

## Minor girl killed, dumped in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police yesterday recovered the body of a six-year-old girl in Pabna's Sujanagar upazila who went missing three days ago.

The victim -- Tania Akter, 6, of the upazila's Borkhapur village -- went missing from her home on Thursday, said Bodruddoza, officer-in-charge of Sujanagar Police Station.

Police primarily suspected that the girl was strangled to death. Later, the murderer tied her body with bricks and drowned it in a local pond, he added.

Yesterday, locals noticed the body floating in the pond. On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body, he further said.

The body was sent to Pabna Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The victim's father filed a case with the police station accusing one named and some unnamed people.

Later in the day, police arrested the lone named accused Arzu, 40, who is a neighbour of the victim.

According to the victim's family members, Tania's father and the accused had a long standing enmity and the murder might have taken place over that.

## Regulator halts LR Global's investment in bdnews24.com

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The stock market regulator yesterday put a pause on LR Global Bangladesh's investment of Tk 50 crore in local online newspaper bdnews24.com and instructed the asset management firm to hand in all documents within 24 hours to verify if the transaction is compliant with securities rules.

As per securities rules, an asset manager can invest in listed securities, initial public offerings (IPO), pre-IPO placement shares and securities that are transferable in the money market.

But bdnews24.com is a non-listed company.

"So, we want to check whether the investment follows all rules," said a top official of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on condition of anonymity.

In 2015, LR Global Bangladesh, an asset management firm, was fined Tk 50 lakh for its investment in four non-listed private companies: Guardian Healthcare, Thyrocare Bangladesh, Property Investors and Tribeca Management.

Contacted, Reaz Islam, managing director and chief executive officer of LR Global Bangladesh, said: "We follow all the existing rules."

Toufique Imrose Khalidi, editor-in-chief of bdnews24.com, said: "We followed all rules and regulations and closed the transaction after a long process. LR Global has also consulted with lawyers."

## Bus conductor sent to jail for attempted rape of minor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Habiganj court yesterday sent a bus conductor to jail on charges of attempting to rape a third-grader girl in a running bus in the district's Madhabpur upazila.

Manik Mollah, of Noakhali's Sonaimuri upazila, is the conductor of Ena Paribahan.

KM Amiruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Madhabpur Police Station, said the girl, along with her parents, was going to Dhaka in the bus from Baniaichong upazila on Saturday afternoon.

Manik took the girl, 10, to the back seat and tried to rape her at Itakhola of Madhabpur.

Hearing her screams, her parents and other passengers rescued her and caught Manik.

Later, he was handed over to police.

The girl's father said he lives in Dhaka and works as a gardener there. His daughter is a school student in Baniaichong.

The OC said the father filed a case against Manik with Madhabpur Police Station on Saturday night.

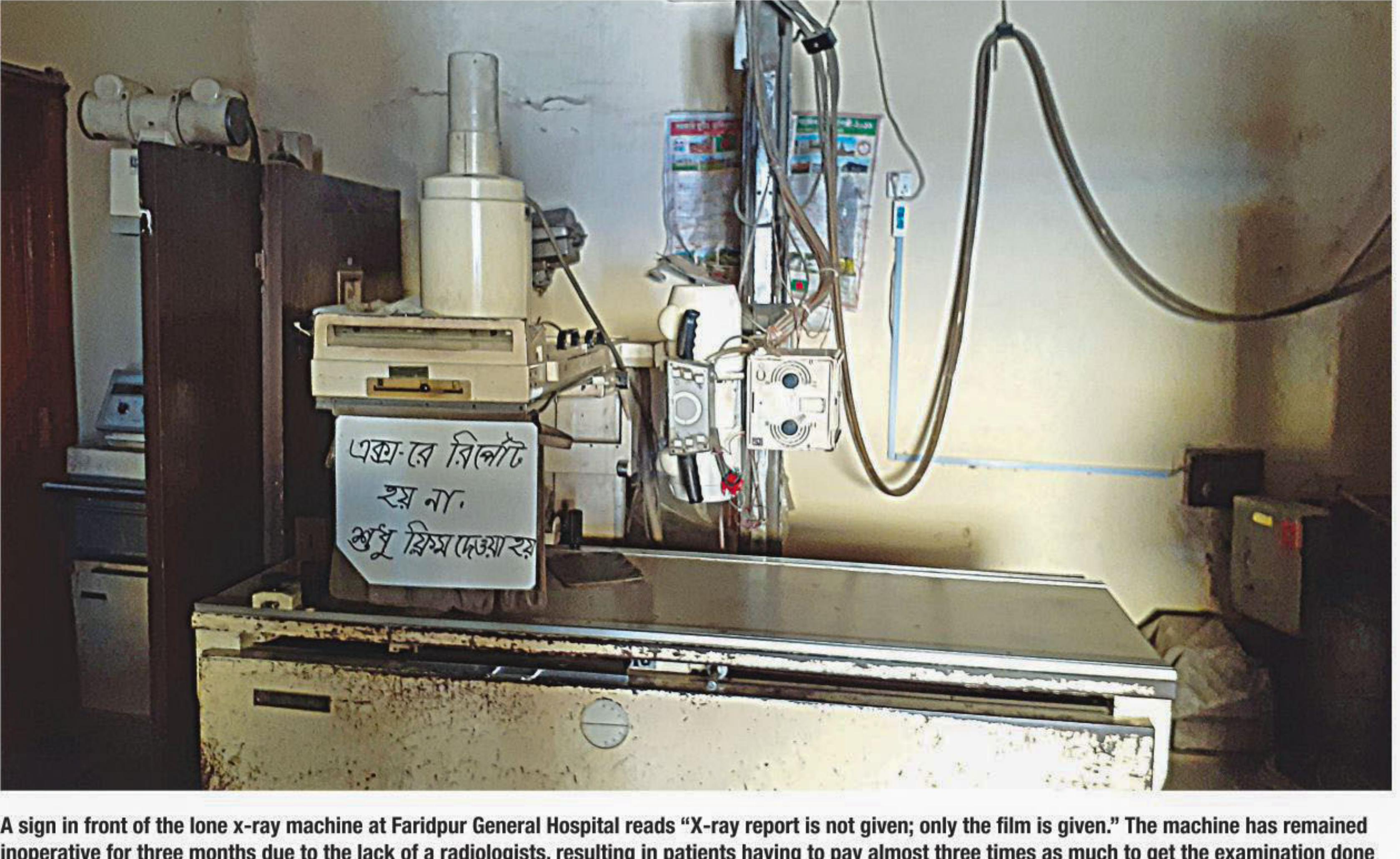
The accused was produced before a court that sent him to jail yesterday.

## Scotland releases man mistaken for French murder suspect

AFP, Glasgow

Scotland's police on Saturday released a man after he was mistaken for a French fugitive wanted for killing his wife and four children eight years ago.

French judicial sources had initially believed that they had finally caught up with Xavier Dupont de Ligonnes, who was subject to an international arrest warrant for the 2011 killings which transfixed France.



A sign in front of the lone x-ray machine at Faridpur General Hospital reads "X-ray report is not given; only the film is given." The machine has remained inoperative for three months due to the lack of radiologists, resulting in patients having to pay almost three times as much to get the examination done at private diagnostic centres. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

## 37pc teachers rely on 'guidebooks'

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Teachers in Bangladesh in the Light of SDG 4, shows that less than half the teachers of religion, accounting, Bangla, Bangladesh and global studies, biology, ICT, higher mathematics, geography, and history have subject-specific training.

"Many of these teachers resort to using [unauthorised] guidebooks to overcome their shortcomings," Rasheda said.

The researchers interviewed 3,000 teachers from 600 government and private secondary educational institutions across the country.

### "GUIDEBOOKS"

English and mathematics teachers use the so-called guidebooks sold in the market to teach students of every grade in the secondary level. Physics, chemistry and higher mathematics teachers use such books in grade IX and X classrooms, the survey found.

In all grades of the secondary institutes, 39 percent of English teachers, 33 mathematics teachers, 23 percent science teachers, 21.5 percent Bangla teachers, and 17.1 percent Bangladesh and global studies teachers use such books.

The rampant use of "guidebooks", instead of the government provided textbooks, and private tutoring are major impediments to improving the quality of education, the report observes.

### SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

67% have second occupation

37.5 percent use "guidebooks"

22.4 % engaged in private tutoring

Two-thirds dissatisfied with salary

SOURCE: EDUCATION WATCH 2018-19

their classroom teaching, the report says.

"As these teachers fail to properly teach students, the latter become dependent on guidebooks and look for private tutors," said Rasheda.

### PRIVATE TUITION

Although it is likely that some of the teachers may have not revealed the truth, 22.4 percent acknowledge that

they are involved in private tutoring.

About 50 percent of the maths teachers are involved in private tutoring. They are followed by English teachers, 37.5 percent of whom are involved in private tutoring.

The teachers revealed that they do this to earn something that can compensate for their meagre pay, the report mentions.

Teachers, mostly from the private educational institutions, reported that their salary and benefits were not enough to run their families.

"Majority of the science teachers, including myself, are involved in private tutoring. I cannot maintain my family with the salary I draw from my school... I have to engage in private tutoring," a chemistry teacher of a school in Sylhet was quoted by the report as saying.

### SECOND JOB

As a second job, 23.3 percent of the teachers are into farming, 19.5 percent into household management, 11.3 percent into private tutoring, 4.4 percent into small and medium businesses, 2.8 percent into aquaculture and 5.7 percent into other occupations.

The average annual income of a teacher is Tk 2,59,601. It is Tk 5,37,804 for government teachers, Tk 2,86,034 for MPO enlisted teachers and 1,41,035 for non-MPO teachers, one of the researchers, Samir Ranjan

Nath told this newspaper.

Only 29 percent of the teachers were satisfied with their salary.

The teachers said they taught more than three subjects. On an average, they teach for 16 hours and 10 minutes a week.

Question papers for exams are prepared through different means. Only 43.7 percent of the teachers said they themselves prepare the question papers.

The report says, 36.8 percent bought the question papers from different teachers' associations, 14.4 percent from market, and 10.3 percent took the help of their colleagues.

There are 29,330 secondary level educational institutions with 358,907 teachers against 1,21,97,554 students across the country, said the report.

### THE GOVERNMENT SAYS

Speaking at the report launching ceremony, Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury said the report was an objective assessment of secondary education.

He said the government would improve the quality of education.

He added that the guidebook sellers were powerful businessmen who compel teachers to recommend the guidebooks to students. The teachers receive a cut from the sales.

"We need cooperation from all," he said.

Denying the allegation, Satya Prasad, said, "We regularly visited the halls and monitored the activities of the students. There were some incidents of ragging which lasted for the first two to three weeks after freshmen came to the university."

He claimed that during his term -- December 2016 to May 2019 -- they took action regarding all the incidents.

"Monitoring and vigilance in halls has stopped since the present DSW director assumed office," he said.

Both Delwar and Satya Prasad said Mizanur Rahman cannot shrug off his responsibility as the killing took place during his time.

Dr AKM Masud, president of Buet Teachers' Association, also echoed their view.

Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, president of Buet Alumni, said basically DSW acts as coordinator of the provosts. "The DSW director cannot deny his failure as he is the custodian of the students in halls," he added.

## Court frames

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