

# Three-year-old dies due to 'wrong treatment'

## Two investigation committees formed

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

A three-year-old girl who was suffering from cold and sore throat died allegedly due to "wrong treatment" at a private hospital in Chittagong city early yesterday.

The deceased, Raifa Khan, was the daughter of Rubel Khan, a senior reporter of the Bangla daily Samakal.

Family members said the toddler was feeling unwell since she caught cold a few days ago. "She also couldn't eat due to pain in the throat. So, we got her admitted at Max Hospital on Thursday evening," said the father.

The next day, a child specialist from University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC), Dr Bidhan Roy Chowdhury, was called in, and after seeing her, he advised some medication.

On Friday night, the duty physician administered her antibiotic but after taking that she started having convulsion, said Raifa's father.

"When we asked the duty doctor, he contacted the consultant over the phone and gave her an injection (around 12:20am)," he said. "Soon afterwards, the condition of my daughter was deteriorating, and she died around 12:30am."

The family members said the death came as a huge shock because the girl was playing around just a day ago -- till Thursday afternoon.

Meanwhile, following information

of the death, journalist leaders rushed to the hospital and urged the authorities to ensure punishment for the doctors concerned.

As the situation heated up, a team from Chawk Bazar Police Station came to the hospital and picked up duty doctor Debashish Sengupta, a duty nurse and a superintendent of the hospital.

On information, leaders of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) visited the police station and asked the law enforcers why they "arrested" the three. They also talked to journalists, and a heated exchange followed.

At one point, the detainees were released from police custody on condition that a probe-body would be formed with the civil surgeon of Chittagong as its chief, and punitive action would be taken if "negligence in treatment" or "wrong treatment" is found in investigation, said Hasan Ferdous, general secretary of the Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ).

Child specialist Bidhan Roy could not be contacted for his comment as he did not pick up his phone.

Meanwhile, journalist leader Hasan Ferdous alleged that a BMA leader "misbehaved" with journalists at the police station.

"Patients often die due to wrong treatment... The latest victim is Raifa. We want a legal recourse for this," he said.

Witnesses said that during an alter-



An emotionally shattered Rubel Khan, father of Raifa, inset, joins a protest against the alleged wrong treatment which cost his daughter's life. The human chain was held in front of Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

ation, BMA's Chittagong unit general secretary Dr Faisal Iqbal Chowdhury threatened that doctors would stop treating journalists in the port city.

Dr Faisal, however, said he went to the police station and asked for the reason of the arrest. "If the doctor is found guilty in investigation, he may

be arrested and punished. Otherwise, he cannot be arrested while performing his duty." He also said, "We don't know whether there was negligence in treatment... It will be revealed through investigation."

The BMA leader also denied the allegation of "misbehaviour". "Rather

some journalists misbehaved with me but I did not mind because I understood how they were feeling at the moment," he said.

Contacted, Dr Liakat Ali, managing director of Max Hospital, said they could not understand why the condition of the child deteriorated all of a

sudden. "She was doing well till 11:30pm," said Liakat. "She started having convulsion around 12:20am and the duty doctor promptly started treatment of convulsion but unfortunately she died."

He said, "We formed a five-member committee to investigate the incident. Dr Debashish would be off duty till the investigation is finished."

Another investigation committee was formed by the government with Civil Surgeon Dr Azizur Rahaman Siddique as head. The five-member team will start their inquiry today.

Rubel Khan told The Daily Star that he would not get his child back, but he wants a proper investigation and punishment for the persons responsible.

Meanwhile, journalists yesterday formed a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club, demanding cancellation of the accused physicians' registration, a fair investigation, and punishment for those responsible.

Omar Faruk, secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFJU); Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, former secretary general of BFJU; Shaban Mahmud, former president of Dhaka Union of Journalists; Nazim Uddin Shaymol, president of CUJ; Hasan Ferdous, general secretary of CUJ; and Kolim Sorwar, president of Chittagong Press Club, were present at the human chain.

# Safe vegetables at low cost

## Pest exclusion net trial in Mymensingh shows promise

MD AMINUL ISLAM with ANDREW EAGLE

Chemical-free fruit and vegetables are just what the doctor ordered. But the advantage of organic produce extends beyond public health. Now in its fourth season, an ongoing study by the Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh is demonstrating that the use of pest exclusion nets in place of pesticides offers environmentally-friendly, effective crop protection. In addition, as nets are relatively inexpensive farmers save on production costs.

"We first tested the nets on fifty vegetable plots in May 2016, with a variety of crops included such as brinjal, tomato, capsicum, cabbage

and okra," says Prof Dr Md Abdur Rahim who is leading the five-member research team. "Results thus far have been promising; and for farmers the nets are cheaper than pesticides."

"On average, on 10 decimals of land a farmer would spend around Tk 2,000 on pesticides per season," the scientist explains. "Pest exclusion nets would cost about Tk 250."

Before reaching the marketplace, a basic crop like brinjal would need to be sprayed with pesticide up to 60 times to effectively protect it from pest attack. In alleviating the need for pesticides altogether, the human health and environmental gain from using nets is considerable, Dr Rahim adds.

"Pesticide pollution has already reached a critical level in the environment," says Israt Jahan, another scientist from the team who specialises in capsicum production. "Pest exclusion nets have great potential to prevent future environmental degradation."

Currently the team has turned their attention to fruit, especially mangoes and litchis. They hope suitable nets will be available for orchardists from next summer. At the same time, green, blue, yellow and white nets are being tested to determine which coloured nets best deter insect pests.

The research is being funded by USAID and development organisation Winrock International.



A vegetable patch with a pest exclusion net (PEN), an environment-friendly crop protection technology, on the campus of Bangladesh Agricultural University. Inset, a plot of healthy plants reaping benefits of the technology.

# Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid's birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 94th birth anniversary of Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, an eminent educationalist, diplomat and intellectual.

Born in Comilla in 1924, he was at the forefront of most of the political and cultural movements of the country from 1952 Language Movement to the 1971 Liberation War.

He was a professor of English at Dhaka University, a member of Mujibnagar Commission during the Liberation War, ambassador to Poland and Hungary, and chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh. He died on December 8, 2012.

# Jubo League leader hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Jubo League activist was hacked to death allegedly by some youths at Digarkanda area in Mymensingh town on Friday.

The victim is Millat Tarashi, 33. Khandaker Shaker Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station, said Millat was killed following a feud over a bike. The youths called Millat to Digarkanda to take back the motorbike on Friday afternoon. When he reached the spot, an altercation ensued and at one stage they allegedly hacked him, said the OC.

With injuries in his head and other parts of the body, he was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital from where he was referred to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated. He died on the way.

His wife filed a case against 11 persons yesterday, the OC said. Police detained one identified as Rabbi, 22, for his alleged involvement in the murder.

# KCC aims to tackle

FROM PAGE 4 Under the new project, Tk 240 crore will be allocated for the construction of primary drains (62km) while Tk 451 crore for the construction of secondary drains (128km).

Besides, the project works include dredging works of the Mayur and seven canals involving Tk 30.66 crore.

KCC Executive Engineer Mashuuzzaman Khan said the project was taken under a master plan, and there will be no waterlogging on its completion. Mayor Talukdar Abdul Khalek said, "Though I'll take over on September 26, I'm trying to have Ecne okay the project."

# 33 JCD men sent to jail

Held over 'plotting subversive acts'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Thirty three leaders and activists of Kushtia district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were sent to jail yesterday after they had been arrested from the house of a BNP central leader in the district town the night before.

They were arrested from BNP's central committee member Barrister Ragib Rouf Choudhury's house while holding a "secret meeting", said police.

The chief judicial magistrate court in Kushtia sent them to jail in the afternoon.

Obaidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kushtia Model Police Station, said on information that a group of JCD men were holding a "clandestine meeting to plot subversive activities", police raided Ragib's house in Thanapara area around 9:00pm and made the arrest.

The arrestees include JCD Kushtia district unit President Mahfuzur Rahman Mithun; General Secretary SR Shipon; Joint Secretary Rakibul Islam Rabbi and Organising Secretary Rokonzaman Russell. Police also recovered 23 crude bombs from a hideout near Ragib's house, the OC said. A case was filed with the police station.

Contacted, Barrister Ragib, who was present at the meeting, said the JCD men came to his house on a courtesy visit after the recent formation of the JCD district committee.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir protested the arrest of JCD men. In a statement, he demanded their immediate release.

# Fugitive convict makes himself invisible to police

## Dodging arrest for more than two years while roaming freely in Rajshahi city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Despite having a conviction warrant in a cheating case, Ayub Ali Talukdar, a street vendor, has been roaming freely and even running a business openly in Rajshahi city.

Ayub was seen with his food cart near the same old spot in Shaheb Bazar area and was even available over the phone as well as active on Facebook till now but only police could not bother to arrest him, the complainant, Arifuzzaman Nabab, told The Daily Star.

Ayub resumed his food cart business in the beginning of this June, said Nabab, quoting witnesses.

"I informed Boalia police over the phone on June 14 when I saw Ayub selling street foods in Shaheb Bazar area but the law enforcers did not take any initiative to arrest him," he alleged.

Nabab, a driver of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), was a regular customer at Ayub's food cart "Mama Halim" and gradually they became friends. In the beginning of 2009, Ayub borrowed Tk 1 lakh from Nabab but he refused to repay the money at the end of 2009, said the complainant.

On March 9, 2010, Nabab filed a case accusing Ayub of breaching trust and not paying his money back.

On July 24, 2011, Rajshahi Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court sentenced Ayub to two years' imprisonment and fined Tk 20,000 in connection with the first charge. He was also jailed for five more years and fined Tk 30,000 as the second charge, too, was proven against him.

But after serving only 24 days in jail, Ayub managed to secure bail and appealed to the Sessions Judge's Court challenging the verdict. But the verdict was upheld on February 27, 2013.

Ayub was again sent to jail and this time

after 28 days he again secured bail and appealed to the High Court challenging the verdict but the HC dismissed the appeal on January 13, 2016.

According to court documents, Ayub has been absconding since January 7, 2016.

Complainant Nabab alleged that police were dillydallying as Ayub has a connection with a local Awami League leader. But, he could not mention any name.

When contacted, General Secretary of Awami League Rajshahi city unit Dablu Sarker said, "None from the local Awami League leader can support Ayub as he is a cheat."

When this correspondent contacted Officer-in-Charge of Boalia Police Station Nittyta Pada Das, he said, "Forget what had happened before. Give us Ayub's current information, we will arrest him now."

Nabab said, "I also met the deputy commissioner on June 14 and the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police commissioner on June 19 at their respective offices. But nothing happened to Ayub."

"It's me who has been suffering from the very beginning. First, I lost my money to Ayub, then again have to spend money, energy as well as time to continue the lengthy court procedures, but I have not got justice yet. However, the guilty is roaming without any fear and also earning money," he added.


RMP acting commissioner Suzayet Islam told The Daily Star that police teams had been asked to arrest the convict immediately.

Refuting the allegation of influence of any AL leader, he further said, "This allegation is not true. The police must arrest every fugitive convict," he said.

The Daily Star managed to reach Ayub over his cell phone last week but he refused to talk about the matter at that time.



Ayub Ali Talukdar



## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Dated: 28/06/2018

Memo No: CCC/PRD/ED/2018-392

### e-Tender Notice-J/B2/16/2017-18

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 15-07-2018 at 13.00.

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	ICGP B2 ChCC2-16	Construction of 70m Bridge on Mariners Road	210027	15-07-2018 12:00	15-07-2018 14:00

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)

**Anwar Hossain**  
Superintending Engineer  
Chittagong City Corporation  
Anderkilla, Chittagong

CCC/PRD-124/18  
GD-1665

# BNP trying to create anarchy: Inu

UNB, Kushtia

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said BNP was trying to create anarchy in the country.

Inu, also president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu), said this after holding a meeting with his party leaders at his residence in Kushtia's Bheramara upazila.

"Firstly, BNP has to fix whether they believe in electoral democracy or not. BNP's politics is mainly based on the release of criminals, as part of which they are conspiring to free their convicted Chairperson Khaleda Zia," he said. People must be warned about BNP and Khaleda Zia as their politics does not care about democracy and election, he added.

Bheramara UNO Shohel Maruf, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Abdul Alim Swapan and other leaders were also present.