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**"Don't try to console me, I can't bear it... Tell me where and how I will get [back] my son."**  
ROKEYA KHATUN, ABRAR FAHAD'S MOTHER

**"You can't just beat someone to death for having a different opinion. Whoever is the criminal, the law will take its own course."**  
AWAMI LEAGUE GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER

**"The ruthless murder of Abrar has once again exposed that the government wants to maintain its Hitler-like autocratic rule by eliminating dissenting voices."**  
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR

## Buet student beaten to death

### Critical FB post costs him his life?

10 BCL men promptly arrested; outrage sweeps through campuses



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bruises on his body speak of the cruelty Abrar Fahad suffered. His hands, legs and back -- injury marks were everywhere.

The second-year Buet student died after he was brutally beaten allegedly by some Chhatra League leaders at a university dormitory sometime between 7:00pm Sunday and 2:30am yesterday.

The incident triggered a firestorm of protests on campuses across the country. Many took to the social media to demand justice for Abrar.

Law enforcers suspect the 22-year-old student of the university's electrical and electronic engineering department

was attacked because of one of his recent Facebook posts, which seemed critical of some recent deals with India.

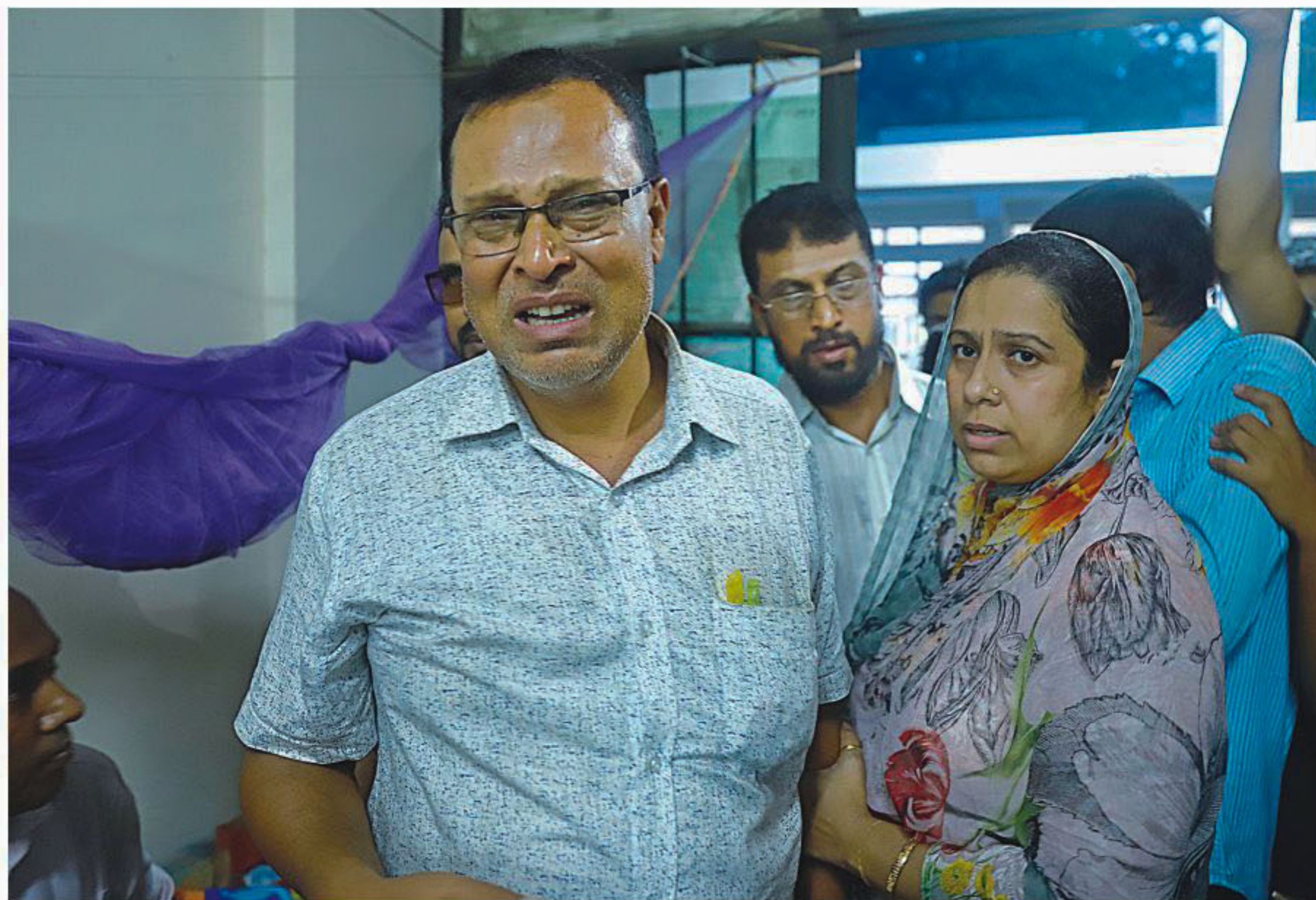
They said 10 members of Buet BCL were arrested in connection with the murder.

The arrestees include the chapter's General Secretary Mehedi Hasan Rasel and Joint Secretary Muhtasim Fuad, who is also the vice president of the university's BCL Sher-e-Bangla Hall unit.

"They have been taken into police custody," Chawkbazar police station Officer-in-Charge Md Sohrab Hossain told The Daily Star.

Last night, Abrar's father Barkat Ullah filed a murder case against 19, including

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## 2011: a room of horror and dread

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Room 2011.

It is the second last room located on the first floor of the five-storey Sher-e-Bangla Hall at Buet.

Although innocuous-looking from the outside, the room is known among the students to be a torture cell and a party hub.

This is also where Abrar Fahad, a second-year student at the university's electrical and electronic engineering department, was assaulted by Chhatra League activists

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Barkat Ullah, the father of Abrar Fahad, breaks down in tears at his son's dormitory room yesterday. Below, a CCTV footage grab shows several Buet students carrying Abrar.



This kind of violence is unheard of

Says Prof Serajul Islam Chy



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury yesterday said the brutal suppression of dissent at universities is alarming because these institutions are supposed to nurture free speech.

"Universities should set examples for the society on how the culture of democratic practices and the differences of opinion could be ensured," the academician said in a telephone interview on the killing of Buet student Abrar Fahad.

"Universities are models for society. If universities lack space for differences of opinion and dissent, we do not see any hope," he added.

Abrar was a second-year student of electrical and electronic engineering at

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## More poor in urban areas by 2030

Says WB's Bangladesh's Poverty Assessment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chasing pot of gold, people have long been setting off for urban areas from rural Bangladesh.

But that pot would be incredibly hard to find come 2030 as per the World Bank's latest report: more than half of Bangladesh's poor households will live in urban areas by then even though 8 in 10 poor currently live in rural areas.

"Urban is the frontier in poverty reduction," said the report styled 'Bangladesh Poverty Assessment: Facing Old and New Frontiers in Poverty Reduction'.

The report, which is based on the latest iteration of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey, was unveiled yesterday in a daylong event at the Amari Dhaka, where Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal was the chief guest.

Very little poverty reduction occurred in urban areas between 2010 and 2016 and the share of urban people living in extreme poverty remained the same, found the report.

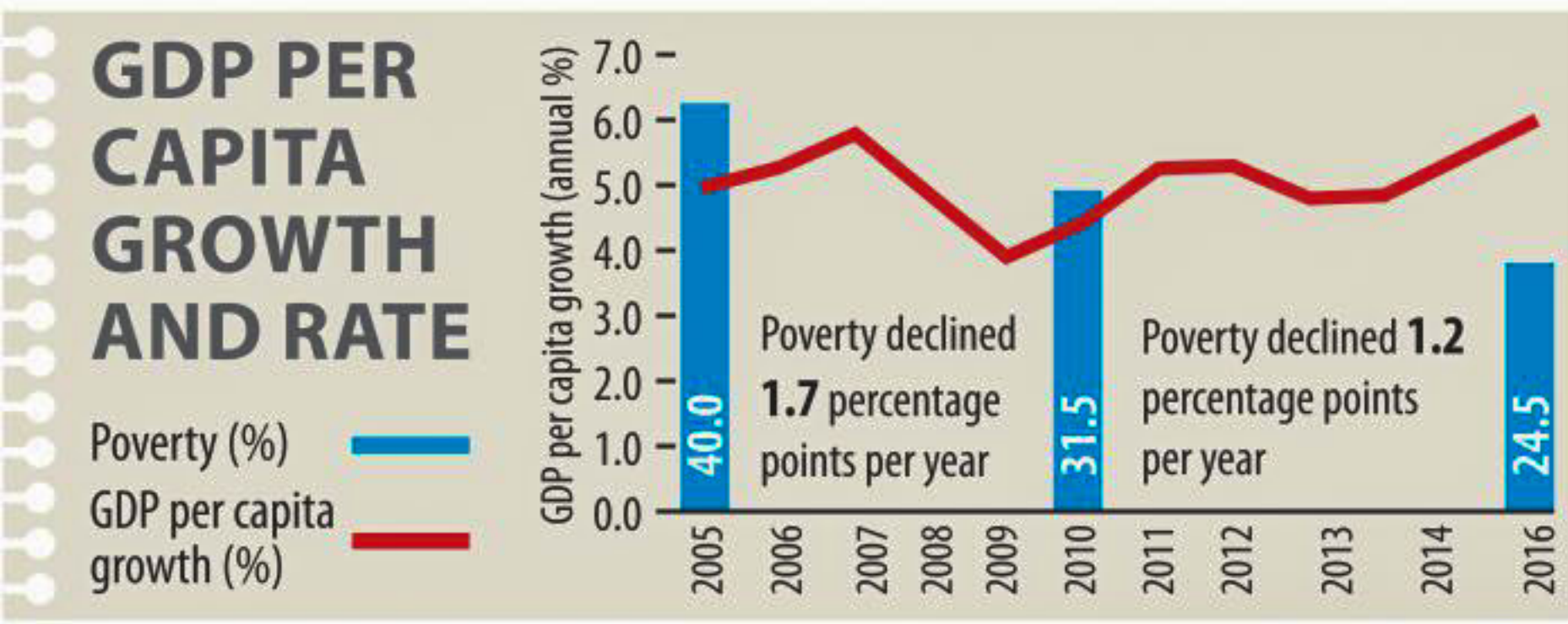
In 2010, 21.3 percent of the urban population were living in poverty and 7.7 percent in extreme poverty. Six years later, the ratios were 19.3 percent and 8 percent respectively.

As a result, the rate of poverty reduction declined, the report said.

The finding is rather perplexing given the tremendous pace of economic growth during the period.

About one in four Bangladeshis still live

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## I don't know how, bring back my son

Mother wails as relatives console her in vain

AMANUR AMAN, from Kushtia

"Bring back my son alive."

This is all Rokeya Khatun could say as her relatives tried to console her in her home on Kushtia town's PITI Road.

Grieving over the loss of her elder son Abrar Fahad alias Rabbi, 22, a second-year electrical and electronics engineering student at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), Rokeya kept fainting while crying.

Abrar was beaten to death sometime between 7:00pm on Sunday and 3:00am yesterday, allegedly by Bangladesh Chhatra League men at the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall.

He was declared dead yesterday morning by the hall's resident doctor.

"Don't try to console me, I can't bear it," Rokeya told her relatives, who have been at her home since yesterday morning.

A kindergarten teacher, she was a proud mother of two sons.

"My son was a gift from the Almighty. I have never faced any trouble raising my two sons. He [Abrar] was always first in classes," Rokeya was heard telling herself.

"Where and how will I get my son?" she asked, sitting on a chair from which she collapsed multiple times.

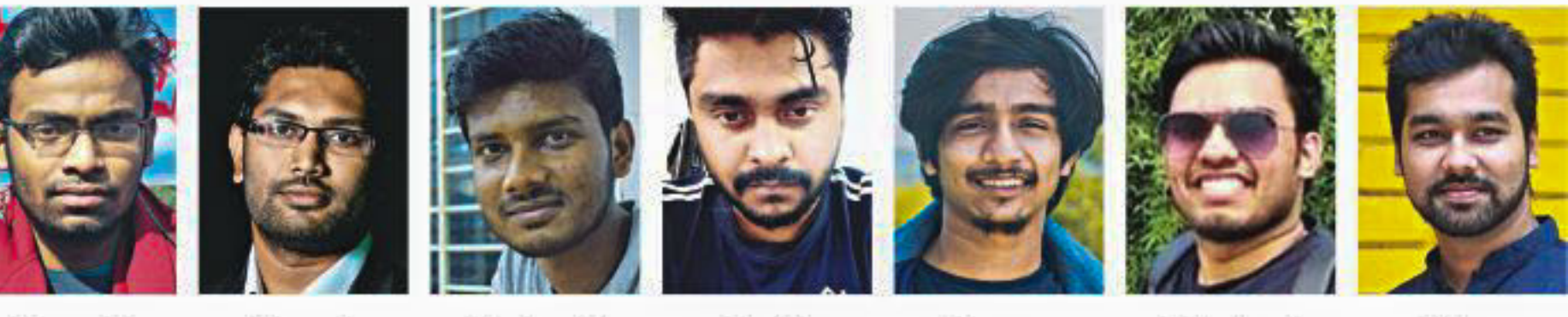
Her younger son Sabbir Fahad is a higher secondary student in Dhaka College. Her husband Barkatullah is a retired Brac official.

Rokeya was unaware of son's death until her relatives and locals started gathering in her home yesterday morning.

She said she last spoke to Abrar on the telephone around 5:00pm on Sunday.

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## THE ARRESTEES



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the brutal killing of Buet student Abrar Fahad, police promptly arrested at least 10 suspects.

The Daily Star verified the identity of the arrestees from different sources. All of them are leaders of Buet unit Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Mehedi Hasan Rasel of civil engineering batch-13 is the general secretary of Buet BCL.

Muhtasim Fuad of civil engineering batch-14 is the vice-president.

Mehedi Hasan Robein of chemical engineering batch-15 is the organising secretary.

Anik Sarker of mechanical engineering batch-15 is the secretary of information and research affairs.

Ishtiaq Hasan Munna of mechanical engineering batch-15 is the publication affairs secretary.

Ifiti Mosharraf Shakal of biomedical engineering batch-16 is the deputy social welfare secretary.

Meftahul Islam Zion of naval architecture and marine engineering batch-15 is the sports secretary.

Muzahidur Rahman Muzahid of civil engineering batch-17, Muntasir Alam Jemini

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## Narco, arms cases filed against Samrat

ACC probing his wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat used to lead a large gang whose members would often torture those who refused to pay extortion money or opposed him, Rab claimed yesterday.

For this, the gang resorted to electric shocks.

Samrat amassed a huge amount of money through illegal casino business, tender grabbing and extortion, say statements of two cases filed against the former Jubo League Dhaka South president.

A Rab official lodged the cases with Ramna Police Station yesterday afternoon under the arms and the narcotics control acts.

In the narcotics case, Samrat's aide Enamul Haque Arman, expelled Jubo League Dhaka South vice president, has also been made an accused.

The Rab arrested Samrat and Arman in Cumilla early

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## WE MOURN

Veteran Industrialist and Social Worker, our honorable Director and former Managing Director of IHL and Australian International School, **Mr. Feroz Alam** has expired on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the age of 63 (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). We all pray to Almighty Allah for granting him Jannat.

Directors and All Employees of

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## ছড়ায় ছড়ায় শুদ্ধাচার

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কেউ কখনও অসং লোকের  
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