

Minni has links to Rifat murder

Alleges victim's father, demands her arrest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Abdul Halim Dulal Sharif, father of slain Rifat Sharif, yesterday demanded the immediate arrest of his daughter-in-law Aysha Siddika Minni alleging that she had a hand in the murder.

Flanked by his two brothers -- former UP chairman Abdul Aziz Sharif and Abdus Salam Sharif -- Dulal made the remarks at a press conference at the Barguna Press Club.

Dulal claimed that before Minni tied the knot with Rifat, she had married Sabbir Hossain Nayan alias Nayan Bond, one of the killers, and her family had kept the matter a secret.

He said they did not know of this "secret marriage" when they made Minni the first witness in the case filed over the murder.

Everything would become clear if police arrested Minni and interrogated her regarding the murder, he said.

Rifat's father alleged that she had helped the killers because she was having an affair with Nayan.

Nayan was killed in a "gunfight" with police early this month after Rifat's murder.

Dulal alleged Minni had gone to college early on the day of the attack and Rifat went there to bring her back. But she kept waiting for the killers.

He claimed Minni came out of the college only after seeing the killers on the spot. "And then they hacked my son to death."

Dulal urged the prime minister and the home minister to take immediate steps to uncover the "real facts" of the killing and bring all the killers to book.

The Daily Star tried to talk to Minni over phone, but she refused to speak to the media.

Contacted, her father Mozammel Hossain Kishor told this correspondent that Minni did not marry Nayan and that there was no communication between them.

He, however, said Nayan had once made Minni sign a blank sheet of paper.

Mozammel termed Dulal's comments baseless and said Rifat's father was unwell.

Woman gang raped in Cox's Bazar

Three minors raped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and three children were raped in separate reported incidents around the country in the past week.

In Cox's Bazar's Maheshkhali Upazila, a woman filed a gangrape case against 14 youths with the local police, nearly a week after those involved tried to cover up the incident through an arbitration with the help of representatives from the local government body.

According to the case statement, on the evening of July 7, the victim was going in an auto-rickshaw from Gorakhghata to Chaliatali under Kamarchhara union. At one point, she got into an argument with the auto-rickshaw driver, Osman Gani, as she did not have enough money for the fare. The victim offered her mobile phone as payment.

Some of the local youths who witnessed the incident then came forward to offer her help. They led her to the hills in Chaliatali, where they gangraped the victim throughout the night.

Osman, too, allegedly joined the rapists.

According to the victim's family, the rapists tried to settle the matter through an arbitration as news of the incident spread. On July 10, they enlisted the help of local upazila parishad members Liakat Ali and Khadiza Begum for the arbitration but the attempt failed.

Two days later on Friday, the victim filed a case accusing six named and eight unnamed people.

Three of the accused -- Monu Mian, 32, one of the rapists and UP members Liakat Ali and Khadiza Begum -- have been arrested over the case.

The Maheshkhali Upazila Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court granted

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Correction

The story headlined "Poverty Reduction: Bangladesh makes significant stride" in yesterday's issue of The Daily Star erroneously mentioned: "This year, the index covered 101 countries, 31 low income, 68 middle income, and 2 high income. The countries have 5.2 billion of the earth's 5.7 billion people". The sentences should actually read: "This year, the index covered 101 countries -- 31 low income, 68 middle income, and 2 high income. It covered 5.2 billion out of 5.7 billion people in those countries".

We regret the inadvertent mistake and the inconvenience caused to our valued readers.



People watch as water from the swollen Teesta river gushing into their neighbourhood in Gaddimari area of Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila after a part of the protection embankment collapsed yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

13 lakh affected in north

FROM PAGE 1

The Teesta has been flowing 44 cm above the safe level at Teesta barrage and Dharla 41 cm at Shimulbari, said Bajle Karim, sub-divisional engineer of the Water Development Board.

The situation worsened as flood control dams collapsed in some areas. In Gaibandha, over 40,000 people of four upazilas are stranded as roads have gone under water.

The Jamuna was flowing 37cm, Teesta 9cm and Ghagot 11cm above the safe level in the district yesterday.

Flood protection embankments and dams may collapse anytime, said WDB Executive Engineer Moklesur Rahman.

In Bogura, the Jamuna was flowing 8cm above safe level in Sriakandi

yesterday. Around 10,000 people are already waterlogged in the district. At least 14 flooded schools have been closed.

In Kurigram, around one lakh people of nine upazilas are directly affected by swollen rivers.

In Rangpur, some 10,000 people are stranded in floodwater as Teesta flows 48cm above safe level.

The situation is similar in Nilphamari where the Teesta is flowing 52cm above the safe level.

In Sylhet, the Surma is flowing 142cm above the safe mark in Kanaighat and the Kushiara 128cm in Zakiganj.

In Sunamganj, some 13,000 people are waterlogged, officials said.

In Moulvibazar and Habiganj, over 50,000 people are in a similar state.

In Netrakona, local leaders said about 10,000 people of Durgapur and Kalmakanda upazilas are marooned.

In Chattogram, over nine lakh people in nine upazilas are directly affected by flash floods, officials estimate.

A total of 284 medical teams are deployed to tackle any emergency, said the district civil surgeon office.

In Khagrachhari, around 3,000 people are affected by flood with many villages without communication.

Bandarban has been unapproachable for the last four days due to flooded roads and landslides.

Our Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Bogura, Kurigram, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Mymensingh, Chattogram, Khagrachhari and Bandarban correspondents contributed to the report.

Alarming as before

FROM PAGE 1

In the first study, the DU researchers tested seven samples of widely-sold pasteurised milk from five brands and three samples of unpasteurised milk.

Prof Faroque, then director of Biomedical Research Centre, led the re-search and unveiled the findings at a press conference on June 25.

"Antibiotics for humans and animals are completely different. We need to stop the use of human antibiotics on animals," he then said.

He warned that the rampant use of antibiotics meant for humans on animals can have fatal consequences if they are consumed by human beings.

Asked whether the antibiotics can be removed through evaporation, the professor said some antibiotics may be spoiled by evaporation and some not.

He added excessive use of antibiotics like enrofloxacin and cyprosin in cattle feeds may cause antibiotic resistance, which reduces or eliminates the effectiveness of antibiotics on bacterial infection and diseases.

The first study began in May last year and the samples were collected from Shahbagh, Chankharpoel and Palashi in the capital.

SECOND TEST

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Prof Faroque said they conducted the second test in continuation of the war against adulterated food products. They would continue to do so until the quality of food products come to a standard position.

"We did the second test to make sure that the findings of first research were true. Maybe antibiotics were present only in the samples that were tested in the first research. That is why we collected same number of samples of same brands from the

same area for the second test. We also used the same apparatus from the last round of test."

"But," he said, "the results are as alarming as before."

The professor added, "The only difference is that we found three types of antibiotics in the first study -- this time we found four."

Asked why the results of two tests were different, he said they need to conduct further research to find out the reason behind that.

In the press release, he said, "We will try to publish the results of other tests along with this one. We hope that the information made public will help milk producers improve the quality of the products by overcoming their managerial weaknesses; the government agencies concerned will no longer take the presence of antibiotics lightly; they will conduct regular tests and thus improve milk quality of the country."

Besides, the government officials will not have to look for any foreign conspiracy instead of taking steps for addressing this public health concern, it added.

About the rejoinders issued by the DU pharmacy department which disowned the earlier study, Prof Faroque said, "We neither claimed that the research was conducted by pharmacy department nor asked the department to own it."

"Both the studies were done by a group of researchers under the Biomedical Research Centre and Pharmacy Faculty."

He said, "My war is not against any person or any specific brand. I did this to fulfill my responsibility in ensuring safety of food."

He also alleged that he felt vulnerable because of the language some government officials used in criticising his research.

"The language about our researcher

group is objectionable. Question about our laboratory quality was also raised. But researches conducted in our laboratory are getting international patent. How they got international patent if the laboratory quality is substandard."

He said his coresearchers also got threat via phone.

Speaking about the safety parameters of Bangladesh Standards and Test-ing Institution (BSTI) for testing milks, he said the parameters should be increased and the testing procedure and laboratory facilities should also be developed.

Experts say BSTI tests milk only against nine parameters and has no mechanism to detect harmful agents like antibiotics and pesticides when developed nations do that against 23-30 parameters.

The DU researchers used 19 parameters for the second test.

Children among 14 civilians killed in Syria air strikes

AFP, Beirut

Fourteen civilians, including six children and infants, were killed yesterday in air strikes in northwest Syria, targeted for months now by deadly regime and Russian bombardment, a monitor said.

Most of the children were among civilians killed when Russian aircraft raided an informal camp of internally displaced Syrians after midnight Friday, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The camp near the town of Khan Sheikhou, in Idlib region, houses Syrians who had fled raids and clashes in neighbouring Hama province.

2 killed in Rangamati landslide

FROM PAGE 1

Atal and the caretaker of his fruit orchard Suihlau were waiting for transport in the area. As they signalled a CNG-run auto-rickshaw to stop, the landslide occurred and the two were buried deep into the mud. The CNG driver, however, jumped out of the way in time to survive.

Locals and police searched for the two under the mud to try and rescue them. They were found dead after a 30-minute search, police said.

Injured Aungchahla Marma said he and three others were in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, when Atal and Suihlau signalled the CNG to stop. "Just when the driver stopped the vehicle, the huge chunk of Earth collapsed. We all ran quickly, but I injured myself."

He later took treatment at a dispensary in the area, he said.

Visiting the spot, this correspondent saw about a 100-feet of debris and mud from the landslide on the road. Some vehicles there were buried under mud.

The Rangamati-Rajastoli-Bandarban road was shut off after the

incident, said Asharaf Ahmed Rassel, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Kaptai.

Many commuters were seen getting off their vehicles and walking on foot.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Ujjal Das said his was at a tea-stall with some others when they heard someone screaming. When they ran to the spot, they saw that the landslide had just occurred. He then tried to rescue the victims along with other locals and police.

Members of the BGB, with the help of locals, conducted a rescue operation at the spot, said Muhammad Ashraf Uddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Chandroghona Police Station.

"The two dead bodies were handed over to the families," he said.

Earlier on July 8, two died in landslide in the upazila's KPM area.

Meanwhile in Chattogram city, at least four people, including a child, were injured in two separate landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in the port city yesterday.

The incidents occurred at the city's Khulshi and Baizid areas.

In Khulshi, the injured were Rehana Begum, 35, and her daughter Nusrat Jahan, 3, from Kushumbag Abashik area.

In Baizid, Musammam Shanu, 40, and Morjina Begum, 18, from Arefin Nagar, were injured in the landslide.

Musammam told The Daily Star that she lives in her shanty at Jhor-nar Mar Khamar of Arefin Nagar on a hill-slope adjacent to Chattogram Cantonment.

"I was cooking lunch when I suddenly heard a loud bang and I fell under mud," she said, adding that her home was completely flattened in the landslide.

Later, a team from the Bangladesh Army from the cantonment, along with fire service, rescued them from the mud, she added.

Jashim Uddin, deputy director of Chattogram Divisional Fire Service and Civil Defence, said they rescued all four victims of the two landslides.

They were sent to CMCH with moderate injuries, he added.

(Our Chattogram correspondent contributed to this report.)

Kiwi resilience

FROM PAGE 1

final, cricket will have first-time world champions for the first time since 1996, when Sri Lanka etched its name into cricketing folklore.

England, the top-ranked ODI side, had been tipped for a maiden trophy before the tournament started, but New Zealand's second successive final may have surprised some. Today's final at Lord's, starting at 10:30 am (3:30 pm Bangladesh time) will pit two contrasting cricketing philosophies against each other -- the pace-setters versus the adapters.

Since being booted from the 2015 World Cup at the group stage, England have undergone a renaissance. Fearlessness has been the mantra for the hosts -- they are arguably the only team capable of accelerating throughout the 50 overs of an ODI. They proved that for the umpteenth time in the semifinal against a formidable Australia. Having bundled their old foes out for 223, opens Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow did not give much space to Australia's feted pacers, putting on 124 in just 17.2 overs. Even after their dismissals, England kept accelerating and romped home with 17.5 overs to spare as Joe Root and skipper Eoin Morgan ensured that the pressure on the Aussies does not relent.

Fittingly, England's hyper-aggression was seeded by none other than New Zealand in the 2015 World Cup. Under Brendon McCullum's captaincy, New Zealand had displayed the same streak of fearlessness as they romped unbeaten to the World Cup final before the wheels came off against Australia. Morgan had said before that it was their defeat to New Zealand, apart from the Adelaide loss against Bangladesh that sealed their exit, that brought home how far England lagged in terms of being at the cutting edge of ODI cricket.

"I think he has had quite a bit to do with it," Morgan said at the pre-final press conference at Lord's yesterday when asked about McCullum, whom he had just chatted with on the way to the press meet. "You could say about world cricket. We are close mates and he's taught me a lot about leadership and I think in 2015 the way that New Zealand played, very similar to the way they are playing at the moment. They proved to everybody that you can perform at the highest level and get to the top by being yourselves and not trying to be somebody else, or a different team, or be somebody that is a bit of a novelty for everybody else, so that's quite cool."

DCs now want bank

FROM PAGE 1

report (ACR) of Upazila Project Implementation Officers, allocating Tk 1 crore for each district for observing "special" days and withdrawing the ceiling on fuel use for the DCs.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opens the event at her office this morning. The conference will have at least 24 working sessions where the proposals would be discussed.

This year, for the first time, the DC conference -- a yearly conference of divisional and deputy commissioners -- is being held for five days, instead of the usual three.

During the conference, the DCs will meet the president and the prime minister at their offices. They will also have separate sessions with the Speaker, the chief justice, and chiefs of the three forces.

Ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers and senior secretaries of 54 ministries and divisions will also participate.

The list of the proposals shows that the deputy commissioner of Chattogram has proposed giving the DCs the authority to em-power executive magistrates to deal with sections 98, 108, 110, 144, 145 and 147 of the CrPC. Currently, the authority is vested in the government.

The DC also proposed to give them the power to appoint administrators for the union parishads that could not go to polls after the end of their tenures.

In their proposals, the DCs from Cox's Bazar, Cumilla, Bagerhat and Chuadanga proposed a special police force under the district administrations for maintaining security at DC offices, circuit houses and for the operation of mobile courts.

Narsingdi DC recommended establishing a specialised university for civil servants following the model of Civil Service College of Singapore.

Noakhali DC recommended establishing "Janaprashasan Bank" for administration cadres.

The deputy commissioner of Barishal wants withdrawal of the ceiling on the use of government fuels for DCs, citing increased responsibilities and VIP movement in their respective districts. Currently a DC gets money from public exchequer for 200 litres of fuel per month.

Gopalganj DC proposed empowering UNOs to write ACR of upazila project implementation officers for the sake of "checking irregularities and maintaining administrative discipline".

Dhaka DC sought a policy on the use and sale of antibiotics and punishment for those who sell antibiotics without prescriptions from registered doctors.

DC of Gaibandha proposed having a specific guideline for the journalists of online news portals. "In absence of

Now, however, New Zealand are the adapters chasing England's pace. That does not necessarily mean that they will be clear underdogs in the title-decider. They have proven to be remarkably awake to situations on the pitch. While McCullum blazed a new trail in 2015, Kane Williamson's men are performing a function that has been a reality of New Zealand cricket since inception. Being a small country with a tiny talent pool, recognition of limitations has been their tried and tested method to success. And that is what they have done throughout the World Cup -- be it in pacing their chase against Bangladesh on June 5 and winning by a whisker, or resetting targets when batting in Manchester in the semifinal against India, when they bucked a three-match losing streak to beat the pre-tournament favourites in a match that rain had extended to the reserve day on July 10. Their adaptability has seen them through to the finals despite being the only team other than Afghanistan not to have scored 300 in the edition.

"I think most teams expected scores to be a lot higher than what we have seen, but the reality of it is that they have been quite tough surfaces and there's been surfaces that have aged throughout perhaps a match on one day," Williamson said. "Trying to make those adjustments are really important. I think both sides looked at the surface [in the semifinal], thought it was a really good one, and thought perhaps 300 was going to be at play, but after 15 overs or so, we were saying 'this is really quite difficult and 300 looks like a long, long way away' so if we are able to perhaps achieve something a little bit more realistic on that surface, then that gives you every chance to win. And we have done it on a number of occasions but we will have to be good at doing that tomorrow."

The pitch at Lord's bore a green look and that may favour the Kiwis a little more as their seam attack has been the most consistent in the World Cup so far. Their bowling attack is the only one to have conceded runs at less than five an over and against a side that have scored at more than six an over throughout the tournament, that will probably be the main battle in deciding the new champions.

While England, having won their league match comfortably on July 3, will start as favourites, both sides have shown that the tools at their disposal -- aggression and adaptability -- can win the day. As Williamson said, it will all come down to responding to conditions and realities on the day.

database of journalists, it has become tough to recognise those engaging in yellow journalism," says the proposal.

Rangpur DC proposed sending the best teachers from schools in urban areas to rural schools as guest teachers for improving the quality of education there.

Narayanganj DC sought a policy for stopping provocative sermons by some religious leaders on social media. The DC said the sermons were available on YouTube and Facebook and in some cases, the sermons were anti-women.

Habiganj DC proposed hiking licence and licence renewal fees for brick kilns for discouraging the business which harms the environment.

Currently, the licence fee for a brickfield is Tk 1,000 and it includes a VAT of Tk 100, while the renewal fee is Tk 500 with VAT of Tk 75.

The DCs of Pirojpur, Barguna, Lakshimpur, Madaripur and Shariatpur said food assistance for each fisherman during fishing bans should be increased.

DC of Jashore proposed providing freedom fighters with smart cards so that they have easier access to different government benefits.

The DCs also proposed setting up Education TV, renovating risky primary school buildings, introducing stipend for pre-primary students, ensuring permanent attorney service and setting up food safety authorities at divisional and district levels.

The DCs will meet President Abdul Hamid at the Bangabhaban tomorrow. The next day, they will meet Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain.

A separate session with the CJ has been kept on the basis of recommendations from DCs as it is their responsibility to comply with Supreme Court directives on field administrations, said a cabinet division official.

A total of 366 decisions were taken at the previous DC conference held in July last year and 92.90 percent of them were implemented, the official said.

Grenade attack on Ukraine TV channel

AFP, Kiev

A grenade launcher fired at the building of a Ukrainian television channel on Saturday after it announced plans to air a controversial documentary featuring Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The attack at around 3:40 am (00:40 GMT), described as terrorism by officials, caused no injuries but damaged a sign on the facade of the offices of "112 Ukraine" channel, police said.