

Now landlessness bars Barguna youth's police job

Family seeks the intervention of the prime minister

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

After Barishal's Aspia Islam was barred from joining as a police constable, despite passing the written, viva, and health tests, due to being "landless", this time uncertainty looms over Barguna youth Sajal's getting the job for the same reason.

The issue of landlessness stands in the way of Sajal Chandra Karmakar's finally getting selected for the post of Trainee Recruit Constable (TRC).

Sajal hails from Hosnabad village in Betagi upazila of Barguna.

Although Sajal's father Amal Chandra Karmakar claimed to be landless, the police said that Sajal had hidden the information. The family is now passing their days amid uncertainty over Sajal's getting the job.

According to police and family sources, Sajal Chandra Karmakar alias Antar applied for the post of TRC. On November 14, the physical fitness test was held at the Barguna Police Lines, which he successfully passed and likewise, he also passed the written test, viva-voce and psychological test held on November 17 and 24 respectively.

"Although I passed all the steps, I was not appointed. After the general medical examination and fingerprint impression at Barguna District Police Lines on November 25, I also underwent a medical examination at Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital in Dhaka on the morning of December 4. Then the police verification started. Betagi police station and DSB came to inspect my rented house. I submitted my landless certificate to them," Sajal said.

"Later, I went to the office of Barguna Police Super but I couldn't meet him," he said, adding that, "The additional SP told me that even if you are alright, we can't give you the job because you don't have a permanent address."

Barguna Additional SP Moharram Hossain said, Sajal's ancestral home is in Laukathi village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila but they live in Betagi.



Although Sajal stood fourth in the merit list for the post of Trainee Recruit Constable (TRC), the issue of landlessness has blurred the possibility of his getting the job.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

They did not give that information in the application form. He could have applied from Patuakhali but he did not. Meanwhile, Sajal's father Amal Karmakar said that the current and permanent address of all their family members is in Betagi, Barguna. Their national identity card, birth registration all are in Betagi so they have applied from here.

However, Barguna Additional Superintendent of Police (Sadar Circle) Mehedi Hasan gave a different statement. He said Sajal stood fourth on the merit list. To be recruited in the police, you have to be a permanent resident of the district. Just having a birth certificate or NID is not adequate. He will need a permanent address, which Sajal doesn't have. His uncle and father have some land in Patuakhali. If he had applied from Patuakhali district, there would have been no problem.

Barguna SP Jahangir Hossain Mallik said, "We can't do anything because they don't have permanent land."

Barguna Deputy Commissioner (DC) Habibur Rahman told this correspondent, "I heard the matter through you. I assure you that the district administration will look into the matter of their not having land."

Sajal's father Amal Karmakar said, "I have been living in Barguna since 1992. My children were also born here. There is an ancestral home in the name of my father in the village of Laukathi in Patuakhali district, but there may be half a decimal of the land in my name. There is no land in my name anywhere. I informed the matter to the police during the investigation. I am drawing the attention of the prime minister so that she also salvages my son like Barishal's Aspia."

TANGAIL CULTURAL OFFICER MURDER

Police yet to arrest accused husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Though seven months have already elapsed, police have made no progress in arresting the accused killer of Tangail District Cultural Officer Khandakar Redwana Islam.

Slain Redwana's husband Delwar Hossain Mizan, the only accused of the sensational murder case, is still at large due to unknown reason.

Mirzapur police recovered the body of Redwana, who gave birth to a daughter at Kumudini Hospital on March 22, from inside a cabin of the hospital on March 27 this year.

The following day, victim's younger brother Khandakar Arshadul Abid filed a murder case with Mirzapur Police Station accusing Redwana's husband Mizan.

According to the case statement, Mizan used to torture Redwana both physically and mentally for dowry since their marriage two years before the murder.

However, relatives of both were acknowledged over their conjugal life.

As a sequel, Mizan first suffocated

Redwana with a pillow and then strangled her with a scarf at a cabin of Kumudini Hospital, five days after she gave birth to a daughter.

Besides, accused Mizan, 38, son of Mohammad Elahi Mollah of Charbhanga village in Pabna's Hemayetpur upazila, was serving at Social Islami Bank in Bhola Sadar upazila branch, while his wife Redwana, 34, daughter of Khandakar Rafiqul Islam of Islampur village in Rangpur Sadar upazila, was district cultural officer at Tangail Zila Shilpakala Academy.

Abid, plaintiff of the case, said they are getting frustrated as police are seem reluctant to yet to arrest his sister's killer even after seven months of the brutal murder.

Officer in Charge of Mirzapur Police Station Rizaul Haque said not only they, but Rapid Action Battalion and other law enforcing agencies are also trying to arrest Mizan.

The authority concerned has issued an order to hand over the investigation of the case to Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) recently, he added.

Infant drowns in water bucket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A 10-month-old child drowned in a bucket of water while playing at her house in Islampur area of Chapainawabganj town yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Shirin, daughter of Mohammad Saddam of the village in Sadar upazila of the district.

Quoting the deceased's family members, Officer in Charge (OC) of Sadar Model Police Station Mozaffar Hossain said, at one stage of playing, the infant girl crawled to near a bucket full of water kept at the house yard and fell on it around 8:30am.

Family members rescued the kid and took her to a hospital, where the doctors declared her dead, he said.



Madaripur's Rajoir municipality, established in 2012, has been continuing dumping waste materials beside the Rajoir-Kotalipara road for nearly seven years. The malpractice is causing health hazardous and serious environment pollution as the municipality has no waste management system.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Karnaphuli

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China Communication Construction Company is constructing the tunnel.

A senior official the Economic Relations Division acknowledged receiving a letter on the time extension.

No decision has been taken on the matter by the ERD yet as it has to be signed off by the Exim Bank of China, which is providing about 57 percent of the project cost in soft loans.

"It will take time," he added.

The tunnel is one of the 27 projects chosen for funding by China during Chinese President Xi Jinping's maiden visit to Bangladesh in October 2016 with the view to ushering in a new era of bilateral relations.

The Exim Bank of China is providing Tk 5,913 crore at an interest rate of 2 percent, while the Bangladesh government is providing Tk 4,461 crore.

Omicron

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On Friday, a non-peer reviewed study by Imperial College London said the risk of reinfection with Omicron is more than five times higher and it has shown no sign of being milder than Delta.

The research cast doubt on the cautious optimism of some experts, based primarily on anecdotal accounts from South Africa, that the new strain may not be as virulent and not overwhelm healthcare systems.

The study, which involved AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines, also found a significantly increased risk of developing a symptomatic Omicron case compared with Delta for those who were two or more weeks past their second jab dose, and two or more weeks past their booster dose.

2 univ students die on roads

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road on Sonaimuri upazila's Rampur area on Nov.

She died on the spot, police said. Mitu, daughter of Murtaza Bhuiyan of the upazila, was visiting her maternal grandfather's house in the area, said Mr. Kanti Kuri, officer-in-charge of Chandganj Highway Police Station.

The speeding truck hit her when she was crossing the road to catch a bus for Dhaka around 12:00pm.

Locals managed to seize the truck but the driver and his helper managed to flee, the OC said, adding that legal procedures in this regard are underway.

Mitu's uncle Abidur Rahman said she lived with her parents in Dhaka and was about to come back to the capital as her vacation ended.

Meanwhile in Bogura, Kamran Hossain

Masked men made gun attack

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Natghar UP, told The Daily Star yesterday.

One Sohagh has been arrested and is under interrogation, said Nur-E Alam, inspector (investigation) of Nabinagar police station, said that they have managed to arrest.

Sohagh's identity is being kept hidden for the sake of investigation.

It was a pre-planned attack as the attackers were waiting at the spot for Haque, according to Alam.

"We have some clues. We are hopeful of solving the mystery and arrest the responsible one soon," he added.

AL pledge to make country

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city streets from in front of Suhrawardy Udyan to Bangabandhu Memorial Museum on Road-32 in Dhanmondi.

Speaking at the rally, AL advisory council member Amir Hossain Amu said, "Evil forces, including communal and anti-liberation forces, are still hatching conspiracies against Bangladesh. We will continue along the path of development through facing these evil forces politically."

AL presidium members Matia Chowdhury, Abdur Razzaque, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Abdur Rahman and AHM Khairuzaman Liton, joint general secretaries Mahbulul Alam Hanif, Dipu Moni, Hasan Mahmud and AFM Bahauddin Nasim, organising secretaries and central leaders as well as top leaders of the party's Dhaka north and south city units addressed the rally.

Thousands of leaders and activists of the AL and its front and associate bodies took part in the rally. Later, they joined the Victory Procession which paraded through different streets in Shahbagh, Elephant Road and Kalabagan areas before reaching Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

They carried banners, festoons, huge

Mohan, 23, a third year student of the English department at Pundra University of Science and Technology, was killed when a sand-laden truck hit his bike on the Bogura-Naogaon regional highway in Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

Kamran, son of Raisul Islam of Bogura's Kahaloo upazila, was going home on his motorbike after finishing a semester exam, said Masud Rana, sub-inspector of Bogura Sadar Police Station.

When he was on the highway, a sand-laden truck hit his bike from behind. Kamran fell and was crushed under the truck's wheel around 2:30pm, the SI said.

He died on the spot. The truck was seized but driver managed to flee the spot, he added.

Family members of the deceased don't want to file a case and they have taken the dead body without autopsy, he added.

Following the murder, a tense situation has prevailed in the area.

Around 3 pm yesterday, Haque's supporters rounded off the residence of Abdul Malek, their political rival. The attackers allegedly looted valuables from Malek and his aide Humayun, Harun, Iron, Habib and Abu Naser's residence, according to locals.

Mollah Mohammad Shaheen, Brahmanbaria additional superintendent of police (administration and crime), said that they are remaining alert and an additional police force has already been deployed to avert any untoward situation.

national and party flags, portraits of Bangabandhu and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Many of them boarded decorated trucks, covered vans, horse-drawn carts and played patriotic songs on loudspeakers.

The AL leaders and activists started pouring into the rally venue since noon, a couple of hours before the scheduled start of the rally.

Meanwhile, commuters suffered delays as traffic was disrupted in some parts of the city, including Suhrawardy Udyan, Kakrial intersection, Shahbagh, Kalabagan and Dhanmondi areas, due to the rally and procession by the ruling party.

Traffic jams were also seen in lanes and bylanes. Many patients who visited Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Birdem Hospital and Dhaka Medical College Hospital had to suffer badly due to tailbacks.

Yesterday, the AL in a press release expressed gratitude to the people and the party men for making the Victory Procession a success.

The party also expressed sincere sorrow for the traffic congestion in the capital due to spontaneous participation of a lakh people in the programme.

Cryptic

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creativity and observation skills [on the part of] the artists who made them," he said. "Also [off] abstract thinking, as they were not able to see the dhow (a traditional ship) from above."

There are about 12 notable petroglyph sites in Qatar, located mostly along the country's coasts -- though some carvings can even be seen in the heart of Doha's Al Bidda Par, overlooking the Corniche, a popular waterfront promenade.

Al Jassasiya, about an hour north of Qatar's uber-modern capital and near the old pearling port of Al Huwaila, was discovered in 1957. Over six weeks in late 1973 and early 1974, a Danish team led by archaeologist Holger Kapel and his son Hans Kapel undertook a study which painstakingly cataloged the entire site in photographs and drawings.

Of all the documented single figures and compositions, more than a third consist of cup marks in various configurations, shapes and sizes.

The most prominent pattern involves two parallel rows of seven holes, leading some to believe that these were used to play mancala, a board game popular in many parts of the world since antiquity in which two contestants drop odd and even numbers of small stones into the depressions.

Others have disputed this theory, pointing to the fact that some of the holes at Al Jassasiya are too small to hold any of the stones, while others can be found on slopes -- an impractical choice that would have resulted in the counters falling out.

Further suggestions include the cup formations being used in some way for divination; or for the sorting and storage of pearls; or as systems to compute the time and tides.

10kg gold bars found in Biman

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the laws of the land.

It is very difficult for a passenger to commit such a crime on his own, according to Mahmood.

"We had conducted several drives in aircraft and recovered a huge quantity of gold bars abandoned in toilet, galley and some other parts of the plane. Such smuggling is not possible without the involvement of aircraft staffers," he told The Daily Star.

Contacted, Tahera Khandaker, general manager of public relations at Biman Bangladesh Airlines, said the flag carrier is yet to receive any information about the incident.

The customs officials should be able to determine how the gold bars entered the aircraft and who were involved in the incident.

"If they complain to us naming specific Biman employees, we will suspend them."

Moreover, if someone is arrested by the customs or the police for committing such an offence, action is taken based on the final investigation reports of the agencies, she added.

Between January 2015 and October this year, 3,681 abandoned gold bars weighing about 438 kg have been recovered from flights of different carriers, according to Chittagong airport customs officials.

Earlier on February 22, Chattogram Custom House and CIID in a joint drive

recovered 150 gold bars worth about Tk 9.5 crore from air conditioner panels of a Biman flight from Dubai. Customs officials failed to detain anyone in connection with that incident.

Then on October 25 last year, Chattogram Custom House officials recovered 160 gold bars, worth about Tk 11 crore, abandoned on a passenger seat of another Biman flight from Dubai.

On October 2, 2019, CIID detained Mohammad Ilias, a cleaner of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, with 36 gold bars worth about Tk 2 crore from Biman flight BG-128 from Dubai.

Ilias was detained when he was returning to the airport terminal after cleaning the aircraft, said customs officials.

The biggest haul of gold bars at Chattogram airport was reported on April 8, 2019, when CIID seized 200 gold bars worth about Tk 12 crore from the galleys of a Biman aircraft coming from Abu Dhabi.

The gold bars were recovered from two boxes stashed under the basins of two galleys of the aircraft.

Customs officials have so far failed to identify any of the smugglers involved in the crimes.

In April 2019, the commissioner of the Chattogram Custom House sent a letter to the National Board of Revenue asking it to identify the main culprits behind such smuggling. However, the authorities failed to identify anyone.

Fertiliser plenty, yet prices high

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And yet, farmers, who were already struggling following the recent hike in diesel price, continue to bear the brunt of the situation.

"Dealers and retailers have hiked the prices cashing in on the current situation," said Aminur Rashid, a farmer in Sirajganj's Belkuchi upazila.

Farmer Mohammad Nazim from Chuadanga's Damurhuda upazila told The Daily Star that he needs at least 40 sacks of non-urea fertiliser a season to cultivate corn, bananas, cotton and rice.

Recently, he bought 10 sacks of TSP from a dealer for Tk 1,700 each, instead of Tk 1,100 fixed by the government.

"I asked the dealer about the price hike and he replied that they have a supply crisis," he said.

Azizur Rahman, a farmer in Dinajpur Sadar's Gopalganj Hat area, said he went to the market two weeks ago to buy MOP but did not find any.

One dealer in the district said the government allotment could not fulfil the local demand. So, they had to buy fertiliser from outside and hence the higher prices.

Wishing not to be named, a dealer in the district said they were facing a supply crisis and that led to the price hike. They bought fertiliser from importers at higher prices, due to which they are not able to follow

the government rates, he added.

Asked, Md Asadullah, director-general of the Department of Agriculture Extension, said there is no crisis of any fertiliser in the country at the moment.

"As the prices are going up in the international market, some dealers and retailers might try to manipulate them. However, we are conducting mobile court drives to stop the illegal practice. If we find any specific complaints against any dealers, we will cancel their dealership," he added.

At present, only the most widely-used fertiliser urea, which is applied to the fields following the cultivation of crops and vegetables, is selling at the government fixed rate of Tk 800 for a 50 kg sack.

US Senate confirms Emanuel as envoy to Japan

AFP, Washington

US lawmakers yesterday confirmed Rahm Emanuel as the country's next ambassador to Japan, after a contentious nomination process in which fellow Democrats opposed the former Chicago mayor over his record on police violence.