

Family refuses to settlement, demands justice

FROM PAGE 1 doctrine providing for punishment equal to the crime in cases of murder or intentionally caused physical injury. Qisas forms part of the law in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Iran. The court has fixed January 20 as the next date of the hearing in the case, confirmed the Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment and Abiron's family.

From Paikgachha of Khulna, forty-year-old Abiron went to the Gulf country through a recruiting agency in Dhaka and with the help of a local agent named Rabiul. The family alleged that during her stay, Abiron endured severe physical assault at her employer's house where she worked as domestic help. When she spoke to her sister the last time, she spoke of the brutal torture she had to face. There were eight people living in the house. The employers would not give her food and even used to pour hot water on her and put her head into a grill, they alleged. And at one point, her family completely lost communication with her. As they did not get the body after her death, they contacted Brac and an application was filed. Her lifeless body finally arrived in the country on October 24, 2019, through the Wage Earners Welfare Board. The reason of Abiron's death was stated as murder in her death certificate. When this news was published the next day, the country's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on its own formed a fact-finding committee headed by its member Dr Nomita Halder.

government officials. A case was filed in Khulna under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012, where Rabiul was the main accused. Khulna CID is not dealing with the case now. The NHRC recommended seeking legal action, compensation for the murder and providing exemplary punishment to the accused by the court. The charge sheet filed against the accused in the case alleged specific and intentional murder. After getting the power of attorney from Abiron's family, the trial began in the Criminal Court-6 of Riyadh on December 16 last year -- a rare instance in Saudi Arabia. The first secretary of the embassy in Riyadh Shafiqul Islam and translator Sohail Ahmed were present at the hearing with the power of attorney on behalf of Abiron's family. Representative of the Saudi Public Prosecution Abdullah Mohammed Abdullah was present at the hearing. Three Saudi nationals arrested in connection with the killing -- Basem Salem, Abiron's employer, his wife Ayesha al-Jizani, and the couple's son Walid Basem Salem -- joined the hearing virtually from jail. At the beginning of the hearing, the embassy representative handed over the power of attorney and authorisation letter sent by the heirs of the deceased. The court verified and uploaded those in the system of the Saudi Ministry of Justice. The court wanted to know from the embassy representative the demands of Abiron's heirs. The representative said that Abiron's family wanted Qisas instead of compromise. As the court wanted the accused statement in this regard, the accused verbally denied the allegation and said that they would submit a written statement through a lawyer. The lawyer of the accused sought bail for Basem Salem, the head of the family, but the court rejected the bail petition and asked them to submit the written reply, and adjourned the case till January 20.

Mehedi Hasan, counsellor (labour) of Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi Arabia, sent a letter to the secretary of the expatriate welfare ministry in Dhaka. The letter requested Khulna District Employment and Manpower Officer (DEMO) to inform Abiron's family about the latest progress of the case. "We have been keeping in touch Abiron's family regularly and sending information and documents requested from the embassy. The family told us they wanted exemplary punishment for the incident," Mohammad Ali Siddiqui, deputy director of the Khulna DEMO, told The Daily Star yesterday. SM Ayub Ali, husband of Abiron's sister Reshma Khatun, who is looking after the family, said Abiron was tortured from the beginning. "When her corpse arrived in the country, it was so horrible that we could not look at it. We want harsh punishment for the killers, not any compromise, so that no more people die a death like Abiron's," he said. Abiron is not a lone case.

About 500 bodies of Bangladeshi migrant women have been brought to the country in the last five years. The bodies of at least 200 of them came from Saudi Arabia. But those responsible for the incidents were not punished. Contacted, Nomita Halder said, "Abiron's death is not an isolated incident. Poor women like Abiron are dying regularly. We have recommended to improve the process of sending women abroad." "But the recommendations were not implemented. What action has been taken against the government employees and the brokers? The progress of the case in Khulna is disappointing," said Nomita, also a former secretary in the expatriate welfare ministry. She, however, expressed optimism that there would be a fair trial for Abiron's murder. "There was little precedence of a formal trial in Saudi Arabia. I hope Abiron will get justice. However, it is important to take appropriate measures so that no such incident occurs again," she said.



A person feeds pigeons at Piazza Navona, as the region enters the 'yellow zone' after the government relaxed some of the coronavirus disease curbs on weekdays following a strict lockdown over the holidays, in Rome, Italy yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russians see US democracy 'limping' after Capitol stormed

AFP, Moscow Russian officials yesterday pointed to the storming of the US Capitol as evidence of America's decline, with one saying it showed US democracy was "limping on both feet." After the stunning events in Washington, many in Moscow said the United States was no longer in any position to lecture other countries on freedom and democracy. Under banners reading "Storm of the Capitol" and "Chaos in Washington", Russian state television showed rolling images of mobs of Donald Trump supporters breaking down barricades and swarming the building, as security forces fired tear gas and police drew guns inside. "The losing side has more than enough grounds to accuse the winner of falsifications -- it is clear that American democracy is limping on both feet," Konstantin Kosachyov, the chair of the Russian upper house's foreign affairs committee, said in a post on Facebook. "The celebration of democracy has ended. It has, unfortunately, hit rock bottom, and I say this without a hint of gloating."

"America no longer charts the course and so has lost all right to set it. And, even more so, to impose it on others." Moscow has long bristled at US criticism of the state of Russian democracy under President Vladimir Putin, accusing Washington of hypocrisy and condescension. Russian commentators gleefully pointed to Trump's refusal to recognise the results of November's election, and growing divisions in the United States, as evidence of the country's decline.

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A fallen

FROM PAGE 3 are verifying the information," he added. "However, it's the matter of the Department of Environment and Forest Department to take steps against Nuru for grabbing and destroying the hills," said the assistant commissioner. Contacted, Nurullah Nuri, DoE Chattogram director (metro unit), said, "We have already spoken to law enforcers regarding the matter and have filed a case against him [Nuru]." 'CONVICTED, YET NO ONE KNEW' Interestingly, this was not the first time Nur Alam alias Nuru's illegal activities came to the fore. He has been an accused in at least 24 cases with different police stations. But Nuru seemed to remain unfazed by those and go on with his illegal activities while law enforcers "continue their drives" to arrest him. Even in 2017, a court in Chattogram sentenced him to 17 years in prison in a case filed with Akbar Shah Police Station over the recovery of firearms. However, police said they were yet to receive any conviction warrant in this regard. After the recent incident, police came to know about it. "We are looking into it and are communicating with the court in this regard," said OC Jahir. Even the court seemed to be baffled as to what happened with the warrant. According to court sources, they are now planning to issue a new conviction warrant against Nuru.

Govt planning

FROM PAGE 3 keeping those free of encroachment. Public representatives can play a vital role in this regard, said the minister. He also said he took the initiative before but the previous DSCC mayor was not interested in it. The minister said they will hold meetings with the two city corporations and other stakeholders to protect the waterbodies. About rural infrastructure, the minister said whenever they hear complaints about lax monitoring or poor quality of work, they are taking steps against it. He said they have also prepared a guideline for road infrastructure in rural areas. A rural road will have to be at least 10 feet in width -- a road on union level will be 12 feet in width and at upazila parishad level 16 to 20 feet in width as per the guideline, he said. Quality of work will increase when it will be done based on the guideline; the guidelines will be published as a gazette, he said. About mosquito control, the minister said they had taken different initiatives to destroy mosquito breeding grounds for which the number of casualty from dengue was very low last year.

Where have

FROM PAGE 3 These nutrition gardens are designed to set up on barren land near anyone's residence or yards. Interestingly at yesterday's meeting, Agriculture Minister Dr Md Abdur Razzaque also said as a minister of this ministry, he had the chance to see only one such model garden. The secretary remained silent when the lawmakers asked him to explain about the gap between the ministry's claim and the real situation, meeting sources said. Matia Chowdhury, chief of the parliamentary standing committee, also expressed concerned over this. A lawmaker of the committee said more than Tk 38 crore was given for this project. The meeting asked the ministry to provide actual data to the government and not to embarrass it through wrong information. For example, a lawmaker, who was present at the meeting, said the ministry earlier in a meeting of the parliamentary standing body said there was enough stock of rice. But that information proved not to be correct as the government had to go for rice procurement, he said.

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা

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ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। মন্ত্রণালয় ও বিভাগ	ঃ স্থানীয় সরকার পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়, স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ।				
২। সংস্থার নাম	ঃ ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।				
৩। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী বিভাগ	ঃ সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।				
৪। ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM), সিলাপালা যুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান।				
৫। কার্য পরিচালনা ইজারার মেয়াদ	ঃ কার্যক্রমের তারিখ থেকে পরবর্তী ০১ (এক) বছর।				
৬। দরদাভার যোগ্যতা	ঃ (ক) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত কপি। (খ) হালনাগাদ টি.আই.এন সমসদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। (গ) সদ্য তোলা ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি। (ঘ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। (ঙ) বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা সম্বলিত স্থানীয় ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর/১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক গৃহীত সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।				
৭। সিটিউলের টাকা জমা দেয়ার খাত	ঃ মেয়র, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা হিসাব নং-০২০০১৭৫৩৮ (বিবিধ), সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, নগর ভবন শাখা।				
৮। দরপত্র বিক্রির স্থান	ঃ বিভাগীয় কর্মশালার কার্যালয়; ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, হিরাব বিভাগ ও সরল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়।				
৯। দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	ঃ বিভাগীয় কর্মশালার কার্যালয়; ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্পত্তি বিভাগ ও সরল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়।				
১০। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ঃ প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর, সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, ৪র্থ তলা, রফ নং-০২৫, নগর ভবন, ডিএসসিপি।				
১১। সিটিউল ক্রয়ের তারিখ, দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখ ও খোলার সময় নিম্নরূপঃ	ঃ				
দরপত্র আহ্বানের শর্তাধীন	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র বাতিল ও খাম খোলার তারিখ ও সময় (দরদাতার উপস্থিতিতে)			
১ম পর্যায়ে	২০/০১/২০২১ তারিখ	২১/০১/২০২১ তাং- সকাল ৯টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত			
২য় পর্যায়ে	০৩/০২/২০২১ তারিখ	০৪/০২/২০২১ তাং- সকাল ৯টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত			
৩য় পর্যায়ে	১৭/০২/২০২১ তারিখ	১৮/০২/২০২১ তাং- দুপুর ২.৩০টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত			
১২। কাজের বিবরণঃ	ঃ	ঃ			
ক্র/নং	ইজারার নিমিত্ত কাঁচাবাজার/ক্যান্টিন/ কফিশপ ও টয়লেট	সরকারি মূল্য	সিটিউল মূল্য	জামানত	মন্তব্য
০১	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন নগর ইন্ডাস্ট্রি মার্কেটের ভেতরে অবস্থিত কাঁচাবাজার।	২,০০,০০,০০০	৪০,৬০০	ইজারা দরের ৩০% (শতকরা ৩০ ভাগ) পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাস্ট দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। ২৫% অর্থ ইজারা মূল্যের সাথে সমন্বয় করা হবে। বাকী ৫% অর্থ জামানত হিসেবে সংরক্ষিত থাকবে।	বিষয়ে ব্যবসায়ী শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী সম্পত্তি বিভাগ হতে (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) জানা যাবে।
০২	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের নগর ভবনস্থ "জেনারেল ও অফিসার ক্যান্টিন"।	৫,০০,০০০	১,৬০০		
০৩	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন ৩নং ওয়ার্ডস্থ সিংগেলী পার্কের অভ্যন্তরে নির্মিত কফি হাউজ ও পাবলিক টয়লেট।	২,০০,০০০	১,০০০		
১৩। বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলীঃ সরকারি ছুটি/অনিবার্য কারণবশত নির্ধারিত দিনে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে ও একই সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। কর্তৃক কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিক্রমেই কোনো দরপত্র/সমুদয় দরপত্র বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ রাখেন। টেন্ডার সফলতা বিস্তারিত তথ্য টেন্ডার সিটিউলে বর্ণিত থাকবে।					

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Invitation Reference No. Memo No. EE/WDB/Chapainawabganj/Da-2/43, Date: 07/01/2021

Tender ID	Name of the work
535355	Re-Excavation of Dhukhumari Khal from Km. 0.00 to Km. 4.20 = 4200m at Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj district in C/W Re-excavation of small river khal & water bodies in 64 Districts (Phase-1) (1st Revised) Project under Nawabganj O&M Division, BWDB, Chapainawabganj during the FY-2020-2021. (Package No. Chapainawab-W-12/2020-2021).
535356	Landscaping work and Eviction of illegal occupants of River Khal and Embankment in C/W Re-excavation of small river khal & water bodies in 64 Districts Phase-1 Project under Nawabganj O&M Division BWDB Chapainawabganj during the FY-2019-2020 (Package No. FFW/W-25).

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contact number (01762625528-31).

পানি-৪২৮/২০২০-২০২১
৬"×৩
GD-39

Md. Mehedi Hasan
Executive Engineer
Nawabganj O&M Division
BWDB, Chapainawabganj

45th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MOHAMMAD SIRAJUDDIN

Today the 8th January is the 45th death anniversary of Late Mohammad Sirajuddin founder Chairman & Managing Director of Modhumita Group, Sirco Soap & Chemical Industries, Kohinor Jute Mills Ltd. founder Director of Standard Bank of Pakistan also the founder Director of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Though he is not in this world, he lives in our hearts, in our minds, in our memory. Entrepreneurs like him are rare who left behind foot prints for generations to follow. All friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

All Members of Modhumita Family