

Jhumon denied bail again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sunamganj court yesterday denied bail to Jhumon Das, who was arrested in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

Judge Zakia Parvin of Sunamganj District and Sessions Judge's Court passed the order, said Pankaj Kumar, Jhumon's lawyer.

"We will be filing a bail plea with the High Court," the lawyer said.

Around 11:30am on August 30, police picked up Jhumon from his home in Noagaon village of the district's Shalla upazila over an allegation of "hurting religious sentiments" through a Facebook post.

Next day, Sub-inspector Sumnur Rahman of Shalla Police Station lodged a DSA case against Jhumon. A court then sent him to jail.

On September 4, his first bail appeal was rejected by another local court.

Police arrested Jhumon on March 16 last year for a Facebook post criticising Hefazat-e-Islam leader Mamunul Haque. The following day, people attacked Noagaon village, vandalised and looted at least 90 Hindu houses and four temples.

After serving almost six months in jail in a DSA case, he was released on bail on September 28 last year.

Young couple found dead in city flat

Police suspect murder-suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bodies of a young married couple were recovered at their newly-rented flat in Dhaka's Mohammadpur in what police suspect was a murder-suicide incident on Sunday.

The dead were identified as Md Noman, 27, an expatriate returnee from Saudi Arabia, and his wife, Shamima Akhter, 20. They got married about a year ago.

"Noman's body was found hanging from the ceiling while Shamima's was on the floor," said Pantosh Banik, sub-inspector (SI) of Mohammadpur Police Station.

Post-mortem reports indicated that the woman might have been strangled to death while the man might have committed suicide, morgue sources said.

According to police, the couple rented the flat on the second floor of a five-storey building on Babar Road on September 12, four days after Noman returned from Saudi Arabia.

On Sunday, they were supposed to submit copies of their NID cards to the landlord, but they were not responding to calls.

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Steel barriers have been set up on the pavement at the capital's Shahbagh intersection to stop plying of motorbikes. The makeshift flower shops have also occupied part of the sidewalk, causing disruptions to pedestrian movement. The barriers indeed stop bikers but also cause problems for the physically challenged people. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

‘No decisions’ on closing borders

Says Moscow amid exodus of military-age men; US warns Russia against using nuke weapons in Ukraine

REUTERS, Kyiv

The Kremlin yesterday refused to deny that Russia might close its borders to prevent an exodus of military-age men after President Vladimir Putin declared a partial mobilisation in an effort to regain the upper hand in the war in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also confirmed that Russia was in "sporadic" contact with the United States on nuclear issues, after Washington warned of "catastrophic consequences" if Moscow used nuclear weapons to protect Ukrainian regions it looks set to annex.

Citizens in four regions of Ukraine were voting for a fourth day yesterday in Moscow-organised referendums on joining Russia, a plan Kyiv and the West have branded a sham. They say the votes are rigged and they will not recognise the results.

Asked about the possibility of border closures, Peskov told reporters: "I don't know anything about this. At the moment, no decisions have been taken on this."

Multiple reports have documented how people with no military service have received draft papers - contrary to Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu's pledge that only those with special military skills or combat experience would do so - prompting even

loyal pro-Kremlin figures to publicly express concern.

Peskov acknowledged that some call-ups had been issued in error, saying mistakes were being corrected by regional governors and the ministry of defence.

More than 2,000 people have been detained across Russia for protests at the draft, says independent monitoring group

Almost 17,000 Russians crossed the border into Finland over weekend, say Finnish authorities.

OVD-Info. With criticism of the conflict banned, the demonstrations were among the first signs of discontent since the war began.

A 25-year-old gunman was detained after opening fire at a military draft office in Russia's Irkutsk region, the local governor said.

Almost 17,000 Russians crossed the border into Finland over the weekend, Finnish authorities said, while Russian state media said the estimated wait to enter Georgia hit 48 hours at one point on Sunday, with more than 3,000 vehicles queuing.

A senior lawmaker said Russian men of fighting age should not be allowed to travel abroad.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday the United States would respond "decisively" to any Russian use of nuclear weapons, without elaborating. He said Washington had privately told Moscow "exactly what that would mean".

Asked about Sullivan's comments, Peskov said: "There are channels for dialogue at the proper level, but they are of a very sporadic nature. At least they allow for the exchange of some emergency messages about each other's positions."

The exiled mayor of Russian-controlled Melitopol in the Zaporizhzhia region accused Russia of forcibly enlisting Ukrainian men in occupied areas into its armed forces.

"Today the situation is critical: our residents are scared, our residents are panicking, they don't know what will happen tomorrow and when they will actually take our people away for enlisting," Mayor Ivan Fedorov said.

The governor of Luhansk, another region Moscow aims to annex, said Russian-backed officials were carrying ballot boxes from door to door, accompanied by security officials.

Time sought for Sagar-Runi murder probe for 92nd time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Rab to submit by October 31 the probe report of a case filed over the killings of journalist couple -- Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

With this, the investigation officer has so far taken 92 dates to complete the investigation.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Debdash Chandra Adhikary passed the order after Rab's Additional Superintendent Khondoker Md Shafiqul Alam, also investigation officer of the case, failed to submit the report yesterday, court sources said.

Sagar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Runi, a senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in the early hours of February 11, 2012, in their rented flat in the capital's West Razabazar.

Six die from Covid, highest in 2 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six Covid-19 patients died while 718 people tested positive for the infection in the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

This is the highest number of Covid deaths and highest number of cases reported in a day since the beginning of August.

The new cases were lodged after 5,288 samples were tested across the country.

The daily positivity rate rose to 13.58 percent from the previous day's 12.96 percent, says a press release published by the Directorate General of Health Services.

With the new numbers, the total number of deaths have reached 29,259, with the death rate at 1.45 percent.

Three of the deceased were male, while the other three were female. Two were aged between 31 and 60, and the rest were above 60.

13-yr-old tortured to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A 13-year-old boy, who was tortured allegedly by family members of his friend in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila, died on Sunday night.

The victim, Sazzad, was the son of Nurul Huda, of Saat Julia Kata village.

According to the case statement, Sazzad had an argument with one of his friends on Friday. Hearing it, his friend's father and elder brother forcibly took Sazzad to their house on Saturday and tortured him.

He died at a local clinic on Sunday night. One of the four accused in the murder case was arrested, said Abdul Halim, officer-in-charge of Eidgaon Police Station.

Farmer found dead two days after going missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Hours after an unknown caller demanded Tk 1.5 lakh ransom, a farmer's body with injury marks was found floating in a river in Pabna.

Saidur Rahman, 40, of Beltoli village in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj went missing two days ago. Locals found the body floating yesterday and called police.

Inspector (investigation) in Ullapara model police station Md Enamul Haque said the body was sent to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Hearing begins on cases over artificial crisis

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The cases were lodged on Thursday.

The commission is now issuing notices to the companies about the cases filed, said Biswajit Saha, director for corporate and regulatory affairs at City Group.

"Since a case has been filed, we will have to deal with the matter legally," he added.

Kamruzzaman Kamal, director for marketing at Pran-RFL Group, said they did not know anything about the case yet.

The prices of some products had to be raised for the increase in the cost of raw materials.

"But the prices of the products were not increased to make excessive profits. Rather, the price was revised upwards to survive in the market," Kamal added.

The hearing process began yesterday with the case against Kazi Farms.

The commission asked the company to furnish data on how many chickens it produced and supplied to the market, its production cost and selling price, and its market share from July 22 to September 22.

It also asked for the poultry company's rationale for the unusual price increase during the period.

Over the past several months, the market has seen an unusual rise in the prices of rice, oil, flour, eggs, chicken, soap, detergents, and toothpaste, sending the cost of living higher.

To bring back stability in the market, the Directorate of National Consumers Right Protection held meetings with the manufacturers and marketers in addition to conducting regular drives.

BCL expels Eden accusers instead

FROM PAGE 1

"We came here to observe a hunger strike, but we are leaving now. We will not go on strike as we are under huge pressure. We will not talk to the media.

Don't ask us any more questions," Samia Akhter Boishakhi, suspended organising secretary of the BCL committee, told The Daily Star.

They came out of the office after staying there for about an hour from around 12:15pm.

Speaking at a press conference on the college premises yesterday, expelled vice-president Susmita Baroi alleged that the BCL central leadership didn't take any step against Riva and Razia as they were close aides to the president and general secretary of the student front.

"Though there are some serious allegations against Riva and Razia, including extortion, seat trading, and torturing students, the Chhatra League central committee didn't take any action. Instead, they expelled us for speaking against them."

The BCL early yesterday suspended the activities of its Eden college unit, hours after Riva came under assault from some of its leaders during a press conference on the college premises.

The expulsion of the 17 irked a section of Chhatra League leaders as

its charter does not allow this without serving a show-cause notice to the member concerned and also without any investigation.

"The press release regarding the expulsion says the decision was taken upon discussion among the members of the Chhatra League central executive committee. But being a member of the central executive committee, I knew nothing about the decision. The central committee has to hold a meeting of the central executive committee members upon receiving the probe report and take a decision based on the majority's opinion," a BCL vice-president, preferring anonymity, told The Daily Star.

He said such a decision contradicts the organisation's charter.

According to sources at Eden Mohila College, Riva and Razia have control of 128 rooms in six dormitories, which are allotted to activists loyal to them. They also rent out those rooms to freshers, outsiders and non-students for Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000 per month.

Riva, a student of marketing of 2009-2010 session, has been carrying out such controversial activities since she is a close aide to BCL General Secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee

A family that parents suddenly

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visited their home yesterday and found the family plumbing the depths of pain. Some of them lost their senses frequently from a trauma they could not handle.

Hari Kishore's sons -- Uzzal Chandra Roy, 21, and Ajoy Chandra Roy, 15 -- were seen staring blankly out of their balcony.

"My parents promised they would come back home. They weren't able to keep the promise, and now we have been orphaned," Uzzal said.

"My father called me over phone before boarding the boat. He told me there was a huge crowd. Just 15

minutes later, a relative called and gave me the capsize news.

"Since then, we have been searching for our family members. We found the bodies of our mother and aunt today [yesterday] ... We are desperately looking for my father and the other family members."

He added, "My father was a farmer and the only bread-winner in our family. We now have to face financial struggles along with the loss of our loved ones."

At least 50 have died and 30 more remain missing after the engine-run boat flipped over near Awalia Ghat in Mareya union around 2:15pm

on Sunday, while it was headed for Bodeshari Hindu temple in the upazila.

Around 80-90 passengers were on their way to the temple for Mahalaya.

World economy

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this year to 3.2 percent while it was slightly lower to 4.7 percent for 2023.

Germany is now expected to go into recession next year with Europe's biggest economy now seen shrinking by 0.7 percent -- a 2.4-percentage-point drop from the previous forecast.

Price rise for global hike

FROM PAGE 1

When the weather became clearer around noon the devotees started rushing to the ghat to cross the river and attend the religious occasion, which is held six days before the Durga Puja.

In their eagerness to reach the temple before the ceremonies ended, they boarded the boat surpassing capacity.

Asked why firefighters allowed people to board the boat beyond its capacity, Md Shahjahan, the team leader of the firefighting unit present there at the time, said the devotees did not obey their repeated requests.

Refuting the allegation that they did not act quickly enough following the incident, Shajahan said they tried their best to save the people even though there were not enough firefighters, considering the scale of the operation.

Replying to a query, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Solaiman Ali said they could not imagine such an incident would happen. Police and firefighters were deployed there.

Sujeo Kumar Roy, officer-in-charge of Boda Police Station, said

at City Group, another major commodity importer, echoed Chowdhury.

"I don't see any sign of the price going down in the coming days," said Amin Mahmood, the owner of Nihad Traders, a major importer of lentils.

Mamun Saudagar, the proprietor of Muhammaddia Traders in Chittagong, said the onion price increase was due to the record fuel price hike last month.

The prices of commodities would be brought in line with those abroad, said AKM Ali Ahad Khan, additional secretary (IIT) of the commerce ministry.

"Work for that is going on. We have already adjusted the prices of sugar and palm oil," he added.

Death toll now 50

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