

Sisters found dead on roof

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police recovered the bodies of two siblings from the roof on their house in Sylhet city's Majumdari area early yesterday.

The victims are Rani Begum, 38, and Fatema Begum, 27, daughters of Kalim Ullah of the area.

Khan Mohammad Mainul Jakir, officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station in the city, said they recovered the bodies on information. Those were hanging from an iron rod on the roof.

The bodies were sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for

autopsies, he added.

According to locals, the sisters used to live in the house with their mother and two brothers.

Rezaul Hasan Ludhi, councillor of Sylhet City Corporation, said the deaths were mysterious.

"Some of the victims' relatives, living in a nearby house, told us that the duo previously claimed to the relatives that they might be murdered by someone," he said.

Asked, the police official said the reason behind the deaths could not be confirmed before receiving autopsy reports. However, they were looking into the family's claims too.

Pro-JP leader arrested

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incident. Ali's wife abetted him in the rape. Later, he raped the girl multiple times over five months, threatening to make the video public.

At one stage, the girl informed her mother, and they moved to another area of the city. But Ali and his men continued to threaten the girl and her family, the OC said.

Talking to The Daily Star, a senior Jatiya Party leader, preferring anonymity, demanded exemplary punishment of Ali, if he is found guilty.

Police drives are on to arrest Tamanna, the OC said.

Meanwhile, a fifth-grader girl was raped allegedly by her cousin, who is a railway employee at Kishoreganj Railway Station, on Monday.

Another girl was raped allegedly by her neighbour in Dinajpur's Parbatipur on Sunday.

The accused in the Kishoreganj incident is Mahmudul Hasan Sagor, 25, a fourth-class employee of Kishoreganj Railway Station, police said.

The 11-year-old victim's brother filed a case against Sagor with Kishoreganj GRP Police Station on Monday night.

Quoting the case statement, Mohammad Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of the station, said Sagor took the victim to the station saying they were going a birthday party of his friend on Monday evening, but he tactfully took her to the VIP Rest House on the second floor of the station.

Later, he forcibly took her to its toilet and raped her after tying her hands and legs, said the OC.

Hearing the girl's screams, on-duty GRP police personnel rushed to the spot and rescued the girl, but Sagor managed to flee. The victim narrated

the whole story, said the police official.

Medical tests of the victim were done at Kishoreganj General Hospital and a local court also recorded her statement yesterday afternoon, said the OC.

The accused was not arrested as of filing this report around 7:00pm yesterday.

Joyal Miah, station master of Kishoreganj Railway Station, said the railway authorities have suspended Sagor and formed a five-member committee to investigate the incident.

In the other incident, a 15-year-old girl was raped in Dinajpur's Parbatipur on Sunday, the day set for her marriage.

After the incident, her marriage did not take place.

Accused Abdur Rahman Bablu, 46, of Rajapur village of the upazila, was sent to jail after he was produced before a Dinajpur court on Sunday.

The victim's grandfather said the girl, her two siblings and her mother have been living in his house after her father died a couple of years ago.

Recently, the grandfather arranged her marriage.

Bablu, a neighbour, raped the girl after calling her to his house on Sunday morning, he said.

Hearing the girl's scream, villagers rushed there, rescued the girl, and took her to Parbatipur Upazila Health Complex, said the grandfather.

On information, a police team went there where the villagers handed over the accused to police, said Imam Zafar, officer-in-charge of Parbatipur Police Station.

The girl was sent to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for medical tests, the OC said.

[Our Mymensingh and Dinajpur correspondents contributed to this report.]

Moner School gets

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Goalkeepers Global Goals awards for their work supporting the Global Goals in their local communities.

Of them, Jennifer Colpas of Colombia was awarded with the 2021 Progress Award and Satta Sheriff of Liberia with the 2021 Campaign Award, according to the press release.

The main award -- the 2021 Global Goalkeeper Award -- was given to Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former United Nations under-secretary-general and executive director of UN Women.

Launched as a continuation of a three month-long project in 2018, Moner School is an initiative to educate people as well as give them a space where they can talk about mental health freely and get help whenever they need.

"We just wanted a place where people can write letters anonymously, so we can set up a meeting with a counselor," Faizah, a final semester honours student of Business Administration in Khulna University, told The Daily Star.

From there, seven strangers who met through a youth platform project, began the task of getting people's stories, putting them in touch with counselors, and meeting their needs.

Three months later when the project ended, five members of the original group, including Faizah, made this their passion project, and the Moner School was born.

Now, the Moner School is an anonymous online platform that works with the youth to enlighten them about the importance of mental health care through training, workshops, a 24/7 online mental health first aid service, and talk therapy.

"We're trying not only to provide counseling sessions or therapy, we're also trying to make people understand how important mental health is, as

well as train them on mental health tools," Faizah said.

So far, Moner School has served around 900 youths from inside the country and a few others from several foreign countries, according to Faizah.

About her inspiration behind her effort, she described her own life history.

For Faizah and her mother, their courage to prioritise their own mental health was the first step in healing from a personal tragedy that dismantled their sense of security.

Faizah said her father was killed when she was 13.

Home was no longer safe, and the trauma of losing her father was hers to bear alone. It wasn't long before her mother recognised her daughter's depression and got her the help she needed.

Years later, when Faizah's mother felt the full brunt of her loss, it was Faizah who returned the favor. As they emerged out of their own suffering, Faizah was called to pursue a career in mental health.

Faizah continues to make mental wellness and education a part of her day-to-day life. When life gets too noisy, she takes a pause and practices mindfulness through walking and meditation.

And with the expertise of psychologists and psychiatrists, she can access the training and tools to create a stronger online community for her peers and build on that for years to come.

About the winners, Mark Suzman, CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said, "These award winners show how women are leading the way in coming up with innovative solutions needed to rebuild our communities and nations."

"This year's winners continue to inspire us as they work tirelessly to create a more equal, resilient, and compassionate world."

Girls to return to school 'soon'

Say Taliban, appoint hardline battlefield commanders to key Afghan posts

AGENCIES

The Taliban said yesterday Afghan girls will be allowed to return to school "as soon as possible", after their movement faced international fury over their effective exclusion of women and girls from education and work.

The hardliners' spokesman meanwhile announced the remaining members of Afghanistan's all-male government, weeks after the militants seized Kabul in an offensive that

shocked the world.

The Taliban were notorious for their brutal, oppressive rule from 1996 to 2001, when women were largely barred from work and school, including being banned from leaving their homes unless accompanied by a male relative.

One month after seizing power and pledging a softer version of their previous regime, the Islamists have incrementally stripped away at Afghans' freedoms.



A demonstrator is handled as police officers disperse a protest against Covid-19 regulations in Melbourne, Australia yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Why no steps taken against misleading ads?

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to stop running such advertisements.

In the rule, the HC asked the respondents to show causes why they should not be ordered to initiate legal proceedings against those connected to the advertisements.

The respondents have also been asked in the rule to explain why their inaction to stop running such advertisements and the creation of unfair trade practices should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries to the ministries of information and broadcasting, commerce and cultural affairs; director general of Directorate of National Consumers Rights Protection

and chairperson of Bangladesh Competition Commission have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Mahmud Hassan Talukder issued the rule following a writ petition under the laws, he said in the petition.

Kamrul Islam told The Daily Star that different business organisations like e-commerce firms Evaly and E-orange have attracted consumers to their products and services by circulating offensive, fraudulent, confusing and misleading advertisements and therefore, the consumers have been cheated and victimised.

The Directorate of National Consumers Rights Protection

and chairperson of Bangladesh Competition Commission can take appropriate legal action against the perpetrators under the Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009 and Bangladesh Competition Commission Act, 2012, but they have not acted under the laws, he said in the petition.

Supreme Court lawyer Kamrul Islam submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC on September 15, saying some business organisations run such advertisements in order to attract the consumers to their products and services.

Weeks gone, PM's directive not carried out

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After visiting the HSIA yesterday, the ministers said the labs will be temporarily shifted inside the airport.

After around three months' suspension of flights between Dhaka and the UAE, the Gulf country last month set a condition that foreigners must test negative for Covid-19 in tests taken a maximum of six hours before boarding flights destined for the UAE.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 6 instructed the ministries and the health directorate concerned to set up labs at the country's three international airports in Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet within two to three days.

On September 15, the expatriates' welfare ministry announced that on the basis of the recommendations made by the health directorate, they have given permission to seven healthcare facilities to set up labs at the HSIA.

The next day, Caab, at a meeting, asked representatives of the seven organisations to set up their labs on the rooftop of the two-storey car park.

Although the representatives of the seven healthcare facilities argued that it would not be possible for them to set up the RT-PCR labs in an open space due to various complications, Caab remained rigid in their stance.

Caab even said organisations that face problems setting up labs in the space offered can choose not to take the job, meeting sources said.

After the ministers' visit yesterday, sources with knowledge of developments said when necessary infrastructure is set up at the rooftop of the car park, the temporary lab facilities will be relocated there.

Talking to reporters, the two ministers yesterday could not say for certain when this would be done.

Dr Ahmad Kaikus, principal secretary to the Prime Minister, Ahmed Munirush Salehin, expatriates' welfare secretary, the Caab chairman were present, among others, during the ministers' visit.

Asked when the lab would be installed, Imran Ahmad said it should have been set up a week ago, but it is taking a little time due to the involvement of different ministries.

Those problems have almost been solved, he said.

Regarding installation of the labs at the rooftop, Imran Ahmad said it would take around 10 days to make the rooftop fit to set up the labs.

He said work inside the airport to set up labs will start within two to three days.

"If any organisation now says they don't have the equipment or if they say they will have to import equipment, then I will say that they can go home. They will have to set up the labs within the next three days," Imran Ahmad said.

Asked when the labs will be set up, Zahid Maleque said his ministry has done its job and they have handed over the rest of the work to the expatriate welfare ministry.

In another programme in the city, Zahid Maleque expressed disappointment over the selection of venue by the Caab, saying the rooftop of the car parking building is not a suitable place to set up the labs.

A disappointed health minister asked how a lab could set up in an open space.

'It is a conflict between two states'

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Pakistan," he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Democratic Party President Nurul Amin had expressed the view that power should be transferred to civilian hands when the National Assembly had been fully constituted and there should not be "any transfer by instalment".

Speaking at a reception in Lahore yesterday, he said time was not yet ripe for the transfer of power in the true sense because of "peculiar circumstances" prevailing in East

Pakistan.

POPE EXPRESSES SYMPATHY

Pope Paul expressed his sympathy for the "millions of refugees pouring into India" and said the Vatican would help alleviate the sufferings of those unfortunate and helpless people.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini encountered Pakistani troops in Tentuabaria and killed three Pakistani soldiers and injured five.

Mukti Bahini today discharged two mines towards Sapta Dinga,

an oil tanker belonging to Burma Eastern, which anchored at the Pashur river for refuelling on her way to Chittagong. The mines hit the oil tanker, and it sank in the river. The guerrillas subsequently discharged two more mines towards Pakistani ship Imtiaz Baksh. The ship was badly damaged, and the barge Liaquat containing 6,784 bags of government wheat sank.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

They tried to kill Sinha

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Amin, Nezam Uddin, and Ayaz Uddin, locals of Marishbunia village -- went to him and requested him to announce through his mosque's loudspeaker that Sinha and his team entered into the village to rob.

"Jahirul told the court that he did not agree to do this. Then, the three people went to another nearby mosque in the area and succeed," the source added.

The trio was also talking to then inspector Liaqat Ali over the phone at that time, he added.

Seeing the gathering, Sinha and his team quickly left the area, boarded his car and started heading towards Cox's Bazar via the Marine Drive.

"Later, I came to know that Sinha was shot dead at the checkpoint on Marine Drive," added the source, quoting Jahirul.

The defence then cross-examined his statements.

Later, the court recorded the statement of another witness Ronadir Devnath, the then medical officer of Cox's Bazar District Sadar Hospital.

"I was on duty that night. Sinha was brought dead to the hospital. After scrutinising the body, we could assume that Sinha was alive till few moments after he was shot," the source said quoting Devnath.

The body of Sinha bore with three holes on the back including one on the waist and the rest two on the middle of the back. Those wounds occurred due to the use of firearms, the doctor testified.

His fourth and fifth ribs were broken. His left lung was torn. There were four parallel wounds on the left throat of Sinha's body. Beneath these wounds, the muscle was torn, which was caused by one side sharp object, the court source said, quoting the doctor.

After placing his testimony, the defence cross-examined his statements.

3 quarters of AL

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won.

Party insiders said almost all of them are AL rebel candidates.

A Workers Party of Bangladesh contender bagged a chairman post.

EC data shows that AL candidates stood second in 23 union parishes where independents won.

EC data shows that AL candidates stood second in 23 union parishes where independents won. Voter turnout in Monday's union parishad elections, held in seven districts, was 69.03 percent. Voting took place in eight unions using electronic voting machines (EVMs) and the turnout was 69.78 percent there.

Among the unions that went to polls using EVMs, the highest turnout was 77.95 percent in Gangarampur union of Khulna's Batiaghata and the lowest turnout 56.16 percent in Charbata union of Noakhali's Subarnachar.

Of the unions where voting was held in traditional ballot papers, the highest turnout was in Dakope union of Khulna's Dakope and the lowest turnout 43.76 percent in Musapur union of Chattogram's Sandwip.

Earlier, AL candidates won 148 chairman posts. Twenty-eight of them were elected unopposed in 204 union parishad polls held as part of the first phase of the elections on June 21 this year.

As many as 49 independents, three each from Jatiya Party and Jatiya Party (Manju), and one from Islami Andolon Bangladesh won.

Voter turnout in June 21's elections, held in 13 districts, was 64.73 percent.

At least three people were killed and dozens others injured in polls violence Monday and three more were killed during the polls of June 21.

Meanwhile, rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday said the trend of candidates winning the local government elections and by-polls to the parliamentary seats uncontested will have a long-term negative impact on the country's democracy.

People's right to choose their representatives by casting votes has been curtailed and many "qualified" candidates have lost their interest in taking part in polls as a result of the trend of uncontested winning. "It is an ominous sign for culture of democracy," the rights body said in a statement.

Many political parties and individuals lost their interest in joining the election as there is a perception that someone participating in an election with the ruling party ticket would win the polls, it said.

ASK added that many lost their interest in voting due to EC's failure to perform their duties properly. It is EC's responsibility to ensure competitive, participatory and impartial elections.

Thank you

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"You are sending us back to work with a clear mandate to get Canada through this pandemic and to the brighter days ahead. What we've seen tonight is that millions of Canadians have chosen a progressive plan."

CBC and CIV projected that Trudeau's Liberal government would hold a minority of seats in the House of Commons, meaning he will need another party's support to govern.

Elections Canada showed the Liberals leading in 156 electoral districts nationally, one more than they held before the election, including 110 in vote-rich Ontario and Quebec.


Japanese sisters

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family.

The sisters later recalled their difficult younger days. Growing up, they said they were bullied because of prejudice against children of multiple births in Japan.

Busy with their own lives for decades, the sisters rarely met until they turned 70, when they started making pilgrimages together to some of the 88 Shikoku temples and enjoyed being reconnected.

 ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208			
TENDER NOTICE			
Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed construction firms having experience for successful completion of similar works in any single works worth of Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous bodies/Private Organization During the last 5(five) years.			
S.L. No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule
01.	EDCL(Bogura)/PUR/LT/2021/353 Dt. 21/09/2021 Work Site:EDCL, Thanthania, Bogura.	Construction of RCC Road near Cephalosporin Factory Compound (Road-01) and existing office compound (Road-2)at EDCL, Bogura. (Details as per Tender Schedule, BOQ & drawing)	Tk. 1700.00/set Non-refundable
Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka & Bogura Plant on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays) from 26.09.2021 to 11.10.2021. No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.			
The Tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of " Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.			
The interested bidders may drop their offer along with relevant papers to the tender box kept at the purchase Department of EDCL, Dhaka & Bogura till 12.00 PM on 12/10/2021, which will be opened on 14/10/2021 at Dhaka office at 12.30PM (subject to receive of offers from Bogura Plant) in presence of the bidders/their representative (if any).			
EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			
General Manager Procurement Deptt. For: Managing Director.			(5'x3)