

## JnU student 'forced' out of exam hall

He was cleared of complaint brought earlier by teacher; claims to be a victim of vendetta

JnU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Jagannath University (JnU) was forced out of the examination hall on Sunday (November 17) over an allegation of causing an untoward situation in class earlier this year, despite being cleared of the accusation on October 22.

On April 9, Prof Junaid Ahmed Halim filed a complaint against Mahmudul Hasan Mishu of film and television department, stating that the student created an untoward situation in the class during the screening of a movie, that had "explicit" scenes.

At the time of filing the complaint, Prof Halim also submitted a copy of the department's academic committee's recommendations on how the student should be reprimanded.

On October 22, the probe body consisting two assistant proctors – Md Mohiuddin and Shilpi Rani Saha – recommended that the university authorities exempt Mishu from the charges. Their investigation was based on evidence and eyewitnesses' statements, said Md Mohiuddin.

Following the probe body's recommendations, JnU Registrar Md Ohiduzzaman issued an office order on November 17 which stated Mishu could attend his academic activities at the university.

"I could not take the semester final exam due to Prof Halim's vendetta," claimed Mishu, "On Sunday (November 17), he [Halim] forced me to leave the exam hall grabbing my neck."

Multiple students told this correspondent they saw the incident.

Contacted, Prof Halim said the letter that cleared all allegations against Mishu was not given at the right time.

"This letter was not acceptable as the academic committee's recommendations were not reflected in it," he added.

He did not respond to the question whether he forced the student out of the exam hall.

Meanwhile, JnU Vice Chancellor Mijanur Rahman said Mishu has spoken with him already and he would meet with Prof Halim to discuss the matter on Sunday.



President Abdul Hamid with three chiefs of the Armed Forces at Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## Chiefs of three services call on President Hamid

UNB, Dhaka

Chiefs of army, naval and air staff yesterday called on President Abdul Hamid on the occasion of Armed Forces Day at Bangabhaban.

Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat met President Hamid, who is also the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, at noon.

During the meeting, the president discussed various issues related to the military, his press secretary Joyal Abedin said.

While speaking to the chiefs, the president said, "Our armed forces have been contributing positively to the socio-economic development of the country as well as protecting the sovereignty of Bangladesh."

He said the military have also played a vital role in brightening the country's image by participating in different peacekeeping programmes.

Earlier in the morning, President Abdul Hamid paid tributes to the martyred members of Bangladesh Armed Forces in Dhaka Cantonment.

On this day during the Liberation War, Bangladesh Armed Forces -- comprising the army, navy and air force -- came into being and launched an all-out attack on the Pakistani occupation forces.

Since independence, this day has been observed as the Armed Forces Day every year.

## 'TENDER MANIPULATION' ACC sues

### Jubo League leader Shafiq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against Jubo League ICT Affairs secretary Shafiqul Islam for amassing Tk 14.41 crore beyond known sources of income.

ACC's Assistant Director Mohammad Neamul Ahsan Gazi filed the case with its integrated district office.

Sources said Shafiqul, now at large, amassed the wealth through "tender manipulation and extortion".

According to the case statement, the accused showed immovable and moveable properties worth Tk 14.41 crore in his tax return file.

ACC did not find any legal source of income behind the wealth.

The commission has information that Shafiqul amassed wealth in the country and laundered it abroad.

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## Mistreatment or coincidence?

### 1-yr-old dies at Ctg hospital within an hour of getting injection

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

A one-year-old boy died at a hospital in port city yesterday, within an hour of being administered an antibiotic injection.

Parents alleged that the child died of "mistreatment", while doctors said the incident may have been a coincidence as he was diagnosed with a critical disease.

Jihan Sarwar Priyo, son of banker couple Shameem Sarwar and Mohsena Jharna, was admitted to privately-run Max Hospital on Sunday with fever and nausea, said Md Rimon, maternal uncle of the child.

Priyo was undergoing treatment in the ICU of the hospital, under supervision of child specialist Sanat Kumar Barua, he added.

"He was diagnosed with meningococcal meningitis and was getting better," said Rimon. "On Wednesday, I took him to the ground floor [of the hospital] and walked around."

Even yesterday morning, he was doing much better, said Rimon. "On Wednesday evening, Doctor Barua advised to administer the injection on him," he added.

He said his sister was standing beside Priyo when it happened.

"After a nurse gave him the injection around 10:40am, Priyo became unconscious," said Rimon, quoting Jharna.

The hospital authorities called in Dr Barua, who declared Priyo dead around noon.

"We demand a proper investigation into the incident, whether my nephew died of wrong treatment," he said.

Priyo's parents -- Sarwar and Jharna -- were inconsolable. Jharna wailed that her son died in front her eyes.

Contacted, Dr Liakat Ali, managing director of Max Hospital Limited, said he has heard about the incident. He said he is in the capital now.

"I was told that the child was recovering; suddenly his condition worsened in the morning," he said. "I am sure our doctors and staffers tried their best..."

Dr Barua said when informed of the child's condition, he rushed to the hospital and checked on him. "He was diagnosed with meningococcal meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes [meninges] that surround the brain and spinal cord. It's a critical issue."

He was getting better but suddenly his condition deteriorated. "I do not think the cause of death was from the injection," he said. He mentioned that the child was given the antibiotic -- teicoplanin [Targocid brand].

Contacted, Dr Mahmud A Chowdhury, professor and head of the pediatric department of Chattogram Ma-o-Shishu Hospital Medical College, said the antibiotics doctors administer on babies these days are

not supposed to have any severe side effect.

"I understand what the parents are going through, but this could be a coincidence as meningococcal meningitis is a critical issue," the professor added.

Dr Rejalul Karim, former head of the department of child health at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said, "I have used Targocid injections on babies but it did not have any serious side effect."

He also said meningococcal meningitis is a critical disease.

When asked about administering the injection on a child, he said one has to follow due procedure for it.

Contacted, Dr Barua said, "I inquired with the on-duty doctor and nurses; they said they administered the injection maintaining procedure." He said he was not present at that time.

The managing director of the hospital said, "I will look into it as soon as I return from Dhaka."

Mentionable, this is not the first time Max Hospital has faced such allegations. On June 2 last year, Rafida Khan Raifa, the three-year-old daughter of Rubel Khan, a senior reporter of Bangla daily Samakal, died at the hospital while undergoing treatment.

A government investigation led by the Chattogram civil surgeon found negligence by doctors during her treatment.

## History dept running without UGC approval since 2017

### Former VC's misdeeds linger at BSMRSTU

MD ABBAS

Over 200 students from history department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University (BSMRSTU) in Gopalganj are facing serious uncertainty about their academic future.

According to university sources, then BSMRSTU Vice Chancellor Prof Khondoker Nairuddin introduced the history department in 2017 under the Institute of Bangabandhu, Liberation War and Bangladesh Studies with the "verbal approval" of University Grants Commission (UGC).

Students of the department have been demanding UGC approval ever since they came to know that the department had no official approval.

Former VC Prof Khondoker Nairuddin enrolled 100 students in the department in 2017 saying he would bring official approval for the department soon, but failed.

Another batch of students were enrolled last year.

Due to the "unofficial" nature of the department, there are no permanent teachers or employees there, or even classrooms.

Teachers of Institute of Bangabandhu Liberation War and Bangladesh Studies of the university took history department's classes at a tin-shed building situated near

the university's central library since its inception, said students.

Sometimes due to lack of classrooms, their classes were held at the first floor of the university's cafeteria building.

"Apart from the teacher and classroom crisis, I am very anxious about my future, as the certificate I will get from the department holds no weight without UGC approval," said a third-year student, seeking anonymity.

"I will not be able to use this degree to get a job, so what will I do with it?" he asked. Many of his peers echoed this statement.

"We got admitted here after seeing the prospectus of this university and have been attending classes regularly. But in the middle of 2019, we came to know that this department has no approval from UGC," said Mohammad Hasan, a freshman.

The students have since demanded that the authorities secure approval from UGC, but to no avail.

Talking to The Daily Star, the university's acting VC Prof Md Shahjahan said they spoke with UGC in two phases and are trying to obtain official approval.

Terming the decision to introduce a department without taking approval from UGC "deception", Md Kamal Hossain, a director of UGC, said the certificate provided to them will be invalid.

"They (students) cannot show the

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These bamboo baskets may seem simple at first glance, but there is intricate craftsmanship behind each one. Made in different shapes and sizes, these baskets are sold for Tk 50-100. The photo was taken yesterday at Bhandarkathi village of Bakeganj upazila in Barishal.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## 19kg heroin seized in 6 months: Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rab yesterday claimed to have arrested 782 alleged criminals and seized 54 firearms, 19kg of heroin and contraband drugs in five districts of Rajshahi in the last six months.

During a press conference at Rab-5 headquarters in Rajshahi yesterday, DIG Mahfuzur Rahman said the arrests and seizures were made in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Natore and Joypurhat between June and November. The arrestees include 10 militants, 26 arms traders, and 673 drug traders, he said, adding that the latest drive was conducted in Namajgram village on Wednesday night, where most-wanted criminal Sujon Ali (30) was arrested with guns, ammo, and 2,630 yaba pills.

## Road crashes kill seven

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and five injured in road accidents across the country in the last two days, our correspondents and news agencies report.

In Gopalganj Sadar upazila, two people were killed and one was injured after a covered van collided with the rickshaw-van carrying them in Dumuria area around 8am yesterday, said police, quoting locals.

The deceased are Abdul Mannan Sikdar (60) and Monju Sardar (38).

Police said the rickshaw-van puller Monju died on the spot and the passenger Abdul died on the way to Gopalganj General Hospital. The injured was undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Police seized the covered van but its driver fled, they added.

In the capital, Anwara Begum (48) was killed and one injured after a speeding covered van ran her over in Banasree area around 9am yesterday, said police.

Locals rushed Anwara to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where the on-duty doctor declared her dead.

Her body was sent to DMC morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Rampura Police Station.

In Habiganj, Sitara Begum (26) was killed after a pick-up truck ran her over in Kamaichara area of Bahubal upazila around 3pm yesterday.

Locals said the accident occurred while

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## College student stabbed dead in Ctg; one held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A youth stabbed a college student to death over previous enmity in Chattogram city yesterday, said police.

Hours later, Saddam, 19, was arrested for killing Md Irfan, 18, a student of the city's Mostafa Hakim Degree College, said Inspector (investigation) Badrul Kabir of Halishahar Police Station.

Saddam, a day labourer, was released from a drug rehabilitation centre a few days ago, said Badrul Kabir.

Saddam recently went to Irfan's neighbourhood at Halishahar-Mainnapara to look for a friend, said Badrul, adding that he repeatedly asked Irfan about the friend's address. Irfan humiliated and slapped Saddam, he added. In retaliation, Saddam attacked him in front of Bay Shopping Complex around 4pm. The inspector said police arrested Saddam from Mainnapara with the help of locals.

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