

PHOTO OF THE DAY

FARHANA MIRZA



This capped langur (hanuman) was spotted recently at Munshiganj's Sirajdikhan locality. This species of langur has been enlisted as "vulnerable" by IUCN. Forest officials have advised people not to disturb the feral animal.

Assailants kept track of Savar AL leader's movement: investigators

Wife of prime accused in murder case gives confessional statement to court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Wife of the prime accused in a case filed over the killing of Savar Awami League leader Abdul Mazid in a confessional statement before a Dhaka court has said Mazid was killed in a planned way, according to investigators.

Afroza Begum, 27, wife of Mikail Mollah, 60, gave the statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on Monday, said Saiful Islam, inspector (investigation) of Savar Model Police Station.

"We believe it was a pre-planned murder, and took place over establishing supremacy in the area," said Saiful, also the case's investigation officer.

According to police, criminals shot Mazid in the head near his home in Bakartpur area on Saturday night while he was returning from Dhaka. He was declared dead at Enam Medical College Hospital.

Mazid, 37, was the assistant public affairs secretary of Savar municipality unit AL.

A few days ago, Mazid and his neighbour Mikail had an altercation that led to Mazid slapping him. Since then, Mikail and his associates had been plotting revenge, said the IO quoting Afroza. "She said they kept track of when Mazid left and returned

home," the IO added.

He did not disclose how many people were involved in the incident for the sake of investigation.

During the attack, another local AL activist sustained bullet injuries. He is receiving treatment at a hospital.

Saidur Rahman, additional superintendent (crime) of Dhaka district police, said Mazid's father filed the murder case with Savar Police Station against nine named and eight to nine unnamed people.

The accused are Mikail, Anwar, 60; Morin Hossain, 45; Moktar Hossain, 40; Swapan, 38; Sujat, 38; Babu, 26; Munir, 20; and Ripon, 20. All of them are neighbours of Mazid.

The IO said police detained Afroza, who is the second wife of Mikail, and Moktar for questioning. They were shown arrested and produced before the court, which sent Afroza to jail after hearing her statement. It also placed Moktar on a two-day remand.

Abul Kashem, father of Mazid, told The Daily Star yesterday that his son was murdered as he was vocal against Mikail and his associates' narcotics business. He demanded a fair investigation and capital punishment for the killers.

'ILLEGAL ENROLMENT FOR DUCSU' Our admission was valid: BCL leaders

DU CORRESPONDENT

Those who were elected from Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) panel in Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu), yesterday echoed the dean of Business Studies faculty regarding the enrolment of 34 former and incumbent BCL leaders in an evening programme of the Faculty of Business Studies without admission test.

At a press conference held at the Ducusu building, the leaders claimed that those who completed graduation and post-graduation from DU can be enrolled in any evening programme only through a viva-voce.

"Those who were elected in the Ducusu election, got admitted following the university's rules and regulations. A specific student organisation is being blamed for it and it is being said that special treatment was given to the activists of that student body. This is not true, leaders and activists of other active student organisations were also enrolled in the same way," said Ducusu assistant general secretary and DU unit BCL general secretary Saddam Hussain.

A media report which unveiled that the 34 BCL leaders got enrolled in the university ahead of the election without any admission test or viva voce. Eight of them were elected in Ducusu and hall unions.

After announcement of the polls schedule on February 11, these former and current leaders of BCL got enrolled under Masters of Tax Management programme to carry on their studentship; the admission test was held on November 30, 2018, according to the media report.

As per the admission rules, an applicant has to appear in the written admission test and viva-voce for admission, but

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

'We must change our feudal mindset'

Mujibul Haque says on ending child domestic labour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The practice of employing children as domestic workers will never stop in Bangladesh if people do not change their mindset, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

The mindset of keeping a child, particularly female, to do household work will not change easily if there are no strict rules and regulations, so the government should formulate a separate act regarding this issue, they added.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), a coalition of 269 non-government organisations, in association with Terre des Hommes Netherlands and Global March Against Child Labour, organised the discussion on rights of child domestic workers at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

"Child domestic workers become victims of physical, mental and sexual abuse almost every day," said Abdullah Al Mamun, a director of Save the Children.

They are also exploited by their employers, not even given sufficient breaks, and most often don't have access to education, medical treatment and entertainment, he said in a keynote presentation.

"We have to change this mindset of employing children for domestic work... do not we feel any shame making children do our work?" asked Mamun.



Discussants at the programme, held at The Daily Star Centre.

PHOTO: STAR

In 2015, the government approved a policy for protection of domestic workers, setting 12 years as the minimum age for the work. But it eventually failed to protect them, he said. The child rights specialist suggested changing the minimum age to 14.

"Almost none follows the policy as it is not mandatory. We need an act to prevent children from getting involved in domestic labour," Mamun said.

Mahmudul Kabir, country director of

Terre des Hommes in Bangladesh, said destitute parents used to send their children for domestic work previously, but the situation has changed.

As the financial status of Bangladesh has improved significantly in the recent years, employers now search for domestic help through brokers, he added.

"We don't want to see any child as domestic worker. This practice needs to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

TORTURE, DOWRY CASE Woman attempts suicide following husband's acquittal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman attempted to take her own life by ingesting poison yesterday, after a court acquitted her husband in a dowry case.

The incident took place in front of Chattogram Woman and Child Repression and Prevention Tribunal-5, after tribunal judge Habibur Rahman Siddique delivered the verdict, said court sources.

Selina Akhter was rushed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) by police, said Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Kamruzzaman of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

She had filed the case accusing her husband in 2018, said court sources.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Advocate Jishu Kanti Das told The Daily Star, "She filed the case against her husband, alleging he tortured her for dowry. The court had set yesterday for verdict after hearing all witnesses and examining the records."

"The court acquitted Jashed and the woman took poison outside the courtroom, when she learned of the verdict," said Advocate Jishu.

On-duty police personnel at the court building rescued her, he added. The condition of the woman could not be known until filing of this report.

Rab seizes counterfeit drugs worth Tk 6 crore 2 jailed in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized sub-standard and counterfeit medicine worth Tk 6 crore, and jailed two persons in connection with selling those.

Rab Executive Magistrate Sarower Alam led the nine-and-a-half hour drive in Hatirpool area, starting at noon.

Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) assisted the drive. Jahangir Alam, owner of Silvan Trading Company, was sentenced to two years' jail and was fined Tk 20 lakh.

His staffer Nurul Islam was sentenced to six months' jail.

The court also fined Tk 20 lakh to Total Pharma in the area.

The executive magistrate said the culprits used to buy sub-standard drugs from Mitford area, and swapped the labels of those with foreign drug companies.

Later, they used to sell those drugs in connivance with some scrupulous physicians in exchange for money, Sarower Alam added.

They have been running the illegal business for the last three years, he said, adding that Rab will destroy the drugs today at the Matuail landfill.

RANGPUR-3 BY-POLLS

Electioneering begins with symbol allocation

BSS, Rangpur

Candidates of the Rangpur-3 parliamentary by-election started electioneering in the constituency yesterday, after getting allocation of respective symbols from the returning officer.

Rangpur Regional Election Officer and Returning Officer for the by-polls GM Sahatab Uddin allocated the symbols among six candidates at his conference room.

The returning officer allocated symbol "wooden plough" for Jatiya Party (JP)-nominated candidate Rahgir Al Mahi Saad Ershad, "sheaf of paddy" for BNP-nominated candidate Rita Rahman, "motor bus" for independent candidate Hossain Mokbul Shahriar Asif, "mango" for National People's Party candidate Shafiqul Alam, "fish" for Gono Front candidate Muhammad Shahidullah and "wall clock" for Tauhidur Khelafat Majlish-nominated candidate Rahman Mandal Raju.

After getting their respective symbols, most contesting candidates and their supporters started election campaigns

through bringing out rallies and visiting door-to-door, seeking votes for their respective candidates and symbols.

Talking to the news agency yesterday, the returning officer said a total of 4,41,224 voters are eligible to cast their votes in Rangpur-3 by-election, slated for October 5. Voting of the by-election will be held using the electronic voting machines (EVMs) at all 1,023 booths of 175 polling centres across the constituency from 9am to 5pm on the day.

"A total of 3,244 election officials, including 175 presiding officers and 3,069 assistant presiding officers and polling officers will conduct the voting process at all 175 polling centres in the constituency," Sahatab said.

Earlier, twelve aspirants collected nomination papers to vie for the by-polls," he said.

However, three of them, including Awami League (AL) leader Abdul Mazid, JP leaders SM Fakhr-uz-Zaman Jahangir and SM Yasser did not submit their nominations papers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Students of mass communication and journalism at Khulna University formed a human chain on campus yesterday, demanding that suspension of Fatema Tuz Zinba, a student of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University in Gopalganj, be withdrawn immediately.

PHOTO: STAR

Road accidents kill four

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed in road accidents in three districts during the last two days, report our correspondents, and news agencies.

In Faridpur, Zakir Sheikh, 42, was killed on the spot when a truck ran over his motorbike in Pukuriya Bus Stand area of Bhanga upazila around 1:30pm yesterday, said police, quoting locals.

The truck driver fled the scene with the vehicle.

In Panchagarh, local NGO worker Biplab Rabbani, 42, was killed when a truck ran him over in Bypass area of Boda upazila yesterday.

Witnesses said Biplab fell off his bicycle and was run over by the vehicle.

In Gazipur, two people were killed when a bus ran over the motorbike carrying them in Mawna area of Sreepur upazila around 10pm on Monday, said police, quoting locals.

The deceased are Lutfur Rahman, 28, and Nazmus Sakib, 35.

Nazmus died on the spot. Locals rushed Lutfur to a nearby health complex where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Police seized the bus but its driver managed to flee. The deceased's body was handed over to his family.

Sandha Rani no more

CITY DESK

Sandha Rani Saha, wife of late Aswini Kumar Saha, from Jafarabad area in Mirsarai of Chattogram, breathed her last in a Dhaka hospital on September 14. She was 90, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons, two daughters, grandsons and granddaughters to mourn her death.

Her body was taken to a temple in Mirpur's Pikepara, and later to Jafarabad Sarbojanin Matrimandir Prangon. Her funeral was held at her family crematory in Mirsarai of Chattogram.

Her shradha will be held on September 29 at her Jafarabad residence. Her relatives and well-wishers are requested to join the programme.

NOTICE OF BRANCH RELOCATION

This is to inform all concerned that Citibank, N.A.; Bangladesh, Motijheel Branch, (23, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000) will be relocated to DR Tower, 65/2/2 Culvert Road, Dhaka-1000, with effect from September 22, 2019.

All our valued clients of Motijheel Branch are requested to contact our new location for any banking services please.

We sincerely regret for any inconvenience caused.

For any further information, you may reach out to Citibank, N.A.; Bangladesh in the following details:

Email : bangladesh.citibank@citibank.com
Phone: +8809666991000

Citibank, N.A. incorporated in the USA with limited liabilities