

Doctor found dead in hotel room

One arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab yesterday arrested a man for his alleged involvement in the murder of a doctor inside a hotel room in the capital's Panthapath.

Police recovered the body of doctor Jannatul Nayeem Siddique, 27, from a room of Family Serviced Apartments on Wednesday night, said Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Kalabagan Police Station.

Her father Shafiqul Alam, a retired physician, filed a murder case against Rezaul Karim, 32, a former banker, with the police station the same day, he added.

Rezaul, hailing from Cox's Bazar, was arrested in Chattogram city, said ANM Imran Khan, assistant director (legal and media wing) of Rab.

Rezaul and Jannatul took the hotel room identifying themselves as husband and wife on Wednesday morning, the OC said, quoting hotel staffers.

By the afternoon, Rezaul locked the room from the outside and left.

Contacted over the phone by the hotel staffers, he said his wife was asleep and he would return soon.

In the evening, Rezaul was unreachable.

At one point, the hotel staffers informed police about the incident. On information, police went to the spot and recovered the body, said the OC.

"Her throat was slit and the body had stab marks," he added.

The police inquest report mentioned numerous cuts and injuries on the body.

According to the victim's father, Jannatul completed MBBS from Dhaka Community Medical College and was studying a gynaecology course at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

She left home saying she was going to attend classes, he added.

Police took the hotel manager in custody for interrogation, the OC said.

Militants attack Indian army post in Kashmir

AGENCIES

Militants attacked an Indian army post in the disputed Kashmir region yesterday, killing three soldiers, while two attackers died in the shootout that came amid heightened security ahead of India's independence day celebrations.

The attack in the Rajouri area of India's only Muslim majority region took place in the early hours, and the area around the post was cordoned off afterwards as security forces conducted searches, an army official told Reuters.



Boys collecting stones from the Dhalai river in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila around noon Wednesday. While children their age are supposed to be in school around this time of the day, these three are having to collect and sell stones to support their poverty-stricken families.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Russian shelling hits military, civilian targets

Says Ukraine; satellite images show Russian warplanes destroyed in Crimea airbase attack

AGENCIES

Russia is attacking scores of civilian and military targets in its bid to establish full control over the east Ukraine regions of Luhansk and Donetsk, with 120 rockets hitting the area around the town of Nikopol overnight, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

Dnipropetrovsk governor Valentyn Reznichenko said three people were killed and seven wounded by shelling in Nikopol. "The enemy is concentrating its efforts on establishing full control over the territories of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions," Ukraine's General Staff said in a report, citing more than 60 settlements and military targets.

Heavy fighting raged around the eastern Ukrainian town of Pisky yesterday, while to the west, Ukraine accused Russian forces of using Zaporizhzhia nuclear power complex to shield artillery.

An official with the Russia-backed Donetsk People's Republic said Pisky, on the front line 10 km (6 miles) northwest of the provincial capital Donetsk, was under the control of Russian and separatist

forces. "It's hot in Pisky. The town is ours but there remain scattered pockets of resistance in its north and west," the official, Danil Bezsonov, said on Telegram. Ukrainian officials denied that the heavily fortified town, a key to the defence of Donetsk, had fallen, reports Reuters.

"The enemy is concentrating its efforts on establishing full control over the territories of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions."

Ukraine's General Staff said in a report

The Donbas region, comprised of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces, became Russia's main objective after it failed to seize the capital Kyiv at the beginning of the war in February. Luhansk is now almost completely under Russian control but Donetsk is holding out.

Oleksiy Arestovych, a Ukrainian presidential adviser, said in an interview

posted on YouTube that Russian "movement into Pisky" had been "without success".

Ukraine state energy company Energoatom yesterday said the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power complex was shelled again yesterday, putting the blame on Russian forces that seized the area in March.

The plant's area was struck five times, including near the site where radioactive materials are stored, but that nobody was injured and the situation at the plant remained under control, Energoatom said in a statement.

Meanwhile, satellite pictures released yesterday showed devastation at a Russian air base in Crimea, hit days earlier in an attack that suggested Kyiv may have obtained new long range strike capability with potential to change the course of the war.

Pictures released by independent satellite firm Planet Labs showed three near-identical craters that had precisely struck buildings at Russia's Saki air base. The base, on the southwest coast of Crimea had suffered extensive fire damage with the burnt-out husks of at least eight destroyed warplanes clearly visible.

46 cops sued over killing of JCD leader in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Forty-six police personnel were made accused in a murder case filed yesterday by the wife of Bhola Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal president Noor-e-Alam, who was injured during a clash between police and BNP activists in the district town on July 31.

Noor-e-Alam died in a hospital in the capital three days later.

Iffat Jahan filed the case with the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court of Bhola and not a police station as the case accused cops, plaintiff's lawyer Amirul Islam Bachet told The Daily Star.

Judge Ali Haider Kamal accepted the statement and directed the Bhola Sadar Police Station OC to submit evidence by September 8.

Arman Hossain, inspector (investigation) the police station, was among 46 policemen accused and 25-30 unnamed accused.

Amirul said Noor-e-Alam was shot during the clash with police, adding that Sub-Inspector Md Anisuddin shot him in the face and head.

Man sent to jail for verbally abusing PM on FB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A court in Meherpur yesterday sent a man to jail in a Digital Security Act case filed over the man's verbal abuse of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a Facebook Live video.

Detective Branch of police in Meherpur arrested Abu Taleb on Wednesday night, said Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Gangni Police Station.

Anisuzzaman, a Chhatra League leader, filed the case with the police station.

The OC added that Abu Taleb, son of Harun Rashid of Garabaria village in Meherpur Sadar upazila, was produced before the court in the afternoon and was sent to jail.

Saiful Alam, an inspector of DB, said Taleb went live on Facebook on Saturday night and abused the PM over the hike in fuel prices.

He said on the order of senior officials, raids were conducted in Jashore, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts for two days to arrest Abu Taleb.

Three Rohingyas arrested for killings in refugee camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three Rohingya refugees were arrested yesterday in a case filed over killing two Rohingya leaders at a refugee camp in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar.

The arrestees - Zafar Alam, 42, Mohammad Soyeb, 23, and Sha Miah, 37 - are residents of Rohingya camp-15. They were arrested from the camp, said Md Kamran Hossain, additional superintendent of Armed Police Battalion (APBn)-8.

Rohingya leaders Abu Taleb, 40, and Syed Hossain, 35 were shot dead on Tuesday night in the same camp.

Abu Taleb's wife Toyaba Begum filed a case with Ukhiya Police Station yesterday morning, accusing five named - including the arrested trio - and eight unnamed persons.

The two other named accused are: Mahamudul Hasan and Abul Kalam, said the station's OC Sheikh Mohammad Ali.

Shakib to terminate

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and removing his posts on social media related to the site.

"He [Shakib] sent us a letter in which he agreed to all of our terms," the BCB president, Nazmul Hassan Papon, confirmed The Daily Star yesterday.

Shakib had announced his new partnership with Betwinner News on August 3 through a social media post. According to the BCB by-laws, cricketers and staff associated with the board cannot be in association with companies related to betting, alcohol, tobacco etc.

Cricketers are also supposed to inform the board officially before signing any sort of sponsorship deal.

With Shakib not conforming to any of the aforementioned rules, the BCB president informed the board is yet to get a clarification from Shakib as to why he agreed to such a deal without informing BCB about it in the first place.

"It's okay that he now agreed to terminate his contract with Betwinner News. But what he is yet to clarify is why he agreed to get involved in such a deal without informing us [BCB]. We will need to meet him and be clear on the matter.

"If it is about money, it is alarming for us as to what he will do if he gets a much bigger offer in the future. We need to straighten this out. I can assure you that if anything similar happens in the future, we will not wait for his clarification before taking a hard decision," warned Hassan.

The Shakib issue had also put BCB's plans on hold for the upcoming Asia Cup, slated to begin from August 27 in the UAE. With Shakib being considered as the potential candidate for taking over the T20I side's captaincy, BCB delayed announcing the squad for the tournament.

The BCB president informed the board will announce the squad for Asia Cup on August 13 after Shakib arrives in the country from the USA the day before.

External debt situation more comfortable now

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FROM MULTILATERAL lenders and with a relatively shorter maturity, according to Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

"If the share of bilateral debt keeps rising as generally presumed to be the case in recent years, external debt management could become concerning in the not-too-distant future," he said, while urging the finance ministry to provide more information on the costs and maturities of the foreign debt in the bulletin.

Different analysts and observers are making different assumptions about the rise in foreign debt repayment burden in the near and medium term.

"The bulletin can be most useful if it helps understand to what extent such contemporaneous concerns are evidence-based," he added.

As of March, Japan tops the list of bilateral lenders, accounting for 45 percent of such loans, followed by Russia (22 percent), China (21 percent), South Korea and India (both about 4 percent).

However, multilateral lenders still account for the government's lion's share of total external debt as of March: 61 percent.

The World Bank tops the list,

accounting for 55 percent of the debt stock to multilateral sources, followed by the Asian Development Bank (39 percent), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (both about 2 percent), the Islamic Development Bank and OPEC (both about 1 percent).

Bangladesh's external debt stock is dominated by Special Drawing Rights (SDR), which are supplementary foreign exchange reserve assets defined and maintained by the IMF.

SDRs are units of account for the IMF and not a currency per se but they represent a claim to currency held by IMF member countries for which they may be exchanged.

The value of the SDR is calculated from a weighted basket of major currencies, including the US dollar, the euro, Japanese yen, Chinese yuan and the British pound.

As much as 43 percent of Bangladesh's external debt stock is in SDR, followed by the dollar (31 percent), yen (18 percent), yuan (4 percent), euro (2 percent) and others (2 percent).

Domestic debt constitutes the major share of the total debt stock as of March 31: 62 percent. And the dependence on domestic sources is increasing gradually, according to the bulletin.

A good initiative tainted by graft

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should be free from political consideration and influence of local politicians and administration in the future, he said.

Besides, the TCB doesn't have the capacity to sell products to such a large number of people (one crore families) across the country.

Despite having obtained the cards, 75 percent beneficiaries could not afford the TCB goods.

According to the respondents who didn't get the family cards, the main reasons for exclusion were a lack of transparency or publicity of the enlistment process, enrolment of people for political reasons, issuance of multiple cards to the same family and refusal to pay bribes, the report adds.

Most of the allegations of

irregularities and corruption were made against local public representatives as they were involved in enrolment and distribution of the cards. Influential people, politicians, and government officials were also involved in irregularities and corruption, the report mentioned.

It further said 4.7 percent beneficiaries received family cards from persons other than designated committee members though the rules prohibit it.

Besides, 89.9 percent beneficiaries, who were victims of irregularities, did not or could not file complaints.

In the report, the TIB recommended that once the designated committees prepare initial lists of beneficiaries, those should be finalised, taking into account the opinions of the poor and

marginalised people.

Also, the demand and capabilities of beneficiaries should be assessed to determine the type, quantity and price of goods in the TCB packages, it said.

To ensure transparency and accountability, information on product type and quantity as well as the package price should be displayed at the point of sale, it added.

In addition to package-based goods, essential items should be sold in small quantities according to the needs and ability of the poor people who cannot afford the existing packages.

At present, the TCB is offering two packages - one with three products priced at Tk 460 and the other with four products for Tk 560. A cardholder has to buy all the products in either of the two packages.

Rough time

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and employment, and protect the vulnerable people.

To stabilise macroeconomy, he recommended liberalising interest rate so that the real value of savings is protected along with a moderate credit growth.

"The government should review the subsidy package to protect good subsidies for agriculture and liquid fuel and remove all bad subsidies like capacity charges of power plants."

To sustain production and employment, the focus should be on Aman production and the costs of diesel and fertilisers should be reduced.

16 children get first Covid shots

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Minister Zahid Maleque said while inaugurating the event as chief guest.

Education minister Dipu Moni, US ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas and top officials of different ministries and development partner organisations attended the event.

Dipu Moni informed some 98 percent of students, aged between 12 and 18, have received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccines and 83 percent received second doses.

"There will be no obstacle in continuing academic activities once these children [aged between five and 11] are vaccinated."

After receiving vaccines, a colourful balloon was gifted to each child yesterday.

Asked, Shyamoli Rani Malakar, headmaster of Abul Bashar Government Primary School, said the guardians expressed their interest in getting their children jabbed as the school authorities contacted them.

"We have had experience from today's [yesterday] event. We will set up vaccination centres at the

Growth rates of animal farming and fisheries are declining, so these sectors should receive more support.

Smooth outflow of migrant workers to new and traditional markets should get effective attention, he said.

Industry workers, especially those in the apparel sector, will need dearness allowance if the salary does not rise.

The vulnerable groups should be protected by accelerating the implementation of the family card programme for 1 crore families.

All safety net allowances should be increased to Tk 1,000 a month, he added.

schools. We need a few more days to finalise the schedule," Shamsul Haque, member secretary of the Covid-19 Vaccine Management Taskforce Committee, told The Daily Star.

There are 21,932,638 primary schoolchildren in the country, according to the directorate of primary education.

Besides, there are many children of this age group studying in madrassas, and kindergarten schools and engaged in child labour across the country while many are living a life on the streets.

The Directorate General of Health Services, however, has so far received 30 lakh Pfizer vaccines made especially for children.

"The vaccine stock will rise to one crore by the end of this month," Shamsul Haque told The Daily Star earlier.

Meanwhile, the DGHS has reported 214 new cases of Covid-19 and one death in the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, read a press release.