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They sought to strike terror into students

Charges pressed against 25 Buet students in Abrar killing case; trial to be completed in 135 days, says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The accused in Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case had turned so rowdy that they often tortured general students to establish a reign of terror on the campus.

Their efforts to create terror resulted in Abrar killing, DMP Additional Commissioner Monirul Islam said as police pressed charges against 25 Buet students, mostly leaders and activists of the university's BCL unit, in the case yesterday.

The move came 37 days after Abrar, a second year student of electrical and electronic engineering department, was beaten to death at the university's Sher-Bangla Hall.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Anisul Huq



yesterday said he would request the home minister to send an application to the law ministry for trying the case under the speedy trial tribunal act.

As per the act, the trial would be completed in 135 working days, he said.

Monirul said the accused wanted the general students to be scared of them, and that's why they tormented them in the name of ragging.

They used to lead lives of "non-students". They also abused their political identity to evade any actions against them, he said at a press conference at the DMP media centre yesterday afternoon.

Around the same time, DB Inspector Mohammad Wahiduzaman, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted

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I want death penalty for my son's killers

Says Abrar's mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As police yesterday pressed charges against 25 Buet students in the Abrar Fahad murder case, family and friends of the slain student demanded quick trial and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

Abrar's mother Rokeya Khatun demanded capital punishment of those involved in the murder.

The grieving mother, who never sat in front of a TV after she lost her son, yesterday turned on the TV just to watch the news on submission of charge sheet in Abrar Fahad murder case.

She burst into tears as a satellite TV channel started broadcasting the news. "I want capital punishment of those who killed my son

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Anti-graft drive to cover all sectors

PM tells Jatiya Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the drive against casinos and all kinds of corruption was going on and would continue until the crimes are eliminated from all levels of the society.

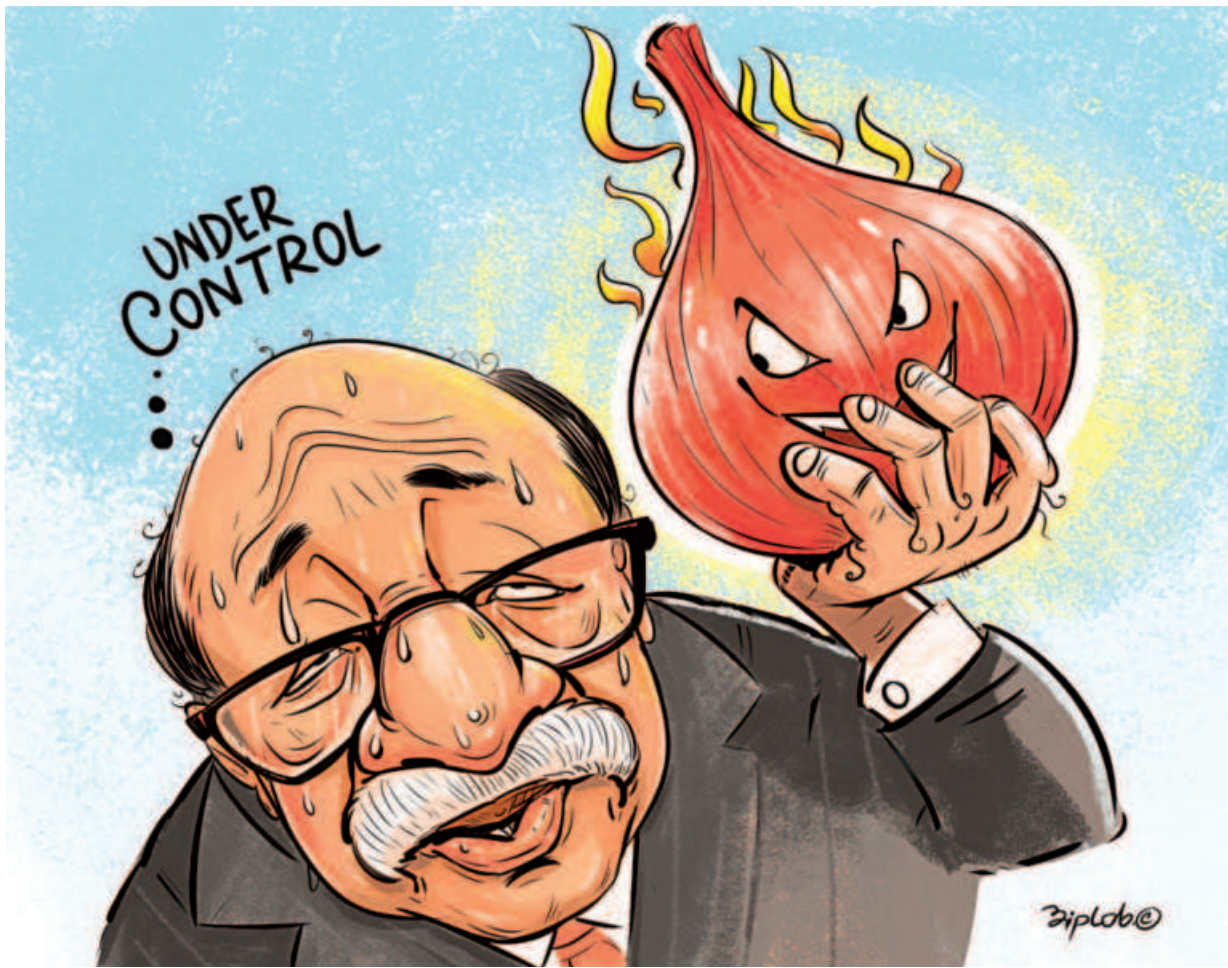
Laws were being strictly enforced against all criminals irrespective of their political affiliations, she told parliament while replying to a query from Jatiya Party MP Rowshan Ara Mannan.

Responding to another question from JP lawmaker Mujibul Haque Chunnun, the leader of the House said the Anti-Corruption Commission was working to bring all the corrupt to book.

"Apart from politicians, legal actions are also being taken against government employees and other people during the anti-graft drive."

The premier informed the House that the ACC has already urged the Singapore government to provide it with information on some Bangladeshis who played in casinos there.

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Onion price hits the roof; Tk 180 a kg

ABDULLAH AL NAVEEM

Onion price has hit a record high with each kg selling for Tk 180 and above yesterday evening, a day after Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said the prices were under control.

The prices kept rising in the last couple of days, and the trend intensified yesterday.

Retail price of the local variety was Tk 160 a kg yesterday morning in the capital, Tk 10 more than the evening before. It kept rising as the hours went by and in the evening, each kg sold for Tk 180.

The wholesale price was lower by Tk 10 to 15.

Supply shortage and bad weather have driven the prices upwards, retailers and wholesalers said, adding that the essential spice may

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Legs broken, but she cries in different pain

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and WASIM BIN HABIB

"Soha moni [dear], where have you gone?... How could you take my daughter, Allah?"

Nazma Akter groaned in pain as she asked these questions at intervals, with her bandaged legs placed on a pillow in the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) in the capital.

Her questions punctuated the moans and whimpers at the hospital's ward, which was filled with patients who suffered major injuries in early Tuesday's rail accident in Brahmanbaria's Kasba.

The accident took 16 lives, including that of Nazma's daughter.

The 28-year-old garment worker, along with her daughter Adiba Akter Soha, her husband, son and mother, had boarded Udayan Express from Habiganj's Shayestaganj on Monday midnight.

They had gone to visit their ancestral home in Baniyachang of Habiganj on Thursday and were returning to

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RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT

Spending poor on human resources

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Despite a concerning shortage of manpower in the railway sector, the government has made little effort to address the situation and has instead focused on massive infrastructural development projects.

The government allocated a whopping Tk 54,816 crore since 2014-15 to the Ministry of Railways to implement 36 development and technical projects to improve the rail services, but experts fear that without sufficient manpower the services will not improve.

According to data from Bangladesh Railways (BR), to run the 356 passenger trains and 30 freight trains per day, the railway has allotted some 1,757 "loco masters" (train driver) posts of different categories.

But it has only employed 1,118 people for the purpose, making it understaffed to cover the 2955.53 kilometre network and connect 44 districts of the country.

Contacted, Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujan told The Daily Star that there were some recruitment complications, but the ministry have made it a top priority to solve them.

He also said that they were focusing on increasing the capacity of their manpower, which would take some time.

"We provide training to increase the capacity of our manpower. But, it seems the existing training facilities and curriculum are not modern and up-to-date. We have to revise all those," Nurul said.

Surprisingly, the current curriculum is outdated by decades, which may affect employee-performance.

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Turna Nishita driver likely responsible

Railways minister tells parliament

STAR REPORT

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan yesterday in parliament said the driver of the Turna Nishita was likely responsible for the deadly train accident on Tuesday.

He made the comments while giving a statement on the accident in Brahmanbaria which left 16 dead and scores injured.

"We have suspended three on-duty railway employees over this fatal accident..." the minister informed the House.

He said the suspended railway employees are: driver Tasir Uddin, assistant Apu Dey and guard Abdur Rahman.

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Abul Kalam's wife Benu Ara helping him drink a glass of water at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation yesterday. Both of his legs were broken in multiple places in Tuesday's train crash in Brahmanbaria. *Inset*, college student Shahida Akhter's legs were also broken.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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Uphill task for Tigers

First Test against India from today

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Indore

Bangladesh will begin their World Test Championship campaign with the first Test against India at Indore today with a new Test captain at the helm in the form of Mominul Haque. Without much time to prepare for the longest format, the Tigers were intent on getting some last-minute preparation done at the Holkar Stadium yesterday.

The last few weeks ahead of the tour of India had been turbulent but Bangladesh's first-ever T20I win against India, which came at Delhi in the first game on the tour, will give the team the drive to challenge their more experienced counterparts.