

We try

FROM PAGE 3 In cases filed under the women and children repression act, we have to submit charge sheets within 180 working days. For other cases, like a sensational or gruesome murder, we work for years until we are able to get related documents for investigation.

For investigating a case, first we form a team with an investigation officer (IO). We then ask the IO to visit the crime scenes as many times as possible to gather evidence.

We have a saying in PBI -- listen to what the accused and complainant have to say carefully, and do not judge beforehand.

We're now trying to come out of the culture of taking verbal statements, which is an old practice. We're trying to come up with an alternative to avoid recording statements under section 161 or 164.

DS: What special training PBI officials go through to handle cases, as some are either quite sensational or dates way back?

Banaj Kumar: We always try to teach IOs how to ask more questions. After solving every sensational or critical incident, we arrange a case study for our members.

Officials participating in the training session express their opinions regarding the case and ask the IO questions. The main reason behind it is to increase the ability of the IO to ask questions.

DS: PBI also handles militancy, cybercrimes, money laundering and trafficking cases. You have set up a specialised unit to run Counter Terrorism Unit. Can you elaborate on how it operates?

Banaj Kumar: After the 2016 attack at a Dhaka cafe, we realised we may also need to operate in emergency situations. So, we needed to be prepared, as back then, militancy had no relations with our investigations.

DS: Some cases PBI handles are sensational and equally sensitive. Do PBI officials face obstacles or challenges while dealing with those, and how do they overcome that?

Banaj Kumar: While investigating old cases, we do face challenges. Sufficient information and digital evidence are often not found, and people related to the cases at times do not remember clearly about the incident.

Sometimes, "pressure groups" try to influence investigation. To overcome this, all officers of the unit are directed to tell such groups to communicate with PBI's DIG.

When they communicate with me, I suggest them to meet the home minister or police chief. Thankfully, I have never received any request from the ministry or PHQ in favour of these groups, so far.

DS: At the same time, some of the cases also implicate law enforcers. This issue can be quite sensitive. How do you handle it?

Banaj Kumar: An incident can take place while performing duty, but we do not spare any law enforcer for a crime. The police chief has given consent to act against all responsible and has a zero-tolerance policy, we consult with PHQ in such cases.

Besides, we always produce all documents and evidence before the media, especially in cases where law enforcers have been accused.

DS: Following a court order, PBI is probing the case filed over torture of cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore in police custody. Can you tell us about it?

Banaj Kumar: Yes, we are looking into all details. A medical board was formed to check his health. We have nothing more to disclose about the case yet.

DS: Do you have any internal vigilance?

Banaj Kumar: We always oversee our officials' activities and have a provision to take lawful action if anyone is found involved with unlawful activities. Some 20 officials faced different types of punishment last year for their involvement with offences.

DS: What are some of the constraints and challenges PBI faces?

Banaj Kumar: We have manpower shortage in every district, and shortage of vehicles and equipment must also be addressed. The government has already allocated around 43 units of land, and funds to build infrastructure.

DS: With the methods and nature of crimes changing, and to some extent evolving, what are your future plans to cope with them?

Banaj Kumar: We also have to deal with the changing patterns of crimes. For example, if any crime takes place using technology, then it will be not possible to solve it, unless you know about the process completely.

Our focus is to improve not only in the digital sphere, but also in analogue processes. I often hear from IOs that they did not find cell-phone details of a person. I tell them to go their residence, speak to locals, and try to come up with other solutions rather than just giving up.

Appl for help

Freedom fighter Amir Hamza Chowdhury (67) is a retired insurance official. He lives in Dhaka along with his wife and two school-going sons.

He was diagnosed with cancer some time ago and has been under treatment at National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital.

Though stable now, he has to take expensive medicines every day. His family said Hamza has already sold his house to continue the treatment.

However, it is getting harder to pay for it as he needs Tk 60,000 every month for the medicines.

The family is seeking help from the affluent and kind-hearted. His wife urged the well-off to come forward to save his husband.

Donations can be sent to: Amir Hamza Chowdhury; Account: 0112100019739; Exim Bank Limited, Motijheel Branch, Dhaka.

Sher-e-Bangla

FROM PAGE 3 The ruling party will also hold a recitation of Surah Fatiha and offer prayers for salvation of the departed soul at Sher-e-Bangla's grave in the city.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages marking his death anniversary.

They paid rich tributes to the late leader, recalled his struggle for economic freedom of the peasants and toiling people of the country, and prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul.

Both the president and PM also mentioned AK Fazlul Huq's exceptional leadership, personality and political wisdom.

DOCTOR-MAGISTRATE ALTERCATION

Writ petition seeks judicial enquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court, seeking its order for conducting a judicial inquiry into an altercation between a physician and authorities over the doctor's movement pass in Dhaka on April 18, the video of which went viral on social media.

Md Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the office concerned of the HC, praying to the court to direct the government for taking stern action against executive magistrate Sheikh Mamunur Rashid and law enforcers for misbehaving with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University's Associate Professor Dr Sayeda Shawkat Janny during the incident.

In the petition, the lawyer also challenged the legality of operating mobile court by the executive magistrate and holding trial on the spot.

Akond told The Daily Star that Mamunur and police have humiliated and harassed Dr Sayeda at Elephant Road area by confining her car in the name of knowing her identity, even though she showed her professional identity mentioned in her car's sticker and gown.

The executive magistrate and law enforcers have misused their powers, which is illegal and unconstitutional, he said. He said Mamunur was conducting a mobile court during the incident, which is also illegal, as operating judicial activities by executive officers is illegal and contradictory to Article 22 of the constitution and Supreme Court directives.

Akond said he will place the petition before a High Court bench for its hearing today. Earlier, on April 19, an HC bench refused to pass any order on the incident. On that day, Akond placed newspaper reports published on the incident before the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Sardar Md Rashed Jahangir, seeking necessary order on the issue.

Getting vaccines

FROM PAGE 3

the government is just making wrong decisions, and financial relation is behind all this. As a result, people are now not getting the vaccine."

The BNP leader said the country needs to attain herd immunity by vaccinating 12.5 crore people. "But the government has put the entire nation in danger with its incompetence, failure, corruption and profit-making mentality."

He said although Serum Institute of India was paid Tk 1.5 crore in advance for vaccines, the country has so far received 70 lakh doses only. Fakhru said the government has stopped giving the first dose of vaccine, as Serum Institute expressed unwillingness to provide rest of the doses due to the Indian government's ban on vaccine export.

He said their standing committee thinks the government should reach an understanding with the Indian government for getting vaccines, as per the agreement and payment. Fakhru said the government also can take legal action at international level, if it fails to reach a negotiation with the Indian government and Serum Institute.

He alleged that the poor, low-income people and day-labourers have been going through a tough time, as the government has not given them any financial support during the ongoing lockdown.

The BNP leader demanded the government immediately announce an incentive package for them to ease their sufferings.

Fakhru alleged that a vested quarter has been carrying out false propaganda by creating fake Facebook accounts in the name of top BNP leaders and Zia family members. "We strongly condemn it."



Dr Mahbulul Islam no more

CITY DESK

Dr Mahbulul Islam, chief cardiac anaesthesiologist at Labaid Cardiac Hospital and director of Labaid Management Committee, breathed his last around 4:20am yesterday.

He was 63, says a press release. He was suffering from Covid-19 and was admitted in intensive care unit of Labaid Specialized Hospital for the last 25 days.

He is survived by his wife Farida Islam, daughters Farhana Mahbul and Afnan Mahbul, son Ahmed Rayhan Mehran, and four grandchildren.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Hazaribagh yesterday.

Barrister Ziaur

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Following breathing and other complications, Ziaur was admitted to the Impulse Hospital. Later, he was diagnosed positive for Covid-19, said family sources.

He breathed his last after suffering a stroke. Ziaur was buried following three namaz-e-janaza in Dhamrai.

Earlier, a namaz-e-janaza was held at a mosque in Dhamra.

Floral wreaths were placed on behalf of BNP at his coffin and a minute of silence was observed.

BNP leaders AZM Zahid Hossain, AM Mahbul Uddin Khokon, Syed Emran Saleh Prince, Nasir Uddin Ashim and Saidur Rahman, among others, were present at the namaz-e-janaza.

In his early life, Ziaur was a journalist and worked for The Pakistan Observer. His weekly write up "Talk of the Town" became a very popular column, which he wrote as Zia Omar.

In 1970, he went to study law in London and became a barrister. He returned home in 1977 and started practicing law with his renowned lawyer father. He later joined the chamber of Barrister Ishtiaq in the 1980s and worked till the early 1990s.

In 1991, he joined BNP and became a lawmaker in the first election after restoration of democracy with the fall of Ershad regime.

His father, Ataur Rahman Khan, was the chief minister of East Pakistan from September 1956 to 1958 until the promulgation of martial law. Ataur Rahman Khan was also the prime minister of Bangladesh from March 30, 1984 to January 1, 1985 during the rule of HM Ershad.

Ziaur was well known for his sharp and incisive thinking and a witty presence of mind. He was a very affable person with warm demeanour. He was an engaging conversationalist with tremendous knowledge of contemporary events.

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhruul Islam Alamgir expressed deep shock at his death.

PREVENTING SPREAD OF COVID-19

Writ petition filed with HC seeks formulation of national plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday seeking its directive on the government to formulate national short-, mid- and long-term plan in order to prevent spread of Covid-19 and to vaccinate all vulnerable citizens -- irrespective of age.

Supreme Court lawyers Mohammad Humayun Kabir Pallab and Mohammed Kavar jointly submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC.

The petition also requested the court to order the authorities concerned of the government to purchase and supply sufficient oxygen, medicines -- including vaccines -- and equipment for the Covid-19 patients.

In the petition, the lawyers said Covid-19 outbreak may reportedly stay in Bangladesh for 10 to 15 years according to different studies including that of the World Health Organization.

Therefore, the government needs to

formulate national plan in order to prevent Covid-19 pandemic, they said in the petition. Citing the petition, Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star that the government has provided Covid-19 vaccine to the people aged of 40 years or above which is discriminatory and contradictory to the fundamental rights of people.

All the citizens have right to life in accordance with the constitution and they have the right to get vaccinated, he said. Humayun Kabir said the state is constitutionally bound to provide necessary medicines, vaccines, oxygen, equipment and ICU for the patients to save their lives.

The second wave of coronavirus outbreak is now at the peak and if necessary measures are not taken immediately, the situation may go beyond control like that of India, the lawyer said.

Humayun Kabir said he would take an initiative so that the HC hold a hearing on the petition today.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested Firm/Organization for designing and developing e-RPL platforms for Skills Assessment and Certification in Bangladesh.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT e-Zone Servicing Change Managers E-Zone HRM Limited is a management consulting group providing one-stop HR solutions.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Govt. M M College, Jashore Khark Road, Jashore-7400 E mail: principal.mmc.jessore@gmail.com

Appeal for help Appeal for help

Trust Bank A Bank for Financial Inclusion TENDER NOTICE TBL intends to procure 05 (Five) Units Server for implementation of Interoperable Digital Transaction Platform (IDTP) through open tender.

Trust Bank A Bank for Financial Inclusion TENDER NOTICE TBL intends to procure 500 (Five Hundred) Nos. POS Terminal through open tender.

Gazipur City Corporation Zone-07 Gazipur Memo No. 46.19.0000.144.14.024.20-874 Invitation for Re-Tenders (Works) e-Tender Notice No. 01/2020-2021 (Works)