Journalist seeks help for treatment

Battling paralysis, Muktar Hasan struggles to find seat in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, TANGAIL

Muktar Hasan, a journalist from Tangail, is currently battling for his life, going from hospital to hospital in Dhaka seeking space for treatment.

The forty-year-old Muktar began his career in journalism about a decade ago. He is differently-abled, and despite struggling to support his family of six with a small salary, he continued working as a journalist at Kaler Srot, a local daily of Tangail.

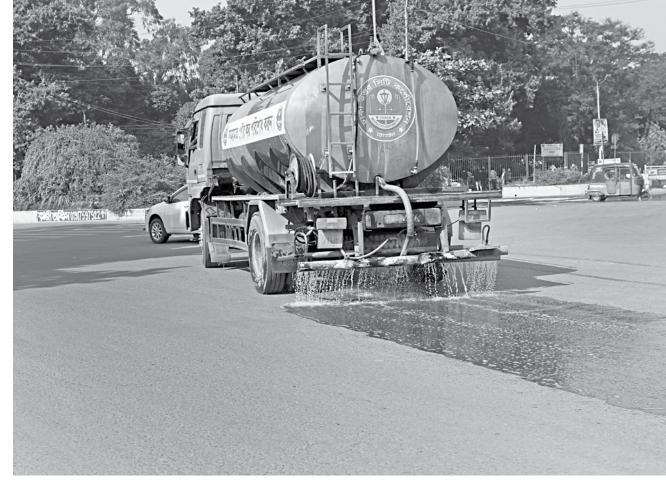
Last week, Muktar suddenly fell ill, and his lower torso area was paralysed. His kidney functions have been seriously hampered. He was admitted to Sheikh Hasina Medical College and Hospital in Tangail on December 24.

Dr Shahidullah Kaiser, associate professor and head of Orthopaedics department at the hospital, told The Daily Star that they suspect Mukter was suffering from a complicated paraplegia disease. They referred him to National Institute of Neuroscience (NINS) in Dhaka.

Muktar's family brought him to Dhaka a couple of days ago, but he couldn't be admitted to NINS as the hospital had no vacant seats.

Muktar and his family are now staying at a relative's house in Dhaka. They are going door to door to seek help with arranging his treatment. Muktar's wife Kohinoor said, "We cannot bear the treatment costs. We are seeking help from kindhearted people for my husband's treatment and the related cost."

Muktar's wife provided the bKash number ---01724191947 -- for donations.



A water tanker of Dhaka North City Corporation sprays the Manik Mia Avenue with water, in a bid to curb dust flying in the air. The air quality of the capital often declines sharply during the winter, when dry weather, road repair and construction work often cause increase in particulate pollution. The photo was taken earlier this week. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BracU to continue assistance fund for students

All non-tuition fee waivered STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac University is going to continue its Student Assistance Fund for the spring 2021 semester

Vice-Chancellor Prof Vincent Chang announced the decision to continue this special support for students, considering the difficulties they are still facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic, said a Brac University statement vesterday.

He emphasised the university's commitment to keeping the students at the centre of all initiatives.

"Being a student-centric university, we go the extra mile for the betterment of our students, particularly in difficult times," said Chang.

The components of the fund will be similar to the previous semesters. Every student will receive a 100 percent nontuition fee waiver and a 10 percent tuition scholarship.

On a need basis, a limited number of students may receive tuition scholarships of more than 10 percent and up to 100 percent.

Brac University has already committed a total of USD 5 million (Tk 43 crore) to the Student Assistance Fund for Summer and Fall semesters in 2020.

BCL man FROM PAGE 3

Solaiman are friends, he added.

"Taslima communicated with Shihab at the hotel where Solaiman worked. Shihab introduced himself as a person close to the deputy education minister. He told her that he could release Iftiaz on bail after talking to the deputy minister, if she gives him Tk 2 lakh," said the police official.

The SI said she gave the money to Shihab and Solaiman but later became suspicious as her husband did not get bail.

So, Taslima went to Nowfel's assistant personal secretary Rahul and disclosed the matter to him. Rahul then informed the deputy minister about the fraudsters.

Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said police seized Tk 1.7 lakh from the accused after their arrest.

Awami League

GM Quader claimed Jatiya Party has survived in the field of politics with the love and confidence of people.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party Secretary General Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu said, "Jatiya Party is the only party that has a tradition of development and good governance for the countrymen.

Bablu said people are eagerly waiting to vote in favour of the plough -- the electoral symbol of Jatiya Party.

Demos to

FROM PAGE 3 organisations started students' holding demonstrations.

Chattogram Itihas Sangskriti Gobeshona Kendra organised a press conference at Chattogram Press Club yesterday. In a written statement, Aliur Rahman, chairperson of the organisation, said the building was the house of Deshbandhu Jatindra Mohan Sengupta, who organised anti-British movements, including strikes at Burma Oil Company and Assam Bengal Railway. He was arrested for organising the movements and died in jail on July 23, 1933.

The house bears the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Shaukat Ali, Dr Ansari, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and Barrister Abdullah Rasul among others, he said.

Jatindra's wife Neli Sengupta, although British, had played a role in the anti-British movements, he said, adding that she lived in the house after her husband's death.

Rana, in the press conference, said after falling sick, Neli went to India for treatment in 1970 and returned in 1972, but found out that her house was "grabbed".

He said the government had leased out the property as vested property to a person running a school there. A third party, suddenly on Monday,

drove them out of the building and be implemented immediately." started demolishing it, claiming that they had a court order of the house's ownership.

"Firstly, the house is in custody of Chattogram District Administration, and without informing it, the third party somehow got a court order, claiming that they bought the property from a relative of Jatindra," said Rana.

'We demand the administration take steps to protect the building, turning it into a museum of anti-British heroes," he said.

Poet and journalist Abul Momen said according to Article 24 of the Constitution, the government will protect historic structures, and according to Antiquities Act, the state will take steps to protect structures that are 100 years old and over.

Conscious citizens should raise their voice to protect the historic structure, he said.

Prof Anupam Sen, vice chancellor of Premier University, said the property was made into vested property "unethically"

"It is a historic structure, and we will have to save it by any means," he

Rana said on July 9, 2018, Ministry of Cultural Affairs decided to protect the building, turning it into a

"We have protected Chattogram Court Building, Chattogram Railway Station and Chattogram Railway Building through movements," he said. "We will save this structure too. If necessary, we will go for legal steps."

Besides, different organisations, including Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Chattogramer Bir Janata, formed human chains beside Chattogram Press Club yesterday, demanding the same.

During a visit yesterday, it was seen that parts of the house's roof and walls were demolished. The compound's main entrance was shut. No further activities for demolishing the house was seen at that time.

Contacted, SM Zakaria, deputy additional commissioner (general) of Chattogram District Administration, said the administration leased out the property to a person.

"Keeping us in the dark, another person filed a case with court. We did not know about it, but as we now know, we will take legal steps," he said.

AJM Nasir Uddin, former mayor of Chattogram City Corporation, said, "Whoever instigated the demolition should be held accountable for their action...We all have to stand against museum. "The decision will have to such acts to save our historical sites."

Take prompt

FROM PAGE 3

we have found many examples that she was instigated to take her own life," said Prof Titil.

"Lakingme's family must be given protection since they are feeling insecure and they must be given compensation. Also, a departmental inquiry into PBI's negligence must be carried out and punishment must be ensured for those involved in certificate forgery, forced conversion and marriage of the minor," she added.

She also expressed concern over maintenance and guardianship of Lakingme's child.

Samakal journalist Rajib Noor, one of the team members, said Ataullah had to pay Tk 60,000 for the marriage, but they found that his financial condition was not that good.

"A lot of money has been changed hands in the whole abduction process, and we believe there is someone else behind this," he said.

Shahnaz Sumi, deputy director of BNPS amd moderator of the event, shared that the investigation team found five crimes in this incident -abduction, forced conversion, child marriage, rape, and provocation of suicide.

Demanding exemplary punishments for the perpetrators, she also called on the local administration to release Lakingme's autopsy report.

Rights activist Nur Khan Liton said the tendency of concealing the real age of a girl using a forged certificate, and forced conversion is a serious crime, and they must be brought under justice. He also expressed concerns over decline in indigenous population in Teknaf.

Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reforms of Bangladesh, said the Teknaf police, PBI investigation team and Cox's Bazar public prosecutor must be held accountable for Lakingme's death.

Demanding justice for her, Sadeka Halim, dean of Social Science, University of Dhaka, said the safety and security of the minorities must be ensured.

Dipayan Khisha of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Babilon Chakma, organising secretary of Dhaka Metropolitan Pahari Chhatra Parishad; and Rafique Ahmed Sheeraji of ALRD, also spoke at the event, among others.

