

## Madrasa boy dies a day after beating by teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, MADARIPUR

A madrasa student died of injuries on Wednesday, a day after he was beaten mercilessly by one of his teachers in Sadar upazila of Madaripur.

The 11-year-old Asif Matabbar, son of Anwar Matabbar of Sreenoddi in the upazila, was a residential student of class-II in Gachbaria Jamia Karimia Madrasa.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said Asif was allegedly beaten by his teacher Yusuf Ali on Sunday as he refused to comply with Yusuf's order.

"A 500 taka note fell from the pocket of Yusuf and he ordered Asif to pick that up. As the boy refused to do so, the teacher beat him," said Saugatul Alam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Thana.

Out of distress, the boy returned home but did not tell anybody about the incident, the police said.

Asif's parents took him back to the madrasa on Tuesday. After they left, Yusuf started beating him again, and at one point the boy lost consciousness, said the OC.

The madrasa authorities took the victim to Madaripur General Hospital around 5:00pm saying the boy took poison, he said, adding that Asif died in the hospital at 6:30pm on Wednesday.

Medical Officer Akhil Sarkar said the victim had marks of torture all over his body and he might have had some internal injuries.

Meanwhile, the news of Asif's death surged into an uproar as locals in the community rushed to the hospital and protested the incident, police said.

They caught madrasa teacher Abul Hasan Khan, who brought Asif to the hospital, and handed him over to the police. Yusuf Ali is on the run.

The victim's father Anwar demanded justice for his son saying: "Yusuf killed my son and I want justice!"

Salma Begum, the victim's mother, has been in tremendous shock since the incident.

Asif was their only child since their eldest son had died of cancer several years back.

OC Saugatul said they sent the body to Madaripur General Hospital morgue for an autopsy. No case was filed regarding this till the filing of the report at 8:30pm yesterday.

Condemning the incident, National Human Rights Commission recommended the authorities concerned to take swift actions against the culprit involved in the killing.

The Daily Star correspondent tried to contact the superintendent of the madrasa over phone for comments but found his phone switched off.

## 9th edition

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this year will be a screening of "Hasina: A Daughter's Tale".

Like in previous years, the festival will feature a number of panel sessions dedicated to freedom of expression and women's rights. It will also be the venue for the Gemcon Literary Awards, which will be hosted by DLF.

Sadaf Saaz, the director of Dhaka Lit Fest, in her welcome address, expressed her passion for the literary world. "Books, stories and poetry shaped the person I am today," she said.

"Literary festivals seem very relevant and important today, to connect to each other in real time. We hope that Dhaka Lit Fest is a place for making a huge range of perspectives with respect and tolerance."

Co-director, Kazi Anis Ahmed at the event said, "Dhaka Lit Fest is where fiction meets science, science meets poetry, poetry meets art and art meets culture."

"At the Dhaka Lit Fest, we ask questions on many topics and engage in freedom of expression. Our festival is not about finding one answer, rather we work on appreciating and celebrating different ideas."

Ahsan Akbar, another co-director, said, "In the time of digitalisation, where online platforms are easy to access, we still hold the festival where people have to come physically. We have witnessed every time a crisis strikes, the power of crowd has played a great role," he said.

Monica Ali was also present at the inaugural ceremony. "I am excited, honoured and grateful to be here today. When I left Dhaka in 1971, I was only three-and-half years old. Although Bangla was absent in my life, but in musical records, in television, newspaper and in literature it was present in my life," she recalled. "It's good to be back here, and attending the literary festival."

The director general of Bangla Academy, Habibullah Siraji and the State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid MP, along with the three directors and Monica Ali, officially inaugurated the Dhaka Lit Fest 2019. Over 200 local and international literary figures, performers and intellectuals from five continents will attend the three-day literary festival with over 100 sessions. It is open for all.

The festival will conclude on November 9.

## Khoka laid to rest

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Committee members Mirza Abbas and Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku received the body while a number of leaders and activists of the party were present at the airport. Later, the coffin of Khoka was taken to the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad where his first namaz-e-janaza was held. Current and former MPs, leaders of different political parties and the people from all walks of life took part in the janaza.

From the parliament compound, Khoka's body was taken to Central Shaheed Minar and it was kept from 12pm-1:00pm enabling people of all walks of life to pay their last respect to the valiant freedom fighter.

From there, the body of Khoka was taken to BNP's Nayapaltan central office around 1:30pm and kept on a temporary stage in front of it where leaders and activists of the party paid their last respect.

Thousands of BNP leaders and activists from its different front and associate bodies gathered in Nayapaltan area and bid tearful adieu to their beloved leader.

Later, his third (second in the country) namaz-e-janaza was held in the area where thousands of party leaders and activists joined.

After the janaza, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir along with party's senior leaders, including Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, placed wreaths on Khoka's coffin on behalf of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia. They also draped the coffin with a party flag showing respect to the late leader.

In a brief address prior to a Janaza, Fakhru said, "We are here in front of

the beloved party office of Sadeque Hossain Khoka to join his janaza. He had been out of the country for five years as he was subjected to the government's vengeance. The government implicated him in false cases and convicted him."

Stating that Khoka played an outstanding role in liberating Bangladesh, he lamented that the valiant freedom fighter could not breathe his last in his motherland.

The BNP leader said the vacuum that was created following the death of Khoka will never be filled.

Khoka's son Ishraque Hossain said his father was loyal to his party and its chairperson until his last breath.

"His last word to me was not to make any compromise over bringing him back to the country. He told me don't do anything without the consent of Khaleda Zia and BNP as he didn't want anybody to call him collaborator for making any understanding with the government," Ishraque said.

Then Khoka's body was taken to his former office, which is now known as Dhaka South City Corporation Bhaban, for his third namaz-e-janaza. His body was then taken to his Gopibag house.

Khoka passed away in the USA on Monday at the age of 68.

A janaza of Khoka was earlier held at Jamaica Muslim Center in New York.

He had been suffering from kidney cancer since 2014. He along with his wife went to the USA in 2014 for treatment.

Khoka has left behind his wife Ismat Ara, daughter Sarika Sadeque, sons Ishraque Hossain, Isfaque Hossain and a host of relatives, followers and well-wishers to mourn his death.

## 'Robber' killed in 'gunfight' with cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspected robber was killed and three others were injured in a "gunfight" with law enforcers in Bhatara area of the capital yesterday.

The dead was identified as Lavlu Mia, 50, said police.

Tipped-off that a gang of robbers has gathered in Bhatara, a team of detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police went to raid the area around 2:00am, said Deputy Commissioner (media) Masudur Rahman of DMP.

During the raid, the law enforcers approached a microbus parked on the road, and tried to search the vehicle.

Sensing the presence of the detectives, the people inside the vehicle started shooting on the team, forcing them to retaliate, said the DC.

After the "gunfight", Lavlu was found wounded by bullets, and lying on the ground with the other three.

They were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Lavlu died around 4:00am, said the police, adding that the rest were undergoing treatment in the hospital.

The injured are Selim Chowkidar, 41, Kamal Hossain, 45, and Russel, 35.

Police claimed to have recovered a jacket inscribed with Rab, a pair of handcuffs, two pistols, and several bullets from the spot.

Detectives said the gang members impersonating as Rab, used to loot money and valuables from people.

## 2.25cr suffer from mental

### TYPE OF MAJOR DISORDERS FOUND in adults (%)

DISORDERS	OVERALL	MALES	FEMALES
Depressive disorders	6.7	7	6.5
Anxiety disorders	4.5	4.2	4.8
Somatic symptom and related disorders	2.1	2	2.2
Schizophrenia spectrum disorder	1	0.9	1.1
Sleep-Wake disorders	0.9	0.7	0.6
Obsessive compulsive and related disorders	0.7	0.5	0.5
Bipolar and related disorders	0.4	0.5	0.3
Neurodevelopment disorders	0.3	0.3	0.4
Neurocognitive disorders	0.3	0.4	0.2
Substance related and addictive disorders	0.2	0.1	0.4
Personality disorders	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sexual dysfunction	0.1	0.1	0.05
Disruptive, impulse control and conduct disorders	0.01	0.01	0.01

### TYPE OF MAJOR DISORDERS FOUND in children (%)

DISORDER	OVERALL	BOYS	GIRLS
Neurodevelopmental disorders	5.9	7	4.7
Anxiety disorders	4.5	3.6	1.2
Disruptive, impulse control and conduct disorders	1.9	2.7	1.2
Depressive disorders	0.4	0.3	0.5
Sleep-Wake disorders	0.6	0.7	0.5
Schizophrenia spectrum disorder and psychotic disorders	0.2	0.2	0.3
Obsessive compulsive and related disorders	0.1	0.1	-
Bipolar and related disorders	0.1	-	0.1

SOURCE: NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY OF BANGLADESH, 2018-19

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all 64 districts between April and June this year.

The report identified that adults aged between 18 and 60 are affected by 13 types of mental disorders while children aged between 7 and 17 are affected by 8 types of mental disorders.

Of adult respondents, the highest number of affected are suffering from depressive disorder (6.7%), followed by anxiety disorder (4.5%) and somatic symptom and related disorders (2.1%), says the report.

Of child respondents, 5.9 percent is suffering from neurodevelopmental disorders, followed by anxiety disorders (4.5%) and disruptive, impulse control and conduct disorders (1.9%), it says.

Also, mental disorders are more prevalent in adult females (17%) than their male counterparts (16.7%).

The report also showed that more urban adults (18.7%) are affected than the rural ones (16.2%).

It found "treatment gap" among 92.3 percent of the adult respondents and 94.5 percent of child respondents diagnosed with different mental disorders.

Principal Investigator of the report Prof Faruq Alam said people who show lack of enthusiasm in performing everyday tasks may be suffering depressive disorders.

These people may show an unwillingness to sleep, eat, go to office or even shave their beard.

Those who feel tensed and unstable, are afraid of talking to people and cannot sleep properly at night have a possibility to be diagnosed with anxiety disorders, said Prof Faruq.

Moreover, different types of body pains and headache can be caused by somatic symptom and related disorders, he said.

He suggested that physicians and doctors should have an orientation on somatic symptom related disorders as the patients suffering from such diseases often seek medical attention without realising that they are suffering from mental disorder, he further said.

Prof Faruq said 1.4 percent of the adult respondents were suffering from "major mental disorders" like schizophrenia spectrum disorders and

bipolar disorder.

"These types of patients are usually labelled as mad or abnormal," he added.

Due to excessive use of smartphones, many children were found less engaged in extra-curricular activities that developed a lack of enthusiasm in them, said NIMH Director Prof Mohit Kamal.

Such children were found less attentive at schools while many parents expressed apprehension about their children's poor exam results, he said.

However, this is a major mental health issue for the country's children, he added.

WHO Bangladesh Representative Bardan Jung Rana praised the survey report and said it was "technically sound".

Health Minister Zahid Maleque said the government made significant progress in ensuring primary healthcare for the countrymen and the time has come to include mental health in the scheme.

"We are working to this end," he said while addressing the event as the chief guest.

Pointing on the estimated 2.25 crore adults found with mental disorders, the minister said the country has only about 200 psychiatrists and psychologists to treat them.

So, there is a big gap here, he said, stressing the need for more psychiatrists and psychologists in the country.

## Trove

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found "the world's first mammoth trap," it said.

"Mammoths lived here for thousands of years. The herds grew, reproduced, died, were hunted... They lived alongside other species, including horses and camels," archaeologist Luis Cordoba told journalists.

Researchers said at least five mammoth herds lived in the area of the find.

Mexico has been the scene of surprising mammoth discoveries before.

In the 1970s, workers building the Mexico City subway found a mammoth skeleton while digging on the capital's north side.

## Doubts grow

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Akram-Al-Hossain at the secretariat to discuss the matter yesterday afternoon.

"We told them in the meeting that we would boycott the exams unless we can meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and tell her what our demands are," Oikya Parishad Member Secretary Samsuddin Masud told The Daily Star.

Government primary school teachers have been protesting for several years for 10th grade salary for headteachers and 11th grade for assistant teachers.

Currently, trained and untrained headteachers get 11th and 12th grade salaries while assistant teachers get

14th and 15th grade salaries.

There are 349,217 teachers in 65,593 government primary schools.

"After listening to the teachers demand, Akram-Al-Hossain said officials would try to help them get an appointment with the PM," said an additional secretary who was present at the meeting.

"We requested them to work as invigilators in the coming exams for the students' sake," Additional Secretary Badrul Hassan told this newspaper.

Ministry officials believe that the teachers would eventually call off the strike.

## Public hearings

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lawmakers from both parties and trained staff question witnesses, many of whom the White House has sought to discredit.

Republican lawmakers have spent weeks accusing Democrats of holding "sham" secret hearings in the US Capitol basement and demanding a more open process.

Schiff said that moment in the fast-moving inquiry had arrived, and that Americans would be able to hear the accounts of potential abuse of power directly from witnesses who were caught up in the scandal.

The hearings will let the American people "evaluate the witnesses for themselves, to make their own determinations about the credibility of the witnesses, but also learn first-hand about the facts of the president's misconduct," Schiff said.

QUID PRO QUO

An anonymous whistleblower complaint in September highlighted potential abuse of power by the president when he telephoned Ukraine's leader and asked him to investigate former vice president Joe Biden, Trump's potential 2020 election rival.

The complaint led Democrats to launch their impeachment inquiry,

which has led to an avalanche of witness testimony from current and former diplomats or administration officials who have largely corroborated the whistleblower's account.

Trump has attacked the complaint as "phony" and has demanded the whistleblower's identity be revealed.

Trump loyalists in Congress have been disparaging the impeachment process, as House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy sought to do after Schiff's announcement.

"Don't be fooled. Public hearings are not the same as FAIR hearings," McCarthy tweeted.

Next week's marquee appearance may well be by Taylor, whose full testimony transcript was made public Wednesday by Schiff.

It painted a damning picture of Trump offering a quid pro quo. According to the testimony, his administration conditioned both military aid and a sought-after Ukraine meeting with Trump on Kiev's willingness to launch an investigation of Burisma, a Ukrainian energy firm connected to Biden's son.

Taylor told investigators that it was "my clear understanding, security assistance money would not come until the president [of

Ukraine] committed to pursue the investigation."

"Are you aware that quid pro quo literally means this for that?" an investigator asked, according to the transcript.

"Yes," Taylor replied.

In testimony to investigators revealed last month, he expressed grave concerns about the Trump administration's "irregular, informal channel of US policy-making" and its pressure on Ukraine to announce a Burisma investigation.

Taylor said a US diplomat involved in the shadow diplomacy, Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland, told him that "everything," including military aid, depended on Ukraine's Biden probe.

While several witnesses have already testified, the White House continues its stonewalling efforts.

Democrats summoned the highest-ranking White House official yet, acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, to testify this week, although he is highly likely to refuse.

Mulvaney publicly stated last month that the decision to freeze aid was tied to the demand for investigations of Democrats. He later walked back those comments.

## Responsibility not ours, state's

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thinks that we are protesting against corruption after being instigated by some others, she may investigate that...

"We have read it [reports on corruption] on newspapers and watched it on TV. We urged the VC at the time to launch an investigation, but she didn't."

Meanwhile, JU BCL General Secretary SM Abu Sufian Chanchal submitted his resignation, said Ahsan Habib, office secretary of BCL executive committee.

Chanchal allegedly received Tk 25 lakh from the JU VC.

Coordinator of the protesters, Prof Rayhan Rhyne yesterday expressed deep concern at what he said was the government's reluctance to form a body to look into the allegations despite the abundance of evidence of corruption.

"In the beginning, we demanded a fair investigation. But the VC decided not to launch an

investigation... Our suspicion grew deeper after she decided not to form a probe body," he said.

Prof Mirza Taslima Sultana of anthropology said, "We teach and... we do research. If the government wants, there are institutions that investigate."

Shovon Rahman, organising secretary of JU Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, said, "We urge Prof Farzana Islam to face an investigation and prove her innocence. But she doesn't have the spine needed to do that."

Contacted, ASM Firoz-Ul-Hasan, acting proctor of the university, said, "The university has been closed indefinitely. Classes and exams have been ceased. The dorms have been cleared. If anyone tries to cause an upheaval, it will be against the law."

JU authorities on Tuesday closed the university for an indefinite period and banned processions and rallies on campus until further notice.

The move came hours after Chhatra League men assaulted the demonstrators.

## Nat'l award

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provision.

"I did not file the papers and I am not aware of the issue. The film's producer submitted the papers."

Speaking to The Daily Star, "Dhaka Attack" producer Sunny Sanwar said, "We submitted documents following the criteria set by the ministry. We did not submit his [Kalam's] name as he does not have a Bangladeshi national ID or passport."

"The jury board probably liked his work and gave him the award," he added. Morshedul Islam, national film award winning director, said, "It might have been a mistake and I hope the authorities concerned will correct it."

Speaking to The Daily Star over phone, Md Kalam, who lives in India and has worked in a number of Bangladeshi films, said, "First of all I am a Bangalee. So, any sort of recognition encourages me to do good work. I am happy."

"If there is any clause that the national award would not go to any foreigner, I would say this barrier should be lifted for the development of film and cultural growth."

## Shahnaz

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taxpayers in different categories.

Out of the four top taxpaying companies in the print and electronic media category, three are linked with Transcom Group: Prothom Alo owner Mediastar, The Daily Star's owning company Mediaworld Ltd and the printer of the dailies Transcraft Ltd.

Mediaworld Ltd is an associate company of the Transcom Group.



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