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Abuse of power abases innocent

INAM AHMED, SHAKHAWAT LITON and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Handcuffed and baffled, Rahim staggered out of the police lockup with 13 others. He felt a little dazed but no hunger although his last meal was 36 hours ago, his breakfast.

There was quite a crowd outside. He blinked his eyes to adjust to the afternoon sunlight. The waiting faces came into focus. His brother, wife with the little kid tightly clutching mother's fingers, neighbours, his friend's father and many other faces.

Suddenly Rahim felt lost. And shame as well which drowned him completely and yet he did not know why he should feel ashamed. To his best knowledge, he had not committed any crime. He runs an honest business, if running a 10 feet by 10 feet small motorcycle repairing shop could be called a business. Nor had the police told him why he had been detained in the Mirpur model police station for 36 hours.

But here he was. Just like a criminal, all handcuffed, standing before the whole crowd that although knew him to be an honest, innocent guy. And yet his image had now been shattered. His daughter gawked

wide-eyed at her father who looked no different from the villains she watches in movies who get arrested in the end and are handcuffed.

"What has my father done? Murder? Smuggling?" her little brain whirred for an answer.

"Move. Get into the car," the coarse voice of the police sub-inspector cracked in the air.



Still in his daze, Rahim walked involuntarily, like a robot; his feet no longer felt his own. He could not feel the touch of the ground.

Only after he got inside the police van, did he notice that the handcuff locked to another motorbike shop owner had clasped into his flesh so tightly that he was about to bleed.

He asked the policeman to unlock him because he could take the pain no more. The sub-inspector had a look at the hand and felt sympathy, for he helped ease down the handcuff.

The van, a Laguna as they call it, pulled out of the station compound. Another Laguna followed with six more of his friends all handcuffed.

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PUBLIC HUMILIATION FOUND FREQUENT ... A handcuffed man being taken to court. A group of onlookers congregate to see the prisoner while he keeps his face covered.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Journalists' concern to be considered

Says JS body about proposed Digital Security Act 2018

RASHIDUL HASAN

The parliamentary standing committee on post, telecom and ICT would consider any concerns journalists may have over the Digital Security Act, 2018.

The parliamentary watchdog also said it would sit with the Editors' Council, an organisation of editors of the country's national dailies, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, and the owners of private television channels so that they can express their concerns, if any, before the committee over the proposed law.

"The committee will sit

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1 killed in gunfight between AL groups

People loyal to MP and UP chairman clash in Badda over establishing supremacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The brother of Badda Awami League unit leader was shot dead and at least seven others were injured during a gunfight between two groups of ruling party men in the city yesterday afternoon.

Deceased Kamruzzaman Dukhu, 35, was the brother of Jahangir Alam, general secretary of Badda AL unit and also chairman of Beraid Union Parishad, said Assistant Commissioner of Police Ashraf Karim of Badda Zone.

Two groups -- one loyal to Jahangir and the other to local Awami League lawmaker AKM Rahmatullah -- clashed around 4:30pm in Beraid area, police and locals said.

They had been at loggerheads over supplying raw materials to a concrete mixing company, they said.

One of the injured, Makfur Hossain, also cousin of the deceased, told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital that Kamruzzaman used to supply stone and sand to the factory, but the lawmaker's nephew Faruk took the job about a month ago.

Kamruzzaman got involved in an altercation with Faruk and his men



Kamruzzaman

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Parliamentary body favours quota reform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary body on public administration ministry yesterday suggested that the quota system in government jobs should not be abolished completely though Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had earlier announced that it would be scrapped.

The committee also came up with the opinion that there should be a "reasonable reform" of the existing quota system in line with the spirit of the constitution.

"The parliamentary body thinks that the reform of the quota system has to be done logically so that it is acceptable to all," HN Ashiqur Rahman, chief of the parliamentary watchdog, told reporters after a

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QUOTA REFORM DEMO

2 'identified' over inciting violence

Investigators claim the suspects spread rumours in social media; Facebook contacted for details of 15 IDs

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Investigators claim to have identified two persons who spread rumours in social media and incited violence during the recent Quota reform movement.

"These two suspects have no relations with Dhaka University but they were active in social media all along the quota protests and wrote posts inciting violence," a high official of Cyber Security & Crime Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police told The Daily Star yesterday.

The two also circulated false information like "a DU student has been killed in police firing" and "someone has cut tendons of a student at female hall", he said.

They are under watch and will be brought to book very soon, the official added.

Besides, the social media monitoring team of DMP detected 15 Facebook IDs that spread lies and wrote provocative posts to incite attacks during the movement.

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UNSC team due on April 29

To visit Rohingya camps, meet PM, top officials

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will describe the brutalities that the Rohingyas faced in Rakhine State and steps taken by the government here to the UN Security Council delegation, which is due in Dhaka on April 29.

The UNSC delegation, comprising envoys from five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members, is scheduled to visit Rohingya camps and the zero line along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border to see the situation on the ground.

The delegation will arrive on April 29 and they will meet Rohingyas in the

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Ensure better treatment for Khaleda

BNP urges govt; home minister says decision as per jail code

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has again urged the government to immediately ensure better treatment for its Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who is now serving her five-year sentence at Dhaka's old central jail.

"Khaleda Zia is seriously ill. She cannot walk even. Her better treatment and proper health checkup are needed immediately," BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan made the plea before Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday.

Talking to reporters after emerging from a meeting with the home minister at his Secretariat office, Khan said, "We requested the home minister and he appeared positive in this regard."

He added that the inspector general (prisons) responded to a call of the

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A youth riding a bicycle goes past uprooted trees on Iqbal Road in the capital's Mohammadpur after a storm lashed the area last night. Inset, a fierce storm and rain sweep over Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at Farmgate in the evening.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN, AMRAN HOSSAIN

KATHMANDU PLANE CRASH Questions over Nepal's probe

It skips 2 issues, says US-Bangla; pledges high safety standards as its aircraft gets clean chit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US-Bangla Airlines yesterday raised questions over the primary investigation report of the Nepalese authorities on the March 12 crash of its plane at Kathmandu airport that left 51 dead, 27 of them Bangladeshis.

The airlines also renewed its pledge to maintain high safety standards, 10 days after Nepal's probe cleared the US-Bangla plane of having any technical and mechanical problems. But the report skipped two vital issues related to the airport authorities, according to a statement of the airlines, read out by its Chief Executive Officer Imran Asif at a press briefing at Sonargaon Hotel.

Firstly, the clumsy communications of Nepal's Airport Traffic Control (ATC) with Pilot Abid Sultan, while giving permission to land, was not mentioned in the report, he said.

Secondly, he doubted the claim that a fire extinguishing team reached the spot within two minutes of the accident.

"We are doubtful about this information. Because, if the Nepal authorities had sent a fire team to the spot within just two minutes, then a lot of people would have been alive today," the CEO said.

It is also impossible to go to the accident spot from the airport in such a short time, he added.

The US-Bangla Airlines expressed surprise at the omission of ATC's "confusing" instruction to the pilot.

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