Cops work

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when she had gone near her home in adjacent Shantibagh area on Wednesday evening.

The official also said they suspect Rumpa had been to the buildings' rooftop.

"We searched the area extensively and found footprints on an edge of 11-storey Ayesha Shopping Complex yesterday," said the official, wishing not to be named.

"The footprints looked fresh. It seems someone in sandals stood on the edge very recently," the official said, adding that there were several gaping holes on the roof and walking on it could be risking.

"We are trying to know whether she had gone to the rooftop. If she had, how did she go there," he said.

Investigators could not confirm whether it was murder or a case of suicide, he added.

Police sources said Rumpa went near her home in Shantibagh after giving tuitions to her fourth grader student in the same area.

She called her mother and asked her to send her cousin Jahidul, 12, downstairs with a pair of sandals. As they met, Rumpa gave him her sandals and wore the one brought by him. She also gave Jahidul her purse where she kept her mobile and money.

Rumpa then left without saying where she would go, the sources said.

Later around 10:45pm, some tenants living in the buildings on the Siddheshwari lane heard a huge sound. A few of them came out and saw a girl lying upside down, motionless on the alley. There was blood on her face.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, two locals said they did not hear any screams.

On Thursday night, law enforcers came to know that the deceased was the daughter of a police inspector named Rokonuddin. He is posted to a police camp in Habiganj.

Earlier that day, police filed a murder case in connection with the incident.

This correspondent went to the roof of the 11-storey building yesterday and saw the door open. The roof had no fencing.

A security guard of the building said its first four floors are used as commercial space while the rest are for residential units.

Asked, he said he was not on-duty on Wednesday night.

The doors of adjacent two buildings' roof remain closed all the time.

Contacted, Inspector (investigation) of Ramna Police Station Jahirul Islam, also the investigation officer of the case, said they were examining all possible clues. "We've sent samples to the CID lab to find out whether the footprints and the sandals are of the same person."

Investigators said they were working to find out what Rumpa was doing between 7:00pm and 10:45pm on Wednesday.

Apart from police and CID, the Detective Branch of police is also assisting the probe by looking into her mobile phone and conversations on social media, said sources there.

On Thursday, Dr Sohel Mahmud, head of Dhaka Medical College's forensic medicine department, told reporters that the victim's hands, legs, waist and spinal cord had fractured.

They also took samples from her body to determine whether she was raped.

Meanwhile, Rumpa was buried at her family graveyard at Bijoynagor village in Mymensingh sadar upazila yesterday morning. Her family members were struggling to come to terms with the loss.

In Dhaka's Siddheshwari area, her fellow students and teachers of Stamford University brought out a procession and formed a human chain yesterday, demanding proper investigation into the incident.

Modi to join

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been developed between Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart had "unequivocally strengthened further the two countries' bilateral relations".

"We are hopeful that such relationship will deepen further in future," he added.

The government of Bangladesh has taken an initiative to honour martyred Indian army personnel who embraced martyrdom during the Liberation War in 1971, the foreign minister further said.

As part of the initiative, Bangladesh government will soon hand over honourary crests to Indian authorities for some 380 such martyred members of the Indian army, he added.

Addressing the discussion as special guest, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das said Indian government considered its relations with Bangladesh as the most important among neighbours.

"To us, neighbours come first. Among the neighbours, Bangladesh comes first," she said.

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee President Shahriar Kabir said India had to play a more active role in resolving the Rohingya crisis.

Besides, both Bangladesh and India should resolve other disputes among them through holding friendly discussions, he said.

It's at low ebb

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three essential components of freedom of expression.

The report mentions that the country saw a corresponding rise in censorship and violence in 2018, which was an election year. More than 50 websites were blocked, mobile operators were ordered to slow down their internet bandwidth speed and 30 masked individuals attacked 12 journalists on December 24 in 2018, it says.

It says there were also reports of mass arrests of opposition politicians, and 3,00,000 politically motivated criminal cases were filed against opposition party members and supporters. The ruling Awami League dominated the election, though the opposition rejected the results and called for a new vote.

In June, writer and publisher Shahjahan Bachchu, who was known for his religious non-conformism, running publishing house "Bishakha Prokashoni", and editing online weekly "Amader Bikrampur", was shot dead.

The Digital Security Act was passed, dashing hopes of an opening for online expression after the hard-won repeal of the "notorious" section 57.

"The new law provides for life sentences for using digital devices to spread negative propaganda against the 'Liberation War' or the 'Father of the Nation'; up to five years' imprisonment for deliberately publishing defamatory or false or distorted content; and up to 10 years' imprisonment for hurting religious sentiments, hate speech, or causing deterioration of law and order," reads the report.

The report mentions that there was public outrage at the new provisions -- particularly the provision of the new law, which classes gathering information from inside government offices as espionage, carrying a 14-year jail sentence. Many took to Twitter to defend investigative journalism, declaring #IAmaSpy.

It also points out that broadcast media was also restricted in October, when the National Broadcast Act was passed, providing sentences of up to three years in prison for "going against the spirit" of the 1971 Liberation War, or airing "misleading or false" information.

In August, the country saw major protests, centred around road safety.

Internationally-acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam was subjected to 100 days of arbitrary detention for posting footage of protests on Facebook.

"Police and armed men injured more than 40 media workers. No cases were filed in connection with this violence, despite pressure from ministers and substantial video and photo evidence; not one perpetrator has even been officially identified," the report says.

Talking to The Daily Star, Faruq Faisel, regional director of Article 19 for Bangladesh and South Asia, said the goal no 16 of SDGs deals with freedom of expression.

"Though we're noticing that the government has made good progress in attaining other goals of SDGs, freedom of expression is deteriorating in the country," he said, adding that, "The government is trying to attack the media in various ways."

He suggested forming an independent commission to monitor and control fake news and spread of rumour in social media to curtail excessive control of government on freedom of expression.

No tough programme

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party will not go for any tough programmes right now. It will wait till Thursday's court hearing.

Some of them said they believe the party chief will get bail if the government does not "interfere".

Contacted, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "She [Hasina] is influencing the court in her own way. Her statement just before the day of the hearing on [Khaleda's] bail appeal greatly influenced the court and the medical board [of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University]."

He said they would continue the legal and political battles simultaneously for her release.

A joint meeting between the leaders of the party's front and associate bodies will be held today at its Nayapaltan office to finalise the next course of action and fresh programmes.

"We will announce our next course of action tomorrow [today]," Fakhrul mentioned.

On December 5, pro-BNP lawyers created pandemonium at the SC during the hearing of Khaleda's bail appeal in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case, forcing the chief justice and five other judges to leave the courtroom.

The lawyers shouted at the apex court judges, "shame, shame", "we want justice", "Khaleda Zia has the right to get bail".

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain termed the incident "unprecedented".

Khaleda filed the appeal with the SC on November 14, challenging the High Court order that rejected her bail petition in the graft case.

Dhaka Special Judge's Court-5 on October 29 last year convicted her in the case and sentenced her to seven years' imprisonment. The Anti-Corruption Commission had filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on August 8, 2011.

The BNP chief landed in jail on February 8 last year after the same court awarded her five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case. The HC on October 30 enhanced her jail term to 10 years in the case, dismissing her appeal.

Khaleda was admitted to the BSMMU on April 1 following the recommendations of a medical board.

BSF returns

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fishermen in the area alleged that the BSF officials actually kidnapped the two.

Nayan Ali, a member of Matikata Union Parishad, said members of 35 BSF Battalion entered Bangladesh territory on a speedboat, and caught the fishermen when they were returning home around 4:00pm on Thursday.

Lt Col Ferdous, on that day told The Daily Star that fishermen of both Bangladesh and India often cross the respective country's territory mistakenly while fishing in the area.

'Saudi trainee' kills

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Investigators and base commanders provided few details about the incident at a morning news conference, declining to answer any questions about the shooter's identity or the weapon used in the attack, which played out over two floors in classroom building at a base whose main function is training.

The first reports of an "active shooter" on the base came through to the Escambia County sheriff's office at about 6:51 am, officials said.

A few minutes later, a sheriff's deputy fatally shot the shooter in a classroom on the base, Sheriff David Morgan said at the news conference.

"Walking through the crime scene was like being on the set of a movie," Morgan said.

The three defense officials, who were not authorised to speak on the record about the investigation, said the suspected shooter was on the base for training but said they could provide no additional information.

In recent weeks, 18 naval aviators and two aircrew members from the Royal Saudi Naval Forces were training with the US Navy, including a stint at Pensacola, according to a Nov 15 press release from the Navy. It was not clear if the suspected shooter was part of that delegation.

The delegation came under a Navy program that offers training to US allies, known as the Naval Education and Training Security Assistance Field Activity.

The Saudi trainees went "through the same student naval aviator or aircrew training that their US Navy counterparts experience," the press release said.

Saudi Arabia's embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to questions.

Two sheriff's deputies were injured, one shot in the arm, the other in the knee, but both were expected to survive, officials said at the news conference.

Eight people were taken to Baptist Hospital for treatment, hospital spokeswoman Kathy Bowers said.

Sheriff's officials said one of the three victims died after being taken to the hospital, but it was unclear whether that victim was one of the eight who arrived at Baptist. Bowers declined to say.

While military bases house the nation's most powerful armaments, military personnel normally are restricted from carrying weapons on base unless they are part of their daily duties. Nonetheless US military bases have seen deadly mass shootings before, including one in Ford Hood, Texas, in 2009 that left 13 dead and one at the Washington Navy Yard in 2013 that killed 12.

On this day

FROM PAGE 1

from the northern side. They enter without any resistance. They are astonished seeing the desolated army establishment. Pakistan army absconds from the cantonment, leaving huge arms, ammunition and control room maps behind. Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev urges a peaceful solution to the Indo-Pak war without intervention of any outsiders. A fierce skirmish continues at Bhaluka in Mymensingh as Major Afsar's troops attack the police station, a camp of Pakistan army, from three sides. Allied forces take control of Chandina and Jafarganj. Turbulent wars continue in Cumilla and Laksham. A violent Indo-Pak bloodshed continues centring Kartowa Bridge on the Bogura-Rangpur highway. The US decides to dismiss financial aid to India.

1.4 lakh died last year

FROM PAGE 16

Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Somalia, the WHO said, with these five nations accounting for nearly half of all cases worldwide.

Globally, measles vaccination rates have stagnated for almost a decade. The WHO and the Unicef children's fund say that in 2018, around 86% of children got a first dose of measles vaccine through routine vaccination plans, and fewer than 70% got the second dose recommended to fully protect them.

STAGGERING

Heidi Larson, director of the Vaccine Confidence Project at Britain's London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said the numbers were "staggering".

"Some countries are scrambling to vaccinate in the face of serious outbreaks - far too late for many," she said.

Measles is one of the most contagious known diseases, more so than Ebola, tuberculosis or flu. It can linger in the air or on surfaces for several hours after an infected person has been and gone, putting anyone not vaccinated at risk.

Among wealthier nations, vaccination rates have been hurt by some parents shunning them for what they say are religious or philosophical reasons. Mistrust of authority and debunked myths about links to autism also weaken vaccine confidence and lead some parents to delay protecting their children.

Research published in October showed that measles infection not only carries a risk of death or severe complications including pneumonia, brain damage, blindness and deafness, but can also damage the victim's immune memory for months or years - leaving those who survive measles vulnerable to other dangerous diseases such as flu or severe diarrhoea.

The WHO data showed there were an estimated 9,769,400 cases of measles and 142,300 related deaths globally in 2018. This compares to 7,585,900 cases and 124,000 deaths in 2017.

Charlie Weller, head of vaccines at the Wellcome Trust global health charity, said the numbers were a tragedy. "If we are to protect lives, we must understand and address the reasons why measles vaccine uptake is lower," she said.

The new world of China's digital courts

FROM PAGE 16

In a demonstration, authorities showed how the Hangzhou Internet Court operates, featuring an online interface with litigants appearing by video chat as an AI judge -- complete with on-screen avatar -- prompts them to present their cases.

"Does the defendant have any objection to the nature of the judicial blockchain evidence submitted by the plaintiff?" the black-robed virtual judge sitting under China's national emblem asked in a pre-trial meeting.

"No objection," a human plaintiff answered.

Cases handled at the Hangzhou court include online trade disputes, copyright cases, and e-commerce product liability claims. Litigants can register their civil complaints online and later log on for their court hearing.

Putting simple functions like that in the hands of the virtual judge helps ease the burden on human justices, who monitor the proceedings and make the major rulings in each case, officials said.

The digitisation push is partly to help courts keep up with a growing caseload created by mobile payments and e-commerce in China, which has the world's largest number of mobile internet users at around 850 million.

"(Concluding cases) at a faster speed is a kind of justice, because justice delayed is justice denied," Hangzhou Internet Court Vice President Ni Defeng told AFP.

Ni added that the use of blockchain technology was particularly useful, helping to streamline and create clearer records of the legal process.

Since the Hangzhou court's establishment, China has set up similar chambers in Beijing and the southern metropolis of Guangzhou.

Together, they have accepted a total of 118,764 cases, and concluded 88,401, the Supreme People's Court said.

The "mobile court" option on WeChat -- China's leading social-media messaging platform -- allows users to complete case filings, hearings, and evidence exchange without physically appearing in court.

It has been launched in 12 provinces and regions, authorities said.

Courts nationwide are experimenting with a range of online tools, said Zhou Qiang, chief justice and president of the Supreme People's Court.

He told a panel on Thursday that as of October more than 90 percent of China's courts had handled cases online to some extent.

US lawmakers

FROM PAGE 16

After refusing all requests to date to hand over documents and ordering administration officials to refuse requests to testify, Trump faced another deadline yesterday.

Nadler has given the president until 5:00 pm (2200 GMT) yesterday to say whether he or his legal counsel will participate in any upcoming Judiciary proceedings by calling witnesses, introducing evidence and making a presentation.

"We're still waiting until 5 o'clock tomorrow to hear from the president, whether he wants to present to the committee, and if he wants to, it will be done - I presume - next week. That's all I'm going to say," Nadler told reporters on Thursday as he left a meeting with Pelosi.

He also declined on Thursday to provide specifics about the process of settling on articles of impeachment, saying only he thought the panel was "getting there."

Committee Republicans have been given the same deadline to request witnesses, including any they might want to subpoena.

HIGH CRIMES OR RUSHED PROCESS?

So far, the Judiciary Committee has held just one hearing, after two weeks of public House Intelligence Committee hearings.

On Wednesday, three constitutional law experts called by Democratic lawmakers told the committee that Trump had committed impeachable offenses. A fourth expert called by Republicans called the inquiry slipshod and rushed.

Nadler has scheduled another hearing for Monday, at which legal counsel to the House Judiciary and Intelligence committees will discuss the impeachment investigation.

The probe is focusing on a July 25 telephone call in which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to open an investigation into Biden and his son Hunter and into a discredited theory promoted by Trump and his allies that Ukraine, not Russia, meddled in the 2016 US election.

Hunter Biden joined the board of Ukrainian energy company Burisma while his father was vice president. Trump has accused the Bidens of corruption. They have denied wrongdoing and the allegations have not been substantiated.

Democrats accuse Trump of abusing his power by withholding $391 million in security aid to Ukraine - a vulnerable US ally facing Russian aggression - as leverage to pressure Kiev into investigating the Bidens, and promising Zelenskiy a coveted White House meeting.

Republicans accuse Democrats of conducting a witch hunt and trying to overturn Trump's surprise 2016 election victory. They say Trump's actions aimed at weeding out corruption in Ukraine, not getting political dirt on Biden.

If the House passes the articles of impeachment as expected, the Senate would hold a trial on whether to convict Trump and remove him from office. Republicans control the Senate and have shown little support for his removal.

No US president has ever been removed from office through impeachment. Republican Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 after the House began the process in the Watergate corruption scandal.

3 of a family killed

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Bangabandu Bridge around 7:30am.

The driver of the microbus managed to jump out of it just before the collision and fled away, said the OC.

The front end of the vehicle was completely crushed leaving Karim and the other two dead on the spot, he added.

Fire Service and Civil Defence personnel rescued the injured and sent them to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Police handed over the bodies to the family without autopsy, the officials said, adding that no case was filed regarding this.

Meanwhile, at least a 10-kilometre-long tailback was created for over an hour on Bangabandhu Bridge East Connecting Road following the accident. The situation became normal after the wreckage of the vehicle was removed from the road.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Ministry of Planning
Planning Division
NEC- ECNEC & Co-ordination Wing
'Capacity Enhancement of NEC-ECNEC & Co-ordination Wing by Introducing Digital Database and Archive System' Project
Block- 2, Room- 29
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Tender Notice

Invitation for Tender No: 20.00.0000.411.14.013.19/20-**525** Date: 07-12-2019

Tender is invited for the supply, installation and commissioning of computer hardware for 'Capacity enhancement of NEC-ECNEC & Co-ordination wing by introducing digital database and archive system' project. The tender document describing the specifications of the items with terms and conditions can be obtained from the project office (see the address below). This is an Open Tendering Method (OTM) procurement. Hard copy of the tender must be submitted at the project office by Dec 23, 2019 before 3.00 P.M.

Address of the project office:

Block -2, Room-29,
NEC- ECNEC & Co-ordination Wing
Planning Division
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Telephone No : 9180746
Fax No : 9180789

Md. Helal Uddin
Chief & Project Director
NEC- ECNEC & Co-ordination Wing
Planning Division

GD- 1996