

Rab still sitting on charge sheet

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last week that her son never wanted to leave the country to study abroad.

"I taught him to love his country. He did. He wanted to stay here for the people. He did not want to go abroad.

"I failed to give my child a safe country, a terror-free city. It is our utter failure," she said.

Rabbi remembered that Taqi loved wearing black. "He was wearing a black shirt when he left home for the last time. He was still in that shirt when they took his body to the morgue.

"I know his killers are haunted by the hangman's noose. They will never escape this."

The murder triggered a huge public outcry. People of Narayanganj formed "Santrash Nirmul Taqi Mancha", vowing to fight for justice and against criminal activities, and also to keep the memory of the murdered schoolboy alive.

A draft of the investigation report was leaked before the first death anniversary of Taqi on March 6, 2014. Different newspapers ran stories based on the draft with quotes from top-ranking Rab officials about involvement of around a dozen people in the murder.

In March 2014, Rab's then additional director general Col Ziaul Ahsan told a newspaper that they found involvement of Ajmeri Osman and his 10 accomplices in Taqi murder. He had also said that the charge sheet would be submitted any day.

Ajmeri is the son of ex-Jatiya Party MP Nasim Osman and nephew of ruling Awami League MP Shamim Osman.

Contacted, Commanding Officer of RAB-11 Lt Col Kamrul Hasan told The Daily Star that their "investigation is going on".

"The case is very important. So it is being investigated. No such work can be done on a fixed deadline."

However, the officer told the same thing around a year ago on the fourth death anniversary of Taqi.

Prosecution lawyer Pradip Ghosh Babu told The Daily Star that all eight suspects in Taqi murder case are on the run.

After the incident, four suspects were arrested. Two of them, Yusuf Hossain Liton and Sultan Shawkat Bhramor, gave confessional statements.

"On the basis of the statements, we appealed to Narayanganj Chief



Slain teenage boy Tanwir Muhammad Taqi's mother Rawnak Rehana, his father Rafiur Rabbi and younger brother Rakib Muhammad still struggle to come to terms with the early demise of Taqi. The photo was taken at their home in Narayanganj a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Judicial Magistrate's court on February 5 this year for arresting the other accused. The appeal also sought to unearth how Taqi was killed, who else were involved, how the body was dumped," Pradip added.

On November 12, 2013, Sultan Shawkat Bhramor, one of the arrestees, gave confessional statement. But 16 days later, he applied to the court for withdrawing his statement. Bhramor was released on bail on March 20, 2014. After he failed to appear in court on multiple occasions, the court issued an arrest warrant for him.

Of the other arrestees, Saleh Simanto is in jail and Rifat Bin Osman, Tayeb Uddin Jackie and Yusuf Hossain Liton are on bail.

The hearing on the prosecution appeal of February 5 is scheduled for April 17.

The court of Narayanganj Judicial Magistrate Ashek Imam on February 1 directed the investigation officer of the case to submit the probe report quickly.

Meanwhile, leaders of different socio-political and cultural organisations expressed dissatisfaction over the lengthy investigation.

Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy told The Daily Star she expected that trial of Taqi killing would be held soon.

"I firmly believe that the prime minister will give directive for trial of

this murder. Truth never concedes to injustice," she added.

Taqi's mother Rawnak Rehana believes injustice cannot continue forever.

"Our children will, one day, make the country safe for themselves, for children of the future."

China planning

FROM PAGE 16

Equipped with solar panels, the cutting-edge traffic link could also charge electric cars on the go and allow drivers to pay tolls without stopping.

The six-lane Hang-Shao-Yong Expressway is set to link Hangzhou, the provincial capital of Zhejiang, with two medium-size cities in the same province, Shaoxing and Ningbo.

The first part of the highway is expected to open to the public in 2021, according to China's Xinhua News Agency.

Reng Zhong, the Deputy Minister of Transport in Zhejiang, said in the report that in the long run a smart traffic controlling system would be installed on the highway and in the cars so that the road could support autonomous vehicles.

Sun Zhang, a professor at Shanghai Tongji University, told Global Times: "Automatic driving is comparatively safe compared with the manual drive mode.

Tension builds up as March 7

FROM PAGE 1

central jail to escape. Seven of them were shot dead and 30 injured.

In the afternoon, President Yahya, who was clearly worried at the possibility of Mujib's declaring independence for Bangladesh the next day, announced on radio that the National Assembly would meet on March 25, 1971.

Peoples Party Chairman ZA Bhutto, in Rawalpindi, welcomed the proposal of the new date by President Yahya.

The announcement, however, was not as innocuous -- there was something sinister about it.

In the broadcast, Yahya, almost as a threat, said that as long as Pakistan military was under his command and as long as he was the president, he would ensure the solidarity of Pakistan unchallenged.

Not a single word to ease the fury of the Bangladeshes was uttered, nor did he make the slightest effort for a resolution. Instead, he criticised Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League and blamed the dire situation of the country on them.

This further agitated the Bangladeshes.

Muslim League Leader Air Marshal Malik Nur Khan, on the other hand, insisted on Sheikh Mujib's rule. In an interview in Lahore, he said that it was the legal right of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to be able to rule the country. He recommended that all barriers to the handover of power be overcome immediately. He also expressed sorrow over the accusation made by Yahya on Bangabandhu, in regard to the deteriorating condition of the country.

Soon after the radio announcement of the new date for the National Assembly, people in Narayanganj and Dhaka broke out in spontaneous processions.

Meanwhile, after the retirement of Yaqub Khan two days ago, Yahya had appointed General Tikka Khan, known as the notorious "Butcher of Baluchistan", to take over as governor of East Pakistan. He arrived in Dhaka the day before, and was ready to take the oath on this day, when Chief Justice B.A. Siddiky refused to swear him in, once again proving that things

were running on Bangabandhu's orders.

That very evening, Bangabandhu was at an emergency meeting of his party's working committee, to mull over the president's new date for the National Assembly meeting. They also had a major decision to make -- whether or not the declaration of independence would be made the next day.

The pressure was tremendous, and kept mounting.

Not only were there the powerful student groups insisting on the announcement, but with them were crowds of citizens -- East Pakistan citizens wanting to be known forever as Bangladeshes.

The meeting for such intense and vital decisions ended up taking the whole night. But the AL was still unclear about what was to take place the next day, until; Bangabandhu made the decision himself -- to speak out publicly about this issue the next day, March 7, 1971, on the Race Course ground.

The greatest speech in Bangladeshi history was about to be made.

Three 'robbers' killed in 'gunfights'

STAR REPORT

Three alleged robbers were killed in separate "shootouts" between law enforcers and criminals in Barguna and Brahmanbaria early yesterday.

Two "forest robbers" were killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion in Majher Char area under Pathorghata upazila of Barguna, said Hasan Emon Al-Rajib, a camp commander of Rab-8.

The deceased --Ataur Sarder, 35, and Md Robiul Mali, 30, -- belonged to Hasan Bahini, a robbers' gang, Rab said.

The elite force claims to have recovered three firearms, 39 bullets and four sharp weapons, reports our Patuakhali Correspondent. The incident took place around 6:15am when a team of Rab raided a stretch of the banks of the Baleswar river on information that robbers had gathered there.

Sensing the presence of Rab team, the robbers opened fire on them, forcing the elite force to retaliate. The Rab officials claim two robbers died on the spot, while others fled.

The gang has been involved in kidnapping fishermen from the Bay for ransom, Emon said.

Around 30-35 fishermen were kidnapped in last two months from different areas including Sarankhola, Mongla, Koira, Sundarbans. The Rab teams rescued six following a gunfight on March 3.

In Brahmanbaria, an alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" between police and his cohorts hours after he was picked up at Kaitala village under Nabinagar upazila, reports our local correspondent.

The deceased, identified as Javed Mia, 40, son of Edhan Mia, was accused in nine cases. He hailed from Kaitala village of the upazila.

Police claim he was arrested on Sunday night in connection with a theft case. "After primary interrogation, we got information about his firearms. When we took him to Vanga Bridge on local Maheshpur road around 3:15am, his associates opened fire on us and tried to take him away," said Chittaranjan Paul, additional police super of Nabinagar circle.

"As the law enforcers retaliated, a gunfight ensued and Javed got shot by his associates. He was rushed to Nabinagar Upazila Health Complex where duty doctors declared him dead," he added.

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Oscars show

FROM PAGE 16

been suffering from old-age complications.

He was 82.

"Dr Rafiqul was very introvert, but very rigorous in his research," Dr MA Wahed, a former scientist at the icddr, b told The Daily Star.

Born in 1936 in Comilla's Chaudhagram, Rafiqul completed his MBBS from Dhaka Medical College, joined icddr, b in the mid-60s and retired in 2000. Rafiqul did his higher studies on tropical medicine and hygiene in England. The father of three, including two daughters, conducted a series of clinical trials at the icddr, b but the most important one was the ORS.

Dr Wahed said an epidemic of cholera broke out among the Bangladeshi refugees, who took shelter in India's West Bengal during the 1971 Liberation War. But as intravenous fluid, the then only medicine of diarrhoeal diseases, ran out, ORS came as a savior to the refugees, saving many lives.

Eventually, ORS was approved by the World Health Organization (WHO). After the independence of Bangladesh, the solution got widespread publicity. In 1980, Bangladeshi NGO Brac created a door-to-door and person-to-person awareness programme about the ORS for use by mothers at home.

SL take on Ind

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premises, hinted at how much this T20I tournament means to the country.

It may not be as significant for India as it is for Sri Lanka and Bangladesh; regular Indian skipper Virat Kohli -- along with MS Dhoni, Hardik Pandya and Bhuvneshwar Kumar -- was rested whereas Bangladesh even flirted with the idea of carrying an injured Shakib Al Hasan just for the morale boost the presence of their most experienced player may provide.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, after a successful tour of Bangladesh in January-February under new coach Chandika Hathurusingha, have started to dream of reprising their glory days when they were one of the toughest and most skilful teams in world cricket.

However, Hathurusingha did try to keep the excitement and expectations to a manageable limit when he was asked whether it will be a big game against an in-form Indian side.

"There is no such thing as a big match or small match. It is just another match for us. We prepare the same for every game. The only difference is we assess the strengths and weaknesses of

the other team," Hathurusingha told reporters after a training session at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

The Lankan coach did admit that India are the favourites for the series, but added that the series win in Bangladesh will give his team an extra edge.

There was a colourful trophy unveiling ceremony in the presence of the three captains and the managers later in the evening, where Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah informed that it is a great platform for his charges to make a statement.

"We did miss him [Shakib] during the tri-series at home and it's a big loss for us not to have him in the side, but at the same time it's a challenge for the others and a great platform to make a statement," said Mahmudullah.

While Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal said that the series win against Bangladesh has been a confidence booster for his side ahead of the tri-series, India skipper Rohit Sharma likened T20 cricket to English Premier League football, where any team can win on a given day.

HC snubs plea

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DU student Anisur Rahman Mir, Member Secretary of Comilla Journalists' Association Didarul Alam, and Senior Sub-editor of daily Amader Orthoneeti Abdul Wadud filed the petition on January 31, describing the quota system as discriminatory and contrary to the constitution.

The petitioners said the constitution does not allow any discrimination.

In the petition, they mentioned that the then government on November 5, 1972, had introduced 30 percent quota for the freedom fighters and 10 percent quota for the women who were affected during the Liberation War for jobs at government, private, defence, semi-government and nationalised institutions. Later, the quota system was reformed.

The petitioners said the quota system in the civil service is against the provisions of articles 19, 28 and 29 of

the constitution, which ensure equal opportunities for all citizens.

On June 3, 2014, DU student Shahabuddin Shaheen took his life as he failed to get a government job due to the quota system, they cited in the petition.

Currently, only 44 percent job seekers are recruited on the basis of merit. The remaining 56 percent candidates are recruited on the basis of the privileges under various quotas.

Of the 56 percent under quotas, 30 percent are kept for freedom fighters' children and grandchildren, 10 percent for women, 10 percent for people of districts lagging behind, 5 percent for people of indigenous communities, and the physically challenged have one percent.

Government job seekers and students are staging demonstrations at different universities and colleges across the country, demanding reformation of the quota system.

Oral saline

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According to a Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey, diarrhoea caused two percent of deaths of children under age five from 2007-11 compared to almost 20 percent in 1988-93. About 78 percent of children with diarrhoea have been treated with ORS since 2007.

This helped Bangladesh become one of eight countries to have reduced mortality rates of children under five by at least two-thirds since 1990.

ORS is now a mainstream treatment around the world, with Unicef distributing 500 million sachets to 60 countries each year.

Dr Shafiqur Alam Sarker, another former scientist at the icddr, b said IV (intravenous) fluid was the golden standard for diarrhoeal diseases before the development of ORS, but the fluid was available mostly in the developed world.

Therefore, worldwide diarrhoeal diseases caused millions of deaths in the developing world. From that perspective, development of ORS, which was known as "Dhaka Saline", has made radical improvement in the treatment of the disease, which leads to fatality if not treated timely.

"We deeply mourn the demise of Dr Rafiqul Islam, a dedicated scientist," he said.

Madrasa boy dies

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Tauhid was a student of hezf (memorising the Quran) at Umar Faruq (RA) Hafizia Kindergarten Madrasa in Jamirdia area.

Quoting family sources, Md Mamun-or-Rashid, officer-in-charge of Bhaluka police, said Aminul Islam of the madrasa asked Tauhid to memorise his lesson. As he failed to do so, the teacher allegedly beat him up indiscriminately with a stick, critically injuring him on February 27.

The teachers did not inform his family members to cover up the incident and arranged his treatment at the madrasa, added the OC.

As his condition deteriorated, the teachers informed his family members after three days saying Tauhid suffered injuries in his chest, back and leg while playing with other students, said the OC.

The family members rushed to the madrasa and immediately took the boy to Bhaluka Upazila Health

Complex. He was shifted to Community Based Medical College Hospital, a private hospital at Churkhai in Mymensingh Sadar, the OC informed.

As his condition was not improving, the boy was eventually shifted to Dhaka Orthopaedic (Pangu) Hospital on Sunday where he died around 12:30am yesterday.

His body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC said.

Hospital sources said there were signs of brutal torture in the body of the boy. His left leg was also severely fractured, they added.

Victim's father, a small businessman, filed a case with Bhaluka police accusing Aminul Islam and Enamul Haque, headteacher of the madrasa.

Police detained Enamul for interrogation yesterday but could not arrest Aminul who hailed from Ishwarganj upazila of Mymensingh.

It's an attack on every intellectual

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An iconic figure, Zafar Iqbal has been dedicatedly working to spread education.

Militants have been issuing death threats against him for a long time. But he continues his work ignoring such threats, the statement said.

The statement reads, "Attempting to kill someone like him is like attempting to leave the nation bereft of intellectuals. Pakistan did the same in 1971."

"The attack on Zafar Iqbal is rather an attack on every intellectual of the country," the statement said, adding, "We also expect the guarantee of safety of every intellectual and common people of the country."

On Saturday, Prof Zafar Iqbal, a faculty member of Computer Science and Engineering department at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, came under a knife attack on the campus during a programme.