



PHOTO: STAR

‘Please save us’

5 Bangladeshis in a Ukraine detention camp appeal to govt

ABU SADIQ

Five Bangladeshis, reportedly detained at a camp in the Ukrainian city of Zhuravychi, said they were not being given enough food, their phones were seized and they were being tortured.

They requested the Bangladesh government to take action so that they can leave the camp.

Yesterday morning, Riyad Malik, one of the five Bangladeshis, sent The Daily Star a 40-second-long audio message using another person's phone.

On Saturday, the Bangladeshis told this newspaper that they were being held there to be used as “human shields”.

They posted a video message the day before on social media where they sought assistance from the government. Details of their sufferings were published in The Daily Star and other prominent media.

Using someone else's phone, Malik yesterday managed to have a brief chat with The Daily Star. In a shaky voice, he said, “I'm using another detainee's phone. We are being tortured. There is no food and water supply at the camp. Zhuravychi is now a full-fledged war front. The detention camp is under the control of the Ukrainian army. We can hear sounds of bombardment from every direction. If the Russian forces attack the camp or drops bombs, all 120 detainees,

including the five of us, will die. Is there anyone out there who can save us? Can't the government save us? Can't they free us? We don't want to die...”

Regarding communications with the Bangladesh Embassy in Poland, Malik said, “We could establish communications but we feel that they are proceeding very slowly. We are not saying they are not working. But if the embassy or the government of Bangladesh does not take rapid action, we will not survive.”

Around 60 people, including two Bangladeshis, are stranded in another detention camp in Mykolaiv. One detainee

is Jahirul Islam, while another requested not to be named.

On Monday, he said, “Our situation has not changed. As the power connection has been severed, the heating system is not working and we are suffering under extreme temperatures while there is also a water and food crisis. The Russian army is now controlling the city.”

He too alleged that the civilian detainees were being used as “human shields” by the Ukrainian army.

An official at the Bangladesh Embassy in Poland said they were trying to rescue all those detained.

Truck kills child Going to school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, DINAJPUR

A schoolboy was killed after a speeding truck hit him in Dinajpur's Chirirbandar upazila yesterday, while a woman was killed in a separate road accident in Birampur upazila on Monday.

In Chirirbandar, Ashiqur Rahman, an 11-year-old sixth grader of Z Residential Model School, was on his way to school on a bicycle when a speeding truck ran over him in Ghugratoli area, leaving him dead on the spot, said Bazlur Rashid, OC of Chirirbandar Police Station.

In Birampur, Arati, 40, of Joypurhat, was killed when a speeding truck hit a van carrying her and her husband Sunil Baske on Monday on their way back home, police said.

HC questions discriminations against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With respect to women on International Women's Day, the High Court yesterday issued a suo moto rule questioning the discrimination against women in social status, jobs and inheritance.

It asked the government to explain in four weeks why inequality between sons and daughters, males and females in respect of social status, jobs and inheritance in all religions should not be declared illegal.

Cabinet Division secretary and secretaries to the ministries of law, women and children affairs, and religious affairs have been made respondents to the rule, Assistant Attorney General Md Zakir Hossain Masud told The Daily Star.

MP ‘threatens’ female officer over later invite

OUR CORRESPONDENT, PABNA

Female lawmaker Nadira Yeasmin Joly allegedly threatened to slap a district-level female officer over the phone for “inviting her late” to a

Women's Day programme at the Pabna DC office.

The allegation was made by district women's affair officer Kaniz Airin Jahan.

After the incident went viral on social media, Nadira organised a press conference and denied the allegation saying it was made to “defame her”.

Speaking to The Daily Star,

Kaniz said, “During the phone call on Monday, Nadira said, ‘You are a foul woman. You will be slapped all the way out of Pabna. You are [just] an officer, yet you are showing your command everywhere.’”

“I was in shock and expressed it at the programme but I did not make any official complaint.”

Asked, Nadira said she was not invited to the programme and had called the officer in this regard but to no avail.

