 10. Yesterday, a total of 75 teachers fell sick while at least 20 of them were hospitalised.

SAVE THE BIRDS

The call reverberates through daylong fair at JU; Star reporter gets Conservation Media Award



A stall putting on display stuffed birds of different species at a daylong bird fair on Jahangirnagar University campus yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAR REPORT

Bird lovers flocked to Jahangirnagar University campus to enjoy a daylong bird fair yesterday.

People of different ages, especially children, were roaming around the campus to view various species of local and migratory birds.

On the Zahir Raihan Auditorium premises, there were around 12 stalls. Birds from 10 to 15 species in the form of mummy were displayed. A discussion was also held there.

Besides, children participated in a drawing competition where they drew pictures of different birds.

To create mass awareness about conservation of birds as well as biodiversity, books, posters, journals and calendars were distributed among the visitors.

The main attraction of the fair was to watch migratory birds making a stop-over at the university lakes. With

telescopes and binoculars, visitors especially the young ones thronged the lakes to enjoy the birds chirping and flying over the waterbodies.

The visitors gathered the information about the birds from four stalls set up at the venue.

Prof Kamrul Hasan of zoology said, "We are trying to reach the awareness message through the fair."

Around 69 species of guest birds usually visit the campus every winter along with 126 native species, he said.

However, due to noise pollution triggered by the movement of a large number of people and the continuous honking of vehicles, the quality of habitat required for migratory birds is degrading, said Prof Kamrul, also convener of the fair.

The university authorities should create a proper plan to ensure a protected area for conservation of wildlife,

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