

Madrasa super found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police recovered the hanging body of a madrasa superintendent from his residence in Hat Gopalpur area in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim, Sujon Hossain, 33, father of two children, was superintendent of Borobari Nurani Madrasa in the upazila.

Neighbours said Sujon had been staying alone at home since his wife and two children went to visit his in-laws' house couple of days ago.

Finding him absent at his institution in

morning, neighbours went to his house and found the door open.

Later, they entered his room and found his body hanging from the ceiling of the room.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station Mizanur Rahman said, being informed by locals, a police team went to the spot, recovered Sujon's body, with his hands tied with a scarf and legs with rope, and sent it to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

The reason behind the death would be clear after the autopsy, the OC said, adding that preparation of filing of a case was underway.



Shayestaganj post office building in Habiganj. Below, the building lies in a dilapidated state with plaster falling off ceiling.

PHOTO: STAR

A derelict post office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Built in 1972 on Station Road, Shayestaganj post office building in Habiganj is now in a dilapidated condition with plaster falling off ceiling and visible cracks on the walls.

Despite repeated letters to higher authorities for a new building, they are not getting any approval, the post office officials said.

The regular functioning of the post office is being hampered and they are compelled to work at the risky environment, they said.

Visiting the post office, it was seen that electric wires hanging all over the office posing the risk of an accident anytime. Office doors and windows are all broken with no toilet attached to the run-down building.

In addition to this, cracks have also appeared on the boundary wall following an earthquake. As part of the government initiative to modernise the post office, Post E-Center has also been launched at Shayestaganj Post Office. In this e-center, 60 students are taking classes in the risky building.



Mukul Das, a resident of Sayestaganj town said, "The government has provided many modern facilities to the post office. But I am afraid to go to this post office fearing that the building would collapse." "Many in our area also shun the office building fearing the same," he said. Nazmul Islam, a NGO accountant in the same area said "I need revenue stamps every day for my work. So, I have to go to Habiganj town every month to

collect those. I avoid going to the nearby post office as the building is old and risky." Jony Rani Das, an instructor at the post office's e-training center said, "Sixty students take classes at the center. I am always in panic; the roof may collapse at any time. The students are taking classes risking their lives." Postal operator Akhlaqul Ambia said, "Important are also kept in this office. Other activities of the post office include general public deposits. People from remote

areas still come here for services. I work here at the risk of my life. Our office is plagued with various problems."

The other 14 staffers of the office echoed Jony Rani Das and Akhlaqul Ambia.

Postmaster Golam Mostafa Shamim said, there are 14 sub-offices under Shayestaganj Post Office. All the important official documents are preserved here.

"We do not have security personnel. People have important documents and money in this office. But we are compelled to do our job at this risky building," he said.

The residential building allotted for me was also abandoned. This office is facing myriad of problems, he said adding that the departmental office has been informed about the problems many times.

Abdul Quader, assistant postmaster general (APG) in Habiganj said, "Proposals for the new building have already been sent to the central office. Maybe the file for the new building will be approved in a few days."

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Transport strike

FROM PAGE 1
BNP leaders further alleged that law enforcers did not grant them permission to hold the rally till yesterday evening, although they had sought the permission two weeks ago.

The sudden transport crisis left hundreds of passengers in trouble.

Asked, Rajshahi District Bus Owners Association Joint Secretary Shafkat Manjur said they stopped their services fearing attack on their vehicles ahead of the BNP programme.

There have been instances when buses were torched before such events, he added. On February 5, the party announced that it would hold rallies in six city corporation areas across the country, including in Rajshahi, demanding fair parliamentary elections.

The first rally was in Barisal on February 18. But from morning that day, ferry services between Shimulia and Banglabazar remained suspended, preventing BNP men from crossing the river.

The party alleged that the government suspended the services on purpose while officials concerned blamed "technical issues" for the suspension.

"It's a government tactic to prevent the opposition party from getting organised and raising voices," M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, told The Daily Star.

"Such a tactic is successful in the short term, but it fails in the long run," he said. He also said it seemed the police were acting on the government directives.

On February 28, the BNP held a rally in Khulna. But transport owners called a 24-hour transport strike before the rally started. They said the strike was called to avoid possible damage to vehicles in case there was chaos during the rally.

On February 13, the party organised a protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital, protesting the government's decision to revoke its founder Ziaur Rahman's gallantry "Bir Uttam" title.

But the rally was foiled as scuffled batons on BNP men and dispersed them from the venue. Talking on the issue, Prof Al Masud Hasanuzzaman, a teacher of government and politics department at Jahangirnagar University, said political intolerance was prevailing in the country.

"It seems that the BNP has failed to organise and regain its strength. At the same time, it is plagued by weak leadership. The government's strategy also seems to be centered on cornering the opposition parties. The ruling party does not want to give any political mileage to its opponents," he added.

On Sunday, pro-BNP students' platform Jatuyatabadi Chhatra Dal also called for a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, protesting the authorities' decision to revoke the gallantry award of late President Ziaur Rahman, demanding the repeal of the Digital Security Act and an investigation into the death of writer Mushtaq Ahmed in prison custody.

But that programme was also foiled following a series of clashes between the JCD men and the police. Nearly 500 leaders and activists gathered there but police barred them from taking to the streets, saying the party didn't take any permission to hold the programme.

Prof Tareque Shamsur Rahman, another teacher at Jahangirnagar University, said 50 years after the country's independence, the two major parties are still at loggerheads, which is not good for democracy.

"I think the opposition party should be given political space. Besides, a mutual understanding between the two parties is much needed," he said.

Rahman also said the opposition should take permission from the authorities concerned for any rally and police also should extend their support to them.

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