

Is an olive branch offered?

GM Quader meets Raushan to cool tensions

RASHIDUL HASAN



The rift between two Jatiya Party factions, led by Raushan Ershad and GM Quader, could melt away as the two leaders held a meeting at a city hotel yesterday and discussed ways to overcome their differences.

JP Chairman Quader called on Raushan, also the leader of the opposition in parliament, at the Westin Dhaka where Raushan has been staying since her return home from Bangkok on November 27.

The meeting, the first between the two top JP leaders in one year, was held at a time when the two factions had a face off over Raushan's recent move to hold the party's council and expulsion of several top leaders by Quader in retaliation.

Speaking to The Daily Star, sources close to the two leaders said they discussed how to address the differences and tensions created in the party over the last few months.

"The discussion was cordial. The two leaders agreed to strengthen Jatiya Party by overcoming the differences on party issues. I think that talks were fruitful," a JP leader close to Raushan, who was present at the hotel, said.

JP Co-chairman Syed Abu Hossain Babla, also a lawmaker, and presidium member Shafiqul Islam Sentu, both loyal to Quader, were present at the hotel.

Raushan's son Rahgir Al Mahe Ershad, a JP MP, and

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With despair and frustration painted all over her face, a woman holds her sleeping baby while waiting for her turn to purchase rice and flour at a subsidised rate from a TCB truck, under the government's OMS initiative, in Khulna city's No.5 terminal. With continuous hikes in the prices of essentials, the desperation of people from low-income groups for affordable food is increasing every day, and the women have nothing to do but bring their children to suffer in long lines along with them.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Witness killed by accused on way to court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura



A witness was killed by the accused in a case on his way to a court in Bogura's Dhunat upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Abdul Khalek, 62, of the upazila.

According to the victim's family, the incident occurred around 8:00am when Khalek left his home in Kodlapara village and was heading to the court to give his statement as a witness in the physical assault case, filed by his younger brother.

Abdul Sattar, the plaintiff of the case, said, "I had bought a maund of rice from my neighbour Mozammel Haque a few months ago. As I could not pay the money on time, he, his son Fazlul and some other men beat me up on October 28. I filed

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BASIC BANK SCAM CASES Complete probe in 3 months or face action

HC warns ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Issuing a strong warning to the Anti-Corruption Commission over its failure to press charges in any of the 56 Basic Bank loan scam cases in the last seven years, the High Court yesterday directed the graft watchdog to complete the investigations of the cases and submit the reports to the lower court concerned in three months "without fail".

If the ACC fails to submit the investigation reports in three months after receiving the verdict and order of the HC, appropriate legal action would be taken against the commission, the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu said in a verdict.

The HC bench delivered the judgment after holding a hearing on three rules that asked the ACC and the state to explain why Mohammad Ali, former manager of the state-owned Basic Bank's Shantinagar branch, should not be granted bail in three graft cases filed by the ACC.

The HC, however, denied him bail saying that he as the key official of the bank's Shantinagar branch cannot avoid the responsibility of the misappropriation of money.

It appears from the relevant documents that being the branch manager, Mohammad Ali sent the loan proposals to the bank's head office for approval without properly evaluating the values of the mortgaged properties, the HC said.

The verdict said there is no scope for taking the offences of money laundering and loan defaulting leniently.

"There are so many countries in the world where

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Woman 'raped', burnt to death in Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 32-year-old woman, who was allegedly raped and set on fire in Dhaka's Keraniganj on Monday night, died of her wounds last night.

Lata Sarkar, who was speech impaired, breathed her last at 8:00pm while undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said Officer-in-Charge Shah Jamal of South Keraniganj Police Station.

After a 999 call around 11:00pm on Monday, a police patrol team went to Kadamtali area, rescued Lata and admitted her to the burn institute, the OC said.

"First, we could not ascertain the identity of the victim. Later the deceased was identified by fingerprints," the OC informed.

The victim's brother filed a murder case with the police station, he said, adding that the matter was

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DHAKA-NARAYANGANJ ROUTE No rail operations for 3 months

Suspension to help Padma Bridge Rail Link Project work

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway will be suspending rail operations between Dhaka and Narayanganj for three months, starting from December 4, to facilitate the work of the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project (PBRLP).

BR took the decision after the project authorities sent them a proposal asking train operations on the route to be halted from December to February.

"Rail operations on this route will remain suspended for three months," BR's Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder told The Daily Star yesterday.

The authorities concerned will inform people about the decision through advertisements on national dailies soon, a BR official said.

Currently, BR operates nine pairs of trains -- eight pairs of local trains and one of Demu trains -- between Dhaka

and Narayanganj daily and several thousand people avail themselves of the services.

Passengers could reach Narayanganj from Dhaka within 45 minutes at a fare of only Tk 15.

On the other hand, it takes almost an hour to reach Narayanganj by bus at a Tk 55 fare.

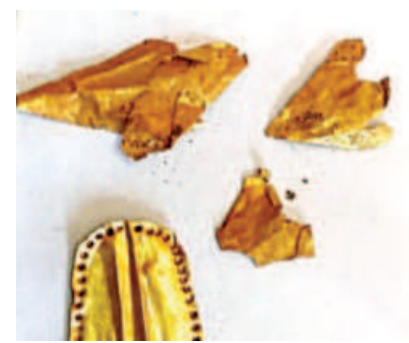
BR used to operate 16 pairs of trains on Dhaka-Narayanganj route daily but the number was cut to nine after the Covid-19 pandemic, sources said.

Many people from Narayanganj use trains to reach Dhaka for official purposes in the morning and go back in the evening, and the suspension of the operations for three months may cause problems for them.

About this, Dharendra Nath said, "We are forced to suspend the operations for the [PBRLP] works. We have no other alternative."

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Mummies with golden tongues discovered



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Archaeologists in Egypt have discovered several ancient tombs containing mummies with golden tongues in their mouths.

The mummies were found in the ancient cemetery of Qewaisna about 40 miles north of Cairo, dating between 300BC and 640AD.

The Egyptian archaeological mission of the Supreme Council for Archaeology working in the Qewaisna region in the Menoufia Governate,

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Hawkers, CNG-run three-wheelers, and rental vehicles occupy a part of the road near Jurain level crossing in the capital, making it difficult for traffic to flow smoothly. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Rohingya man shot, stabbed to death

20 suspects storm his home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Unidentified criminals shot and hacked to death Rohingya leader Shahab Uddin at a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday morning.

Shahab Uddin, 35, was a sub-majhi, community leader, of Balukhali-12 Rohingya Camp in Ukhiya, said Ukhiya Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Mohammad Ali.

Quoting locals and relatives of the deceased, the OC said a group of 20 to 30 people stormed the home of Shahab breaking the door.

They stabbed him in his chest and abdomen.

At one stage they shot him and fled. Shahab Uddin died on the spot.

The OC said no case had been filed in this regard.

The body of the deceased

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It's been five years since we lost our dearest colleague, one of the visionary leaders of our industry and Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation Mr. Annisul Huq (27 September 1952 - 30 November 2017). A Doa Mahfil for the departed soul will be organized by his family on 30 November 2022 at Gulshan Society Jame Masjid (Road # 63, East side of Banani graveyard) after Maghrib Prayer. BGMEA members are requested to kindly attend the Doa Mahfil.

Faruque Hassan
President, BGMEA

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