

'Withdraw case against Afroza Sarkar'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra, an organisation for the country's women journalists, yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of all the cases, including the one filed under Digital Security Act against journalist Afroza Sarkar.

The members of the Nari Sangbadik Kendra formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in this regard. Rangpur-based journalist Afroza was attacked and harassed in September last year, along with some other journalists in a clash on the issue of Rangpur Reporters' Club's election.

"Later the attackers filed the cases against the victims," said Nasimun Ara Haque, president of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra.

Some journalists who failed in the election, along with some outsiders, filed the cases, she added.

Nasimun said a case against Afroza was filed under DSA as she gave an interview to a YouTube-based channel about the attack.



A forensic team of CID collects DNA samples in front of CMCH emergency ward to identify the many victims who perished in the blast at Sitakunda BM Depot. This initiative was taken as most of the victims' bodies couldn't be recognised by family members due to how badly burnt they were. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Rain-fed Surma overflows again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Just 10 days after flowing below the danger level, the waters of Surma engorged to the danger level again yesterday morning. The river flowed above the danger level for 13 days till May 26, drowning most upazilas in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts.

A summary report by the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre mentioned that the water level of all the major rivers of the northeast region, including Surma, Kushiya, Sameshwari and Sari Gowain, will continue to rise in the next 48 hours.

Asif Ahmed, executive engineer of BWDB in Sylhet, said, "We were expecting the river to cross the danger level a few days later, but it crossed due to heavy rainfall. But the situation is not expected to be similar to the flash flood we experienced recently."

REGENT HOSPITAL INCIDENT Former DG of DGHS claims innocence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday claimed that Abul Kalam Azad, former director general of Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS), and four of his officials made an agreement with Mohammad Shahed, Regent Group's chairperson, for conducting Covid-19 tests.

The four others are former DGHS director (hospitals and clinics) Dr Aminul Hasan, deputy director (hospital-1) Dr Md Younus Ali, assistant director (hospital-1) Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman and research officer Dr Md Didarul Islam.

The defence for others, including Shahed, submitted separate petitions for discharging them. Judge Al Asad Md Asifuzzaman fixed June 12 for passing an order on whether to frame charges against them.

'It's our son in the video'

MINTU DESHWARA

Following the devastating blast in the Sitakunda BM Depot, 22-year-old depot worker Al Amin went missing. His parents, living in Habiganj's Bagerkhal village under Putuziri union, made repeated attempts to reach him over the phone, but failed.

They were keeping an eye on social media for a minute-to-minute update of the situation. Then they came across a video of Al Amin being carried on a

stretcher with burn injuries and identified him.

However, they couldn't verify which hospital he was being taken to. They are also financially restrained to make a trip to Chattogram and look for their son.

Al Amin's family is now passing days in extreme anxiety and helplessness.

Al Amin is the second of five brothers. He joined the depot as a worker recently, along with his friends Fahim and Rajib.

However, on the dreadful night of the explosion, only Al Amin was on duty among the three. The other two went home after finishing their shift.

"On Sunday night, a local youth saw the video where Al Amin could be seen with burn injuries. He showed us the video. It was indeed our son, with all the burn marks" said a devastated Sujena Begum, Al Amin's mother.

Putuziri Union Member Jasim

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Concerted effort need of the hour

UN, ILO on Sitakunda blast

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The devastating fire at the BM Container Depot is a reminder of the need to work together towards effective industrial and enterprise safety frameworks and their enforcement, said the UN Resident Coordinator's office in Bangladesh in a statement yesterday.

"The UN in Bangladesh calls upon all parties involved to apply renewed vigour in addressing the safety deficits in workplaces across the country and we extend our assistance to continue to build a safer Bangladesh for all," read the statement.

The fire and the subsequent blast in the private depot in Sitakunda killed at least 41 and injured over 200 people.

The UN Resident Coordinator's office and the International Labour Organization (ILO), another UN body, expressed deep shock at the tragic event and loss of lives.

ILO said this incident illustrates the urgent need to ensure proper handling and storage of chemicals, proper training for storage facility staff at awareness and operational levels, and effective crowd control during emergencies.

ILO, in its statement, laid out some suggestions for tackling these crises, that include "adequate compensation and income support to the injured and disabled workers and families of workers who lost lives in work-related accidents."

"Proper monitoring of industries by the government to ensure that industrial and accidental risks are properly understood, addressed and prevented is essential to improving safe working conditions in Bangladesh," said ILO in the statement.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

In the early hours, Bangal puts on his boots and sets out to Rajbandh dumping station -- where he collects plastic materials until his basket gets filled. He then sells the lot at different scrap shops in Khulna's Batiaghata upazila, earning Tk 200-250 per day. This photo was taken yesterday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Corrigendum Notice(2) for Tender e-Tender Notice No. 05/2021-2022. Package No. EU/CP/W-168. Construction of Administrative Extension Building & Hall Room at Balaganj Upazila, District: Sylhet.

খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড. বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, খুলনা. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. ০১। প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম: খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড, বিএন, খুলনা.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department (EED) Sector-1, Upasahar, Rajshahi. e-Tender Notice. Tender Notice No. 28/e-GP/EED/Raj/9 Govt. School/2021-22.

খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড. বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, খুলনা. ক্রয় নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি. বিষয়: খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড, বিএন, খুলনা.

স্বাগতম হজয়াবীদের আন্তরিক মোবারকবাদ. সম্মুখ কেবিনের বিলাসবহুল ও আরামদায়ক আসন অগ্রিম নিশ্চিত করুন. বাংলাদেশ থেকে শুধু যাওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে জনপ্রতি ১৫০ মার্কিন ডলার অথবা সমপরিমাণ টাকা.

Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh. Office of the Director, CEMSU, Kurmitola, Dhaka. Memo No : 30.31.0000.186.07.004.21 .402. Dated : 6/06/2022. Corrigendum for e-GP Tender Notice.