

Teen beaten, his auto-rickshaw snatched

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A group of unidentified criminals beat up a teenage driver of a battery-run auto-rickshaw and snatched his vehicle in Satkhira's Patkelghata upazila on Friday afternoon.

The victim Shaheen, 14, was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with critical injuries yesterday after he received treatment in Satkhira and Khulna.

He reached DMCH with his mother and uncle around 10:00pm. Shaheen went out to earn bread for his family on the fateful day. A group of four to five men hired his auto-rickshaw from Jashore's Keshobpur upazila and headed towards nearby Satkhira's Patkelghata upazila, said the victim's father who was seriously sick and was unable of getting out of his home.

On the way, the criminals asked Shaheen to stop beside a jute field. They beat him up until he lost consciousness and left him in the jute field. Later, when Shaheen regained sense, he started crying, the father narrated quoting the victim.

Hearing him cry, locals rushed him to a local hospital, he added.

A photograph of the boy smeared with blood went viral on social media.

Rezaul Hossain, officer-in-charge of Patkelghata Police Station, said Shaheen's father Haider filed a case against some unknown persons.

Police were trying to arrest the criminals, he added.

Haider bought the auto-rickshaw with the money he got as loan from the local NGO.

Putin says liberal, pro-LGBT views 'forced' on people

AFP, Osaka

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday blasted ideas of freedom of sexuality and gender identity, saying they are being forced on an unwilling majority, leading to political changes like the election of Donald Trump.

Speaking at a press-conference following the G20 summit in Japan, Putin said Western liberalism is "devouring itself" and defended Russia's ban on "gay propaganda", after criticism from musician Elton John.

"In some European countries parents are told that girls can no longer wear skirts to school? What is this?" Putin said in a rambling monologue blasting policies meant to encourage tolerance.

"There is a real overreach and this liberal idea begins devouring itself," he said.

"There are all kinds of things now -- they came up with six or five genders: transformers, trans... I don't even understand what it is."

He said parts of society are "rather aggressively coercing" the majority to accept new attitudes.

"You can't impose your point of view by force," he said.

"Representatives of the liberal idea

impose certain sexual education in schools, parents don't want it and are practically jailed...people are fed up," he said.

"This may explain the Trump phenomenon, his victory, this is why unhappy people take to streets in Western Europe."

While everyone is blaming Russia for political meddling, these are the real "deep reasons" for discontent, he said.

Elton John on Friday addressed Putin with a series of tweets after Putin said Russia had "no problem" with LGBT people and wants everyone to be happy.

John said it did not match Russia's actions, following recent censorship of his film Rocketman, with distributors "removing all references to my finding true happiness" through the relationship with his husband David.

"This feels like hypocrisy to me," he wrote.

But Putin on Saturday said Elton John is a "musical genius" who is "wrong".

"We have a very calm attitude about LGBT community," he said.

"We have a law everyone criticises us for, the law on banning propaganda of homosexuality to minors."

BNP leaders'

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time when deposits in Swiss banks by Bangla-deshis increased by 28.33 percent year-on-year to 617.72 million Swiss francs or Tk 5,341 crore in 2018, according to the Swiss National Bank (SNB).

Experts said the deposits increased amid uncertainties over the parliamentary election held in December last year.

The SNB revealed the data in its annual report, titled "Banks in Switzerland 2018". However, the report, published on June 27, did not shed any light on the alleged black money held by Bangladeshis.

Speaking on her proposal, lawmaker Rumeen, elected to BNP's reserved seat for women, said the proposed budget was not a pro-people one as it aimed at making rich people richer and poor people poorer.

She also mentioned that Bangladeshis' deposits in Swiss banks increased a lot in recent times.

Pointing to the lawmakers' criticism over the government's failure to control loan default culture, Hasina said military dictator Ziaur Rahman had started the cul-ture after grabbing state power and introducing military rule in the country.

"Zia had grabbed state power violating the military rule following the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975. Dur-ing the formation of a political party, Zia had taken loan from banks desperately to give benefits to some people and the loan default culture began from that

time," the PM alleged.

She said the culture would have ended had a democratic government remained in power continuously. "We have already taken some measures and also taking steps now to end the loan default culture."

On the proposal of keeping a provision to whiten black money, the PM said her government would certainly take measures if corruption increased through this provision.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON BUDGET

Earlier, winding up the general discussion on the proposed national budget for fiscal 2019-20, Hasina described the budget as people-friendly, development-oriented and a balanced one.

She said everyone would get benefit from the budget as it would help continue the pace of the ongoing development projects.

Bangladesh has set a target of achieving 8.20 percent GDP growth in FY 2019-20 and a double-digit growth in the FY 2023-2024, the Leader of the House said.

Hasina said the government has achieved the success of upgrading Bangladesh into a middle-income country by successfully implementing the "Vision 2021" and it is heading forward to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and build a developed country by 2041.

The proposed budget would act as an effective tool to achieve the goals and im-plement the Awami League's election manifesto, she added.

Lost Caravaggio

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concerning the price and identity of the buyer."

The auctioneers said the painting will leave French soil but will soon be on display in an unnamed "great museum", which was a stipulation of the seller -- that the public should continue to be able to see it.

"It went for a very good price," Marc Labarbe told Reuters, declining to give the amount.

The painting, which had been kept in the attic "for at least 100 years", has undergone exhaustive, and initially secret, analysis to establish its authenticity and is in surprisingly good condition, Turquin said earlier this year.

The painting is the second by Caravaggio to depict the decapitation of the drunken Holofernes by Judith. The first, dating from around 1600, is on display at the Barberini Palace in Rome.

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doctors pronounced him dead, he added.

Monirul was accused in nine cases filed over different charges, including murder, extortion and robbery, said the OC.

Pakistan survive

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Bangladesh on July 5.

Earlier, Shaheen Shah Afridi backed up his three for 28 in the win over New Zealand with impressive figures of four for 47 off 10 overs, helping keep the Afghan batsmen in check.

Shaheen struck twice in successive balls, dismissing captain Gulbadin Naib (15) before accounting for Hashmatullah Shahidi with his next ball to leave Afghanistan tottering at 27 for two.

The score became 57 for three when left-arm spinner Imad Wasim had Rahmat Shah caught off a miscued shot for 35.

Shah and Naib had looked untroubled after Afghanistan won the toss and decided to bat on a flat, brownish pitch but they were derailed by Shaheen's double strike.

Asghar Afghan, controversially replaced as captain just two months before the World Cup, took the attack to the Pakistan bowlers with a rapid 35-ball 42, hitting two sixes and three fours.

He added 64 runs for the fourth wicket with Ikram Alikhil (24) as they repaired the damage but leg-spinner Shadab Khan broke the stand when he bowled the former captain in the 26th over.

Najibullah Zadran chipped in with 42 off 54 balls but Shaheen returned in his second spell to dismiss Najibullah and Rashid Khan (eight).

Paceman Wahab Riaz (two for 29) and spinner Imad (two for 48) also chipped in with crucial wickets.

Pakistan are on a roll at the World Cup after a disastrous start which saw them lose three of their first five matches, with one win and a no-result.

They have since beaten South Africa and New Zealand and are in contention for a semi-final place with seven points in seven games.

Family

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with 2,185 yaba pills around 10:00pm on Thursday.

However, Ramu Das, elder brother of Prashant, claimed to have seen his brother kept inside the Laxmipur BGR camp around 3:00pm on the same day.

"I saw Prashant was standing inside the camp with his hands tied behind his back and some officials were capturing his photo," Ramu claimed.

Earlier, Selim, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, informed him that Prashant and his friend Nazmul were detained from Ekbalia area and taken to Laxmipur BGR camp, Ramu said.

In the press release, BCB Battalion-10 claimed that one of their teams conducted an anti-narcotics drive in Bibirbazar area taking Prashant along around 1:00am on Friday.

Sensing their presence, a group of criminals opened fire on them, prompting them to retaliate that triggered a "gunfight".

At one point, Prasanth sustained bullet injuries and taken to Cumilla Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Contacted yesterday, Abdullah Al Faruqi, additional director of BCB-10 Battalion, refused to talk.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested Nazmul in case filed by BCB with Sadar Dakkhin (South) Police Station where he was shown detained from Ekbalia area with 1,500 yaba pills around 11:00pm on Thursday, said Md Sohel, sub-inspector of the police station.

Advocate Syed Nurur Rahman, a Cumilla-based lawyer of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, said, "How could he become a drug peddler when there was no drug case filed against him."

Terming the "gunfight" unlawful, he demanded proper investigation into the killing.

Stop food

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due to adulteration and degradation in quality. "Such incidents are very harmful for the country's businesses as well as the consumers."

Mentioning business as a noble profession, the president said it has been given special importance in Islam, but the reputation of honest and good businessmen is being tarnished due to some dishonest businessmen.

Hamid urged industrial entrepreneurs not to compromise quality of products and services.

The president distributed awards among 14 industrial units in six categories for their contribution to the economy. The categories are large, medium, small, micro, cottage, and hi-tech industries.

The awardees under the large industry category are Chief Operating Officer Shamim Ahmed of Square Pharmaceuticals Limited, Envoy Textiles Limited Chairman Kutubuddin Ahmed and Olympia Industries Limited Chairman Mobarak Ali.

Under medium-industry category, the recipients of the award are MD of Green Textile Limited Tanvir Ahmed, MD of D & S Pretty Fashions Limited Rezin Ahmmod and MD of JME Agro Limited Chowdhury Hasan Mahmud. In the small-industry category, the winners are MD of Auko Tex Limited Abdus Sobhan, MD of APS Apparels Limited M Shamim Reza and MD of BSP Food Product (private) Limited Ajit Kumar Das. For micro-industry category, founder and owner of Smart Leather Products Begum Masuda Yasmin Urmi received the award.

Under hi-tech industry category, Chairman of Service Engine Limited ASM Mohiuddin Monem and Begum Rokhana Parveen Dipu, owner of Nasania Limited, received the awards.

The awards are given based on the guidelines framed in 2013 by the industries ministry. The goal is to encourage entrepreneurs to set up industries, infuse innovation and creativity, and boost overall contribution of firms to the industrial sector.

State Minister for Industries Kamal Ahmed Majumdar and Industries Secretary Md Abdul Halim spoke at the programme, chaired by Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun.

Child killed

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Around 9:00am, Shahinul's neighbour received another call from Shahinul's number. This time the caller told him to recover Ashiq's body from a nearby jute field, he added.

Later, locals found the body cut into pieces in the jute field.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to M Abdur Rahim Medical College morgue for autopsy.

The victim's mother filed a case against three named and six unnamed people with Birampur Police Station in this connection.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of the police station, said, "All three named accused have been arrested. We are trying to identify and arrest the rest of the accused."

Police suspected that ransom was not the only reason behind the murder.

'Back on track'

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but a truce that avoided a new tit-for-tat round of tariffs would be positive.

"The base case scenario was met at G20 and while we are no worse for wear, let's see what the G20 hangover brings," said Stephen Innes, market analyst at Vanguard Markets.

Trump struck a conciliatory tone after his arrival in Japan for the summit, despite saying China's economy was going "down the tubes" before he set out for Osaka.

He said he was ready for a "historic" deal with China as the leaders kicked off their meeting, and Xi told him that dialogue was better than confrontation.

In their final statement, leaders of the Group of 20 major economies warned of growing risks to the global economy but stopped short of denouncing protectionism, calling instead for a free, fair trade environment after talks some members described as difficult.

In a communique at the end of a two-day meeting in Japan's western city of Osaka, the leaders said global

growth remained low and risks were tilted to the downside, as trade and geopolitical tensions have grown.

"We strive to realise a free, fair, nondiscriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment, and to keep our markets open," they said in a second successive summit statement that refrained from urging the need to resist protectionism.

There were no immediate details about the closed-door US-China discussions but Trump said they had covered the thorny subject of Chinese telecoms firm Huawei, adding that a solution on this may have to wait until the closing stages of talks.

Washington has banned the company over security concerns and China reportedly wanted the restrictions lifted under the terms of any trade truce.

The tete-a-tete between the US and Chinese leaders -- the first since the last G20 in December -- cast a long shadow over this year's gathering in Osaka.

Locals shun victim's family

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allegedly by her paternal uncle on Tuesday afternoon in their house in the upazila's East Farhadabad village.

She is undergoing treatment in Chatogram Medical College Hospital.

The father of the victim is a fish trader. Him, his wife and mother, live in the house with three of his brothers.

"My sister married the eldest son of the family some two years ago and the victim is their only child," said the plaintiff, adding, "Of the five brothers, two are married and the accused is the third eldest sibling."

During the day of the incident,

most of the family members had gone to a clinic in the port city to admit the wife of the second eldest brother as she was expecting a child.

"My sister and the accused were in the house at that time.

"The accused, 26, a mason, was taking care of the baby while my sister was cooking in the kitchen," he said.

At one point, hearing the child's screams, the mother rushed to the baby. The accused fled as soon as he saw her, he said.

According to the plaintiff, the accused had a history of harassing girls. The Daily Star could not

independently verify this.

The plaintiff also said he now was concerned for his own safety.

"I have been asked by family members of the accused why I filed the case instead of the victim's father," he said.

"I've heard that police detained the mother of the accused for questioning and her sons are holding me responsible for that," he added.

"Now I am concerned for my safety. I filed the case to get justice for my niece."

Meanwhile, police are yet to arrest the accused.

climate deal and pledging its full implementation.

The language in the final statement mirrored that agreed during last year's G20 but this did not satisfy French President Emmanuel Macron who urged leaders to go "much further" on climate change.

With tensions spiralling in the Gulf, Iran was expected to be a key focus at the summit and bilateral meetings, but it was barely mentioned, with Trump instead stealing the show in a surprise tweet on North Korea.

"If Chairman Kim of North Korea sees this, I would meet him at the Border/DMZ just to shake his hand and say Hello(!)" Trump tweeted, inviting Kim Jong Un to meet for a historic handshake at the demilitarised zone that divides the Korean peninsula.

The tweet came before Trump headed to South Korea, and he insisted he would have "no problem" stepping into the North with Kim if invited.

Flash floods hit Sylhet and parts of north

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in Moulvibazar.

People in many of the places were unable to go out as road communications were snapped.

Karuna Sindhu Chowdhury, chairman of Tahirpur upazila, said about 50 villages in the upazila had been affected by flash floods so far and the situation would worsen if the water did not recede.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Bishwajit Kumar Paul of Jaintapur in Sylhet said the overflowing Sari and other rivers triggered Friday's flash flood.

FFWC sub-divisional Engineer Sardar Uday Raihan said the flood situation would improve in four to five days as no rain was forecasted for the next seven days.

Officials of the four district

administrations said they had taken necessary steps, including giving out flood alerts and preparing relief materials.

In Lalmonirhat, overflowing water from the two main rivers -- Teesta and Dharla -- and of the 10 other small rivers inundated over 40 villages yesterday.

Low-lying areas in Teesta and Dharla river basin under five upazilas of the district were also inundated.

In Lalmonirhat alone, the flood has left 40,000 people marooned.

He said water in the two major rivers were flowing near the danger level, which could be crossed in the next 12 hours if the situation did not improve.

The floods have also resulted in an

acute lack of drinking water in many of the affected areas.

Sirazul Islam, 52, of Balapara village in Aditmari upazila, said many tubewells were submerged, leaving the locals with a few sources of drinking water.

"We are living a subhuman life," he said.

Meanwhile, river erosion turned fiercer in some villages of Lalmonirhat Sadar, Aditmari, and Hatibandha upazilas.

Azahar Ali, 48, of Kurul village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said his four bigha arable land was devoured in the last four days.

Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner Abu Zafor said they were monitoring the flood situation and working to rehabilitate those affected.

WDB official Bajle Karim said temporary work would be done to primarily check erosion.

In Gaibandha's Sundarganj, char lands along the Teesta river basin in Kapsasia, Belka, Haripur, Chandipur, Tarapur and Sripur unions were inundated.

Water started to rise on Thursday night, said Rafiqul Islam, ward member of Kapsasia union, adding that if the trend continued, the char lands would be flooded in the next 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Haripur Union Parishad Chairman Rafiqul Islam said some 700 families have been marooned in his union.

[Our correspondents from Sylhet, Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat contributed to this report]

Canada faces

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responsible for the genocide against the Rohingya must be held to account by the international community.

"We firmly believe that Canada is in a position to exercise strong and effective global leadership in response to the genocide by pursuing this matter before the International Court of Justice," it says.

Similar letters have been sent to Chrystia Freeland and Justice Minister David Lametti in recent weeks, including one from an all-party group of MPs, which also called for Canada

to take international legal action.

In addition, Toronto and Montreal city councils have passed unanimous motions and several other Canadian mayors and other rights organisations have sent their own letters to Freeland urging Canada to seek justice for the atrocities perpetrated against the Rohingya in Myanmar.

Independent UN investigators last year demanded an investigation into the allegations against the Myanmar military of a genocide that forced over 741,000 Rohingya flee to Bangladesh.

In a statement on Thursday, Freeland's Deputy Press Secretary Marie-

Pier Baril said the government believes those responsible for the atrocities against Rohingya Muslims must face punishment, noting that Canada has sanctioned its key military commanders.

But rather than initiating the process independently, Canada has called on the UN Security Council to refer the situation faced by the Rohingyas to the International Criminal Court.

"Canada will continue to lead international efforts to support the Rohingya's basic needs, to exert pressure on the Myanmar government and to bring justice to the Rohingya

for all they have suffered," Baril said.

Fareed Khan, spokesperson for the Rohingya Human Rights Network, stressed the need for more urgent action to help the hundreds of thousands who have fled the country and the hundreds of thousands more who remain trapped in Myanmar, facing ongoing rape, torture and death.

"As Canadians, as human beings, it's our moral responsibility to act, to lift the Rohingya out of the despair and hopelessness that many of them feel because of what they have endured," Khan said during a recent press conference in Ottawa.