

Physician's stabbed body recovered from flat in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered body of a doctor from her house in the city's Kalabagan area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Kazi Sabira Rahman (47), a physician at Green Life Hospital.

Police suspect that she was murdered, as the body bore stab marks with a sharp weapon.

Shahen Shah Mahmud, additional deputy commissioner (New Market Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they recovered the body from a flat on the second floor of the building.

Meanwhile, Lima Khanam, duty officer of Fire Service Control Room, said two units of firefighters rushed to the house after being told of fire at the flat around 10:30am.

"The fire was doused before we reached, but the firefighters found a body there. We later handed the body over to police," she said.

Police suspected assailants killed her and set her bed on fire to divert law enforcers' attention.

Kazi Harun-or-Rashid Mridha, uncle of the deceased, "The killers tried to brand

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Following consecutive days of earthquakes, Sylhet City Corporation has decided to close down six risk-prone markets, including this Modhubon Market in Bandar Bazar for 10 days, starting from yesterday till June 9. After receiving the mayor's orders, members of the market committees sat for a meeting yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SYLHET City authorities caught napping

They now rush to prepare for earthquake

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

There are laws, rules and specific instructions on how a government authority should remain prepared all the time to face a disaster.

But that preparedness is often out of practice and they seem to await a forecast in this regard.

Such slackness may somehow be salvageable when it comes to flood or cyclones, but not in the case of an earthquake, as the science is yet to advance to that level to predict an earthquake accurately.

After a series of four earthquakes and several aftershocks in Sylhet from Saturday morning to afternoon, followed by another one on early Sunday, this unpreparedness of the authorities concerned in Sylhet came to the fore.

Sylhet city sits in close proximity (55km) of the Dauki fault line making it susceptible to widespread damage should a major quake occur, according to experts.

Dauki is a 300km fault line stretching from south of the Shillong Plateau, a highland region in eastern Meghalaya state of northeastern India, to the northern border of Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions.

On June 12, 1897, a magnitude 8 plus earthquake was triggered in the fault which almost destroyed every structure of Bangladesh's northeastern part and present day India's Meghalaya and Assam's all towns; and at least 1,542 persons died.

Over a couple of decades, experts found that the fault line has accumulated much strain energy that's ready to be released and can cause a massive earthquake of magnitude 7.5 to 8.5.

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PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK

Railways in two minds on developing infrastructure now for future electric train

Contractor says doing it later would bump up cost

TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

Although more than half of the project period has already elapsed, railways authorities could not take decision yet whether they would develop some infrastructure for the installation of electric traction under the ongoing Padma Bridge Rail Link Project (PBRLP).

It would cost between Tk 335.72 to Tk 519.36 crore (depending on track speed) for concurrent implementation work now. But it would take more than double if it is done later, the Chinese contractor of project said.

In this given situation, railway authorities yesterday decided to seek opinion from government high-ups, as the works will warrant revision of the project cost, officials said.

The decision was taken when officials of China Railway Group Ltd (CREC), the contractor of the fast-track project, gave a presentation over different perspectives of electric traction at Rail Bhaban yesterday, they said.

Presided over by Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, the meeting was attended by high officials of his ministry and Bangladesh Railway (BR).

BR is implementing the PBRLP to connect the capital and Jashore with a 169km rail line via the under-construction Padma Bridge.

The Tk 39,246-crore project is being implemented between January 2016 and June 2024. The physical work of project began in July 2018, and has seen 41.5 percent progress till April this year.

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Illegally-recruited staffers confine top RU officials

NBR seeks bank info on 4 more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Most of the 137 unlawfully recruited staffers, who were recruited by former Rajshahi University vice-chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan on his last day in office on May 6, laid siege to RU administrative building yesterday, pressuring the administration to allow them to join work.

They have been confining four top officials including pro-VC Prof Ananda Kumar Saha, who is given the routine duties of the VC, and another pro-VC Prof Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria to the VC's conference room since 12pm.

Talking to The Daily Star at 8pm, RU proctor Liakat Ali said those employed on May 6 were still confining the RU officials to the room.

They were demanding that the authorities allow them to join their respective posts, he said.

The agitators were not allowing anyone to enter or go out of the office, he said. "The present administration has no authority to sanction their recruitment," he said.

He said authorities did not call in police to avoid any untoward incident. Police were stationed there, he added.

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POSSESSING LSD 5 arrestees on 5-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed five university students on a five-day remand each in connection with a case filed for possessing the hallucinogenic drug Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD).

The arrestees are: Saiful Islam Saif, SM Monwar Aqib alias Anan, Nazmus Sakib, Nazmul Islam and BM Sirajus Salekin alias Topu.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Atikul Islam passed the order after Investigation Officer Badrul Al Amin, also a sub-inspector of Khilgaon Police Station, produced the five before the court with a ten-day remand prayer, according to court sources.

ARRESTS OVER ANTI-MODI PROTEST 'Please release my son'

College student's mother urges PM

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jahanara Imam, mother of a higher-secondary student Ismail Hossain who was arrested in connection with the movement against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh, demanded his son and others' immediate release at a nagorik somabesh (citizens' forum).

The rally was organised by concerned guardians and citizens yesterday in front of National Museum. Speakers at the rally claimed 54 people were arrested who were involved with the Student, Youth and Labour Rights Council between March 25 and April 28.

They demanded the release of all those who were arrested during the movement against Modi's visit to Bangladesh.

One of the arrestees, Ismail was a student of the capital's Bhashantek Govt College.

Jahanara said, "I worked door to door to finance my son's education. His final examination is coming up. I request the Prime Minister, please release my son."

"It is not a crime to join a rally. Everybody has a right to protest, my little boy also attended a protest," she added.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder and trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury was chief guest at the programme.

"Students have taught us how to raise our voices against oppression. It was a fair-minded decision of students to protest at that time. The ones that joined the movement are our heroes," he said.

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'Allow Khaleda to go abroad for treatment'

BNP urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday called upon the government to withdraw its restriction on sending their party's ailing chairperson Khaleda Zia abroad for advanced treatment.

"Begum Khaleda Zia has been imprisoned unjustly and she's now ill. We demand her release from jail as we want her to recover," he said.

The BNP leader said Khaleda should be given an opportunity to go abroad for the treatment she needs like any other citizen or political leader of the country.

"The restriction unjustly imposed on her should be lifted," he added.

Nazrul came up with the call while inaugurating a photo exhibition arranged by Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha in memory of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman at BNP's Nayapalton central office, marking his 40th death anniversary.

Nazrul, a BNP standing committee member, said people have been living in miseries due the pandemic for lack of a pro-people government.

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PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

HC clears way for govt to appoint 54,000 teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the government to resume the process for appointing around 54,000 teachers to private educational institutions across the country.

The court recalled (withdrew) its May 6 order that stayed a mass circular issued by the Nongovernment Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority (NTRCA) for recruiting around 54,000 teachers for private schools, colleges and madrasas of the country.

Without complying with a previous HC directive, the NTRCA on March 30 had issued a mass circular for appointing around 54,000 teachers for private schools, colleges and madrasas across the country, petitioners' lawyer Mohiuddin Md Hanif said.

The HC also directed the NTRCA to recommend in four weeks to the authorities concerned of the private educational institutions to recruit around 2,500 contempt of court petitioners, who qualified relevant exams, as teachers of the institutions.

Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman came up with the order while hearing on around 20 contempt of court petitions filed by around 2,500 qualified candidates in 2019.

The bench also set June 30 for holding further hearing and passing order on the petitions.

The HC recalled the stay order after Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told the court that the NTRCA has agreed to recommend for the appointment of the contempt of court petitioners who qualified the exams under the NTRCA.



Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury joins a rally -- demanding release of those arrested surrounding anti-Modi protests in March -- on a wheelchair. A citizens' platform yesterday in the capital's Shahbagh area urged the government to release the 54 arrestees.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Children precariously climb up heavy vehicles like these and ride around Chattogram city. But what looks like a fun activity can turn into a serious accident, even resulting in the loss of lives. This photo was taken from Shubhpor Bus Stand area on Sunday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

'Bangabandhu Chair' introduced at Kuet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

"Bangabandhu Chair" has been introduced at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) on the occasion of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary.

The professor appointed as Bangabandhu Chair will be conferred the title of Bangabandhu Chair Professor.

VC Kazi Sajjad Hossain approved this at the 73rd syndicate meeting recently.

The title "Bangabandhu Chair" has been created mainly for research on the life and ideals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the language movement, liberation war, higher education, history, tradition, and culture of Bengal and engineering and technology related to Bangabandhu's golden Bengal.

A renowned Bangladeshi scholar with a PhD and at least 20 years of teaching experience will be given the appointment as per the recruitment policy. At least 10 books of international standard is another prerequisite. The appointment will be effective for two years.

The professor will be chosen from recommendations by a five-member committee headed by the university VC. The final approval will come from Bangabandhu Chair Executive Committee.

DEATH OF 21 HORSES IN COX'S BAZAR

Legal notice served on govt authorities

CITY DESK

Three environmental and animal rights organisations yesterday sent a legal notice addressing the Fisheries and Livestock Ministry, Department of Environment and 11 others regarding the demise of 21 horses in Cox's Bazar in the last one month.

In the notice, the organisations -- Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA), People for Animal Welfare Foundation (PAW), and Youth Environment Society (YES) -- demanded better care for the horses, used as tourist attractions, and legal punishment for the owners and supervisors of the deceased horses.

According to the document, Cox's Bazar is home to more than 200 such horses. Since the dawn of the Covid-19 pandemic, the horses began facing unimaginable difficulties, as business fell in the region.

This resulted in 40 deaths last year and 21 more in just the last one month. The notice said lack of sufficient diet is the primary reason behind the deaths, and some of the deaths were caused by physically weakened horses' becoming accident-prone while plying the road. The famished horses are also vulnerable to long-term illnesses due to eating plastic and waste, it said.

According to the country's law, this failure to care for the animals and working them in a state of illness can be seen as animal cruelty, which is a punishable offense, the document said. The three organisations demanded that the authorities concerned prepare a list of horse owners and ensure the horses are provided with safe food and living environments.

In addition, the organisations sought legal punishment for the horse owners and supervisors whose failures have caused misery to the animals.

The notice asked respondents to inform of their steps in this regard within the next five days, the exception of which will result in legal action.