Journo detained, sued under DSA for 'writing against cop'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Police picked up a journalist after barging into his home on Wednesday in Dinajpur's Ghoraghat on allegations of writing against a police officer on social media.

The arrestee is Iftekhar Ahmed Khan Babu (37), working for the newspaper Delta Times.

According to locals, a team from Ghoraghat Police Station raided Babu's residence around 10:30pm. Babu was home and went live on Facebook soon after police arrived. The Daily Star received the nine-minute video clip.

He repeatedly asked the police to show a warrant, but officers told him to come out of his home, and Babu refused to do so.

Later, police personnel started trying to break the house's window grille and door, and some officers pointed their guns at Babu, as he said during the Facebook live.

During the broadcast, Babu said police came to arrest him just for writing about the wrongdoings of Ghoraghat Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Azim Uddin.

On December 21, the OC went to the upazila's Osmanpur Bazar and took hardware materials worth Tk 4,300 from a shop on credit. Babu was present there.

Shafiqul Islam, the shop's owner, said the OC told him that payment will be made later, but he did not receive it as of yesterday. Babu wrote about the incident on his Facebook page recently.

Shafiqul filed a general diary (GD) with Ghoraghat Police Station on Tuesday regarding the Facebook post. However, he refused to respond when asked whether he was pressured to file the GD.

Contacted, OC Azim Uddin, denying all allegations, said Babu was deliberately writing against him.

He said two cases were filed against Babu, one under Digital Security Act by the station's Sub-inspector Khurshid Alam, and another for theft.

'5-yr-old was killed for protesting molestation'

Man held over murder of girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

A five-year-old, who was found dead in a pond on Tuesday morning in Rangpur, was killed by her neighbour after she protested sexual abuse on her, said police.

Law enforcers arrested the perpetrator, Jahrul Haq (45), of Borobari Sarkarpara, from Keranipara area in the town on Wednesday, said ABM Zakir Hossain, superintendent of police of PBI in Rangpur at a briefing yesterday. Jahrul gave his confessional statement before a court yesterday.

The SP said the girl, Mysha Akter, daughter of Monwar Hossain, was playing near her home on Monday noon. Jahrul took her to his home and molested her. Protesting the incident, she went out of the home, returned with a stick and started hitting him, said the SP.

Jahrul then pushed her hard. Her head hit against piles of bamboo kept in the room, killing her on the spot. He then put her body in a bag, dumped it in the pond at night and went into hiding.

Later, locals saw a body floating in the pond and informed police. Her body bore torture marks on neck and ear. A murder case was filed.

EASTERN UNIV BOT Md Ismail Zabihullah new chair

CITY DESK

Retired government secretary Md Ismail Zabihullah has been selected as chairperson of the Foundation and Board of Trustees (BoT) of Eastern University.

He was appointed to the post at an annual general meeting on Tuesday, said a press release.

Foundation members Md Azizul Islam, Engr Kh Mesbah Uddin Ahmed and Liaquat Hossain Moghul were selected as vice-chairpersons. Mohammed Ali Azzam was selected as treasurer of the Foundation of Eastern University.

Tk 754cr

FROM PAGE 3

said, "The dredging of the outer bar area of Mongla Port channel has been completed with around Tk 700 crore and it is expected to serve ships with 10-metre draught soon."

Ships have started sailing to and from the newly dredged channel on Mongla Port's outer bar.

"The completion of the dredging of the inner bar area of Mongla Port channel will shorten the turnaround time of ships arriving at the port while cutting the cost of transporting goods," Khalid Mahmud said.

The number of ships arriving at Mongla Port will jump, playing a major part in the economic development of the southwest part of the country.

Mongla Port lies on the bank of the River Pashur. Due to the navigability problems of the Pashur channel, ships would first unload the containers at Chattogram Port, and then would come to Mongla Port after reducing the draught size.

This increased the cost and time of cargo transportation to and from the Mongla Port.

So, traders were reluctant to use the port for import and export of containerised goods.

The completion of the new project is expected to achieve the desired depth of channels which would vastly increase the navigability of the port.

Seven lakh OMS cards found fake

FROM PAGE 1

information (about fake cards) recorded on Excel sheets from all areas of the country. "Steps have been taken to make smart cards so that irregularities which took place during the Covid-19 situation do not recur."

Sadhan said a smart OMS card would contain all information, including the cardholder's photo. As a result, it would not be possible for anyone to issue multiple cards using one person's name or information, he added.

Following the outbreak of Covid-19 in the country in March last year, the government enforced a nationwide lockdown from March 26 to May 31.

The government at that time had asked the people to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary. The low-income people and daily wage earners were the worst hit by the shutdown and many of them became unemployed.

Amid such a situation, the government increased the number of ration cards from five million to 10 million to provide rice to more people for Tk 10 a kg under a special OMS programme.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 25 last year announced that the price of OMS rice was fixed at Tk 10 a kg instead of Tk 30 a kg.

Accordingly, the food ministry started selling rice for Tk 10 a kg under the special OMS programme. Each OMS cardholder could buy five kg of rice a week. The rice was sold from 10:00am to 3:00pm every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

But the programme was suspended in April citing that there was a risk of spread of the virus as people were not following health guidelines while standing in queues.

Later, the food ministry asked the district deputy commissioners to prepare a list of underprivileged and low-income people who do not have cards of food friendly programme. Those newly enlisted people would be given rice for Tk 10 a kg under the special OMS programme.

During the sale of OMS rice, media outlets ran reports about embezzlement of huge quantity of rice in different parts of the country. A section of government officials and public representatives were involved in embezzling rice, the reports said.

Amid criticism from different quarters over the corruption, more than 100 public representatives of upazila, union and zilla parishads were suspended and several others were arrested in cases in this regard.

The parliamentary standing committee during its meeting on September 24 discussed various alleged irregularities in OMS dealership.

The food minister, however, in the meeting said his ministry has no jurisdiction over granting or canceling OMS dealership.

Sadhan said irregularities often take place when an individual retains OMS dealership for a long time.

A new OMS dealer can be appointed if the incumbent dealer is found involved in irregularities through an investigation, he added.

Despite repeated attempts, this newspaper could not reach the food minister over the phone yesterday for comments.

Schools won't open

FROM PAGE 1

the 24.1 crore copies of secondary school textbooks has yet to reach a number of upazilas as of yesterday, NCTB officials said.

Education Minister Dipu Moni on Tuesday said the books had not reached certain places because of a paper crisis caused by the coronavirus restrictions.

Government is expected to hand out textbooks among 4,16,55,336 primary and secondary students.

"If the situation improves by this time [January 15], we will reopen the educational institutions," Sheikh Hasina said as she inaugurated the textbook distribution from the Gono Bhaban.

"No one knows when the world will be free from the coronavirus," she added.

The Education Ministry and the Primary and Mass Education Ministry organised the programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital in the presence of about 300 primary and secondary students.

Educational institutions have been closed since March 17.

The PM said the situation was unfortunate, but the decision was made to keep the children and parents safe.

TV and online education can keep the students in touch with their lessons. "These will continue…" she added.

Students suffered the most due to the pandemic as the closure put mental pressure on them.

She urged parents to spend more time with their children and make sure they take part in physical activities.

Hasina said education is the most important thing for developing a country. "We want to free the country from poverty. It is impossible to make a country poverty-free without education."

She said for that reason the government has given special attention to education, and since 2010, the government is providing free textbooks among students.

She congratulated everyone engaged in the textbook printing and distributing process amid the pandemic.

The NCTB chairman told The Daily Star that 100 percent of the primary text books have already been printed.

But about 80 percent of the secondary textbooks have so far been printed.

"The work of printing textbooks and reaching it to the upazila levels is progressing fast," he said.

Charge goes to two city corporations

FROM PAGE 1

He said they had held a meeting on the issue last month and formed a technical committee.

With the committee's recommendations and the prime minister's approval, Wasa handed over the canals and drainage system along with the necessary manpower, equipment, and technical documents.

Tazul said many water bodies in Dhaka city had been encroached upon and occupied, even by the government. The city corporations with the help of public representatives would take steps to recover them.

"We have to rescue the water bodies from the encroachers in phases," he said.

Tazul said they were preparing projects to build walkways along the canals and water bodies and to facilitate water transport.

DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said they would start cleaning up of three canals -- Jirani, Manda, Syampur -- and two box culverts in Panthapath and Segunbagicha from tomorrow.

"We will continue the clean-up work until March and we will do the same for other canals like Kalunagar and old Buriganga channel and Dholaikhal box culvert by June," he said.

Taposh said they would not wait for the government funds and would do the work with their own money.

"We will set up boundary pillars, remove all encroachers and protect the recovered land.

"We will also take steps so that the canals are not refilled with garbage again," he said.

Taposh said they would take measures to connect all the canals and if they succeed, Dhaka would be as beautiful as Venice.

"We just need to keep the canals clean, increase connectivity, and do the maintenance work properly," he said.

DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam said there were over 100 canals in Dhaka city and most of them have already disappeared. He said the city would not have any waterlogging if all the canals were there.

He said, "According to experts, 25 percent open space and 12 percent water bodies are needed in a city. We have a lot less than the required."

The mayor said they have to arrange a water transport system and create more water retention areas.

"We have to demarcate all the canals through city survey, evict all encroachers from the canals and increase water carrying capacity of the canals through excavation."

Requesting the LGRD minister to take necessary steps, Atiqul proposed building elevated roads on the eastern end of Dhaka instead of flood protection embankment that had been done on the western end.

Joint Secretary Iqbal Habib of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon said even though the two city corporations have taken responsibility of the canals, they did not become their custodians with full authority. The deputy commissioner's office remains as their custodians.

He, however, said the city corporations do have the power to conduct eviction drives.

As mayors and councillors are public representatives, they would be able to recover the water bodies ensuring public support, which would be effective, he said.

Happy New year 2021
Wishing peace,
happiness and Prosperity of our Nation.

সাধনা ঔষধালয়ের ঐতিহ্যময় ইতিহাস প্রতিষ্ঠাতা **অধ্যক্ষ ডাঃ যোগেশ চন্দ্র ঘোষ,** এম. এ আয়ুর্বেদ শাস্ত্রী এফ. সি. এস (লন্ডন), এম. সি. এস (আমেরিকা)-র জীবনব্যাপী কর্মসাধনার ক্রমবিকাশের সঙ্গে ওতপ্রোতভাবে জরিত। জগন্নাথ কলেজের রসায়ণ শাস্ত্রের অধ্যাপক ও আচার্য্য প্রফুল্ল চন্দ্র রায়ের মেধাবী ছাত্র শ্রী ঘোষ ১৯১৪ খৃষ্টাব্দে ঢাকার একটি আয়ুর্বেদীয় প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে প্রাচীন শাস্ত্রের নির্দেশ পুংখানুপুংখরূপে প্রতিফলিত করে আয়ুর্বেদীয় ঔষধ পত্র তৈরীর কাজ আরম্ব করেন। সেই কর্ম প্রচেষ্টার বীজ আজ এক বিশাল মহীরূহে পরিণত হয়েছে। সাধনা ঔষধালয় ১০৭ বৎসর ধরে দেশে অগণিত শাখার মাধ্যমে জনগণের সেবায় নিবেদিত। আয়ুর্বেদ শাস্ত্রে প্রত্যেক অসুখের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট ঔষধের বর্ণনা আমাদের প্রাচীন সংহিতায় পাওয়া যায়। এই সব ঔষধ সেবনে কোনরূপ বিরূপ প্রতিক্রিয়া হয় না। আপনার রোগের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ দিয়ে আমাদের চিঠি লিখুন। আশা করি আমরা আপনার কষ্ট লাঘব এবং নিরাময়ে সাহায্য করতে পারবো।

সাধনা ঔষধালয় লিঃ ঢাকা
৭১, দ্বীন নাথ সেন রোড গেন্ডারিয়া, ঢাকা।
১০৭ বৎসর ১৯১৪-২০২১

Give him

FROM PAGE 3

The HC also ordered PBI to conduct an inquiry into the incident and submit a probe report by April 11, said DAG Nawroz MR Chowdhury.

The HC bench of Justices Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Mohi Uddin Shamim came up with the verdict following a petition filed by Law and Life Foundation.

The HC observed that the incident is unexpected and a collective failure of the police department. Police must be more cautious in discharging duties so innocent people are not victimised, the judges said.

Petitioner's lawyer Humayun Kabir Pallab said police arrested Arman in a drug case in January 2016 instead of the original accused one Shahabuddin Bihari.

Both their fathers' names are Md Yeasin.

Out of

FROM PAGE 3

which would illegally cover footpaths with cement, rods and bricks. We auctioned off the materials left by them. I think this is one of our successes as well. This initiative will continue, and I will not allow any sort of illegal encroachment.

DS: What is the one thing you wish you could have done differently this year and why?

Atiqul: I took charge of DNCC for the new term on May 13. Meanwhile, we had to go through a pandemic, which is still here. I wanted to open at least six parks this year, but we were able to open only one.

Now, I will give my best and execute my responsibilities properly during my term as mayor. Therefore, I seek assistance and support from the city's people. This city belongs to all. On the eve of 2021, I would like to call upon all citizens to love and care for our city and country like our own homes.

Director

FROM PAGE 3

Mizanur Rahman, founder of Save the Nature and Life, Rajshahi, said, "On December 28, the hospital authority cut down 80 percent of the branches of a large rain tree, located near the emergency unit of the hospital. Besides the authority also cut down branches of around 100 small Debdaru trees where many small and native birds would nest."

On the next day, activists under the banner of Mizanur's environmental organisation formed a human chain at the hospital gate, protesting the authorities' destruction of nature and habitat. During their demonstration, an altercation occurred with members of Ansar deployed at the hospital.

"After the human chain, I along with two university professors and a forest department officer met with the hospital director. We urged him to stop cutting tree branches, to which he replied that trees don't match the hospital and he has visited many hospitals in the country where he didn't see any big tree," alleged Mizanur.

Contacted, Md Rahat Hossain, wildlife and biodiversity conservation officer at Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division of Rajshahi said, "When I heard the news I talked to the director over phone and later met him alongside two RU professors. The director claimed he did it to save patients and staff from birds' droppings. Later he promised that he will not cut branches of any trees and will not further disturb the birds."

Md Rahat Hossain said, according to the constitution and the Wildlife (preservation and security) Act-2012, destructing habitat of wildlife or birds is an offence. "The hospital authority cut down the branches while the Asian openbill stork resides there. If they continue this we will take legal action against the hospital authority," added Rahat.

When contacted, Brigadier General Shameem Yazdany, director of RMCH told The Daily Star, "My intention was not to disturb the birds. There's a big tree in front of the emergency unit. When I heard the birds' droppings were causing disturbance to patients, I told our staff to cut some of the branches adjacent to the paths near the unit."

"I wanted to cut off more branches of a tree near the public toilets but there was protest from journalists, activists and conservationists when we cut down the branches earlier. So I decided to not do this again," said Brig Gen Yazdany.

"If someone had informed me before cutting the branches then I wouldn't have done it," he added.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

You touched so many lives and were loved by everyone who knew you. May Allah Almighty bring us together in the hereafter and grant you Jannat ul Firdaus. We humbly request all well-wishers of Brig Gen **SANWAR HUDA**, psc (retd.) (**1947-2020**), to pray wholeheartedly for him.
The Huda Family

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
Bangladesh Bridge Authority
Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212
www.bba.gov.bd

Memo No. 50.01.0000.407.33.003.20-624 Date: 31-12-2020

Corrigendum Notice (1st)

It is hereby notified to all concern that the Invitation for Tender (IFT) of Tender Package No. WD1[Engaging Operator for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the Bangabandhu Bridge and Associated works for 5 (five) years invited vide this office memo **50.01.0000.407.33.003.20-601 date: 16 November 2020**. As per the IFT, Pretender-meeting was held on 20 December 2020. Against this backdrop, some amendments of Tender Documents have been made through Addendum-1.

Serial Number as per published IFT	Descriptions	Date & Time	
		As per published IFT	As per this Corrigendum Notice
17	Tender last selling date	10/01/2021, office hour	02/02/2021, office hour
18	Tender closing date	11/01/2021 12.00 Noon	03/02/2021 12.00 Noon
19	Tender opening date	11/01/2021 3.30pm	03/02/2021 3.30pm

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum is an integral part of IFT which was published vide 50.01.0000.407.33.003.20-601 date: 16 November 2020.

Quazi Muhammad Ferdous
Chief Engineer
Ph: 02-55040313
E-mail: chiefengineer@bba.gov.bd

GD-02