

Three journos beaten

FROM PAGE 12
took away his camera and broke it and hit him with sticks and iron rods.

Suzon said there were allegations that Sultan abducted a woman five days ago, following which his wife tried to die by suicide by taking poison.

The reporters were talking to villagers about the allegations when Sultan, his father Azizar Mandal, who is the president of Panchagram Union AL, two brothers Shaded Mandal and Shahjahan Mandal, and their men approached

the journalists and asked them not to report on people's "personal matters".

The men soon began to hurl abuse at the reporters and assaulted them, he added.

Contacted, Azizar denied assaulting the reporters and said he had tried to save them from being beaten up. "My sons will be punished if they had done anything wrong."

OC Ershadul said police were looking for the suspects and trying to recover the camera.

Matiar Rahman, general secretary of Lalmonirhat District AL, told reporters last night that Azizar will be expelled from the party if allegations of his involvement in this incident are found to be true.

A four-member committee has been formed by the district AL to look into the matter, he added.

Local journalist association leaders last night said they would demonstrate if the attackers are not arrested and the camera is not recovered in 24 hours.

OC Ershadul said police were looking for the suspects and trying to recover the camera.

Fourth death anniversary

FROM PAGE 3
Sarwar's family and Golam Sarwar Foundation will arrange different programmes including a doa mahfil and food distribution among orphans at his ancestral

home in Barishal's Baranipara, the foundation said in a press release yesterday.

Born on April 1, 1943 in Baranipara, Sarwar's career in journalism spanned over five decades,

He was awarded with

Ghost purchases

FROM PAGE 3
examining, counting and measuring weight.

The office staff receiving the goods should give a certificate stating that they have received the goods after ensuring weight and quality. They will also give a certificate stating that the stock was registered properly.

In the audit report, CAG said it found no such register or accounts. "Purchasing of goods cannot be verified if the stock register is not preserved. Despite this fact, the field level offices of CAAB in Dhaka do not preserve any stock register."

CAG said CAAB did not give any reply about the anomalies in this case, adding that the local authorities did not come up with any reply as they did not have any proper answer.

In its recommendation for both cases, CAG suggested intensifying the internal control system and properly depositing money to funds of the concerned authorities.

In another instance of irregularity, CAG said CAAB showed a stock balance of Tk 16.38 crore

through "imaginary" statements of different purchased equipment and mechanical parts.

CAG said the executive engineer, E/M division 1 and 2 of CAAB, showed through a work order that different machinery parts were purchased.

The auditing authority also said although CAAB replaced old machinery, it did not properly deal with the old equipment or preserved no stock register or list. "Therefore, it cannot be ascertained that the new equipment replaced [old equipment]."

CAAB did not give any reply about this objection, meaning that CAAB has accepted the anomalies, said CAG.

In the recommendation, CAG asked to preserve old equipment and verify the stock balance every year. It also recommended selling the old machinery.

In all three cases, CAG said the response of the civil aviation ministry secretary about anomalies was not proper and acceptable.

As part of the latest measures, CAG issued demis official letters for all three cases in August 2018 to the secretary but he did not reply.

"We are also holding meetings with CAG officials every month on different audit objections," he said. "In case of failure to settle any objections, those are sent to the Public Accounts Committee of parliament for settlement."

Besides, the CAAB boss said they also carry out internal audits in response to anomalies, like those identified in CAG's report.

"We will take action if anyone is found involved in irregularities," he said.

A story of unkept promises

FROM PAGE 5
Other demands, like Tk 1-crore compensation for Sazal and a government job for him, remain unfulfilled. Meanwhile, Sazal alleged that the university administration took away his only source of income, a canteen on the campus he used to run.

When asked about the situation, Yasmeen Haque said Zafar Iqbal were deeply embarrassed and saddened over the delay in fulfilling the demands.

"He [Zafar Iqbal] is repeatedly contacting with the 'high-ups', who

assured us of fulfilling the students' demands. They keep assuring us, but we see no reflection of these assurances in their actions," Yasmeen said.

"The entire country saw these officials making public promises through us. How can they back away from that?" she asked.

However, an official of the University Grants Commission (UGC), seeking anonymity, said the president, also chancellor of the university, has returned the file sent to him regarding the removal of the VC.

Contacted, top officials of the Higher Education Division said they have not been informed of the issue, as they assumed office recently.

"Many demands like withdrawal of the cases and issues of the dormitories have been fulfilled. The removal of the vice chancellor depends on the president's decision. I cannot say anything about that," said UGC Secretary Dr Ferdous Zaman.

Although Ferdous claimed that the cases have been withdrawn, Nazmul Huda Khan, officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Police Station, said the cases are still ongoing and under investigation.

This correspondent could not reach VC Farid Uddin Ahmed over phone despite repeated attempts.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

International Labour Organization (ILO) Better Work Bangladesh Programme announces the following consultancy opportunities:

1. National consultant to conduct Social Compliance Assessment of RMG/Footwear factories- 10 positions.
2. National Consultant to review the assessment report on social compliance in RMG/Footwear factories (Home-Based)- 03 positions.

(Short term National Consultant) through Individual Contract (IC) modality.

For the details regarding contract duration and instructions to apply please visit our website:

http://www.ilo.org/dhaka/informationresources/WCMS_852604/lang--en/index.htm

http://www.ilo.org/dhaka/informationresources/WCMS_852606/lang--en/index.htm

Submission of quotation/proposal

Interested individuals can submit the proposals in hard copy in two separate files ("Technical Proposal along with required supporting documents" and "Financial Proposal") with a cover letter to be submitted as per the submission deadline mentioned in the TOR:

ILO Country Office for Bangladesh, PPD Secretariat Office Complex, 2nd floor, Block-F, Plot-17/B&C, Agargaon Administrative Zone, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. Or,

You can send your quotation in two separate files ("Technical Proposal along with required supporting documents" and "Financial Proposal") at: BW_BID_DHAKA@ilo.org as per the submission deadline mentioned in the TOR.

Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Kyiv, Moscow

FROM PAGE 12

At the Security Council meeting, the United States backed the call for a demilitarised zone and urged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to visit the site.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said the world was being pushed "to the brink of nuclear catastrophe", comparable in scale with the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in then-Soviet Ukraine. He said IAEA officials could visit the site as soon as this month.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky demanded Russia return the plant to Ukraine's control.

BCL, BNP

FROM PAGE 12

The OC said the three detainees were taken to the police station for interrogation. He, however, did not disclose their identities.

Additional police personnel were deployed in the town to avert any further deterioration in law and order.

UN rights chief due

FROM PAGE 2

The visit comes ahead of the fifth anniversary this month of the Rohingya exodus into the southeastern tip of neighbouring Bangladesh.

The camps house nearly one million Rohingya refugees that fled a military offensive in Myanmar.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas left Rakhine State in August 2017 after the crackdown, which the UN is investigating over genocide charges.

Bangladeshi authorities have become increasingly impatient about hosting the refugees while criticising the rest of the

Sylhet all set

FROM PAGE 5

Technology, said, "Visually, we wanted people to think that this terminal represents Sylhet's heritage. And functionally, we focused on prioritising commuting facilities."

"Bus terminals are normally designed with departure and arrival in the front [of the establishment] and facilities at the back," he said.

But the designers did the opposite, making facilities easily available, he added.

The departure building has 970 passenger seats, 30 VIP seats, 30 ticket counters, a breastfeeding zone, locker facility, smoking zone, prayer hall, medical bay with sick beds, restaurants and convenient stores. The arrival building also has 200 passenger seats, food court and

convenient stores along with other facilities.

A separate multipurpose welfare centre has been constructed, where bus owners, drivers and conductors will have offices and a 24-bed lodge.

Ali Akbar, superintending engineer of SCC, said, "Construction started in 2019 but works were delayed due to the pandemic."

The work will hopefully be done by the middle of this month. "We are planning to lease out facilities of the terminal by September," he said.

Sylhet City Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury said, "I am very excited for the inauguration of this state-of-the-art bus terminal. Once final works conclude, people will get to use the terminal without delay."

The probe committee found that the officers were given current charges, ignoring the ministry's directive and in violation of the rules and regulations.

It said a huge amount of money might change hands for the elevation.

An Administrative Tribunal in Dhaka in a judgement on July 25 said

"We just make sure that the money reaches students through Nagad. When Bangladesh Bank disburses the money through their software, it goes to the Nagad numbers. But if there is a mistake in the number then the money goes back to the bank."

"After checking their Nagad account, I could not find a single penny. A gang might have gotten their PIN and withdrawn the money. We are looking into the issue."

Contacted, Nagad accounts manager in Patuakhali Salauddin Sajib said the stipend money is distributed among students through Bangladesh Bank, using a government portal.

"We cannot really do anything if the money does not reach the Nagad accounts. The education officials should contact Bangladesh Bank about it," he added.

Contacted, Nagad

accounts manager in Patuakhali Salauddin Sajib said, "We have also received such complaints from many guardians. The matter has been reported to higher authorities."

Khoka then asked Tk 2,150 in advance for a "tabiz" that would prove beneficial.

"I could summon a djinn to prove my powers. But I will need some money and a metal plate in exchange," he replied when this correspondent refused to pay for the Tabiz.

When showed eagerness in the djinn summoning part, he backed away.

This correspondent

SC slams HC

FROM PAGE 12

At the date of the judgment of the High Court Division till the date of order of stay [April 4 this year] passed by this Division [Appellate Division], a three member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, observed in its 16 page full text of the verdict which was released recently.

Two other judges of the bench are Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice M Enayetur Rahim.

On May 29 this year, the apex court bench delivered a short judgement on the issue, scrapping the HC verdict that allowed Selim to extract sand for an indefinite period without fixing any tenure and royalty. Thus, we are constrained to hold that the High Court Division disposed of the writ petition beyond the scope of Article 102 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh."

On that day, the apex court passed the short verdict following a leave to appeal petition filed by the state, seeking cancellation of the HC directive.

Following the writ petition filed by Selim, an HC bench on April 5, 2018, allowed him to extract sand in 21 mouzas under Chandpur Sadar and Haimchar upazilas, Deputy Attorney General Kazi Myun Hassan told The

commissioner concerned.

"In the instant case, the alleged 'Dubochars' of the Meghna river bed under the mouzas in question have never been declared as Balu Mahal by the deputy commissioner concerned complying of relevant law."

The verdict said the HC cannot assume the power and jurisdiction of a particular authority conferred by a specific law/statute in exercising power under Article 102 of the country's constitution and thus, the HC cannot declare a particular area as Balu Mahal making a particular law, i.e. Ain 2010 nugatory or redundant.

Thus, in this particular case, the HC has travelled beyond its jurisdiction declaring the mouzas in question as Balu Mahal, it added.

From the impugned judgment it transpires that the High Court Division without taking consideration of the provision of section 9 of the Ain 2010 straightforwardly treated the Dubochars of Meghna river bed under mouzas in question as Balu Mahal and directed

the writ respondents-petitioners (state) to allow the writ petitioner to extract sand from the said mouzas, read the SC verdict.

"Having considered and discussed as above, we have no hesitation to hold that the High Court Division has committed serious error in passing the impugned judgment and order," the SC judges observed in the full text verdict.

The judges said, "It also surprises us that on behalf of the government, no affidavit in opposition was filed before the High Court Division to contest the Rule and the conduct of the law officers concerned are highly suspicious. The government officials concerned of Chandpur district administration slept over the matter for a long time. We express our dissatisfaction with the conduct of the government officials concerned of Chandpur district administration, who slept over the matter years together as well as the law officers who did not perform their duties property before the High Court Division."

FT publishes rejoinder

FROM PAGE 12

say that Chinese loans led to the defaulting; rather the problem arose from sovereign debt, according to the rejoinder.

To be clear, Bangladesh

never take on finance from any authority if it were not feasible. He was in no way

warning about Chinese loans, the rejoinder said.

Mustafa Kamal in the interview made clear that the deputy commissioner of the district concerned has been empowered to declare a certain area as Balu Mahal, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions with the approval of the divisional

less than \$40bn from more than \$45bn a year ago".

The rejoinder said it should have been made clear that reserves stood at only \$32.7bn in June 2019. By August 2021, they had risen 47 per cent to \$48.1bn, the highest ever recorded in the history of Bangladesh.

Today, reserves stand at \$40bn, enough for more than five months of import payments and beyond the risk threshold prescribed by the IMF, added the rejoinder.

Investigation finds promotions

FROM PAGE 3

The youth ministry probe committee found that some officers got the elevation though they faced departmental cases more than once and were even punished.

The committee also mentioned it appears that there might be financial transactions and corruption in giving the current charge.

In November last year,