

Rohingya leader shot dead inside camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Criminals shot dead another Rohingya community leader (Majhi) in a refugee camp of Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya on Saturday night.

Noor Hossain Bhutto, 42, a sub-Majhi of 9D block at camp 2 in Kutupalong, was killed around 9:00pm, said Saiful Islam, inspector (investigation) of Ukhiya Police Station.

"Some 10-12 criminals attacked Noor when he was talking to other Rohingyas in front of his house. They opened fire targeting Noor and left the place immediately," the police official said.

On information, a team of the Armed Police Battalion went to the spot and took him to MSF hospital, where doctors declared him dead, said the inspector.

Police are conducting raids to arrest the criminals, he said, adding that the body was sent to Cox's Bazar General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Locals said Noor might have been murdered over previous enmity.

At least 48 Rohingyas, including 16 Majhis, 11 ARSA members and a volunteer were killed in clashes or gunfights in the last six months in Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

Republican candidates criticise Trump in documents case

AFP, Washington

Fresh off Donald Trump's 37-count indictment, several top Republicans, including presidential contenders Mike Pence and Asa Hutchinson, criticised the former US president's handling of classified information yesterday.

The comments, including harsh criticism from former Trump defense secretary Mark Esper, came on the first round of major weekend political talk shows since Trump pleaded not guilty in a Miami courtroom on Tuesday to mishandling some of the US government's most sensitive secrets.

These were included in reams of documents Trump took with him upon leaving the White House and scheming to prevent investigators from recovering them.

The remarks yesterday stand in sharp contrast to those of many Republicans in congress who have either defended Trump or declined to criticize him.

"I can't defend what is alleged," Pence, Trump's former vice president, told NBC's Meet the Press, alluding to his ex-boss's behavior in the documents affair.

Tight monetary policy. But is it enough?

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This means the interest rate on loans will be a maximum of 10.10 percent, up from the 9 percent ceiling that the BB has maintained since April 2020.

Hussain said that the central bank controls the interest rates of T-bills and T-bonds.

Since the central bank offers lower rates during the auctions of government securities, commercial banks do not get the opportunity to buy them.

"So, the SMART would not be determined by the market, rather it may be controlled by the central bank. This means there may be a cap on the interest rate of lending. If the cap is withdrawn, the hike in the policy rate will be worked," he said.

The central bank said that the reference rate will be 4 percent for consumer and SME loans, meaning the interest rate of such loans will stand at 11 percent.

The interest rate for consumer finance was 12 percent before. This will be lower under the new system.

This means the disbursement of consumer loans may increase further due to the lower interest rate, which may add inflationary pressure, he said.

Mother dies 8 days after baby

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fraud against the doctors concerned and the hospital.

Police arrested two physicians who were sent to jail by a Dhaka court the next day.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said that the government will be cautious so that such deaths do not happen in the future.

"These deaths [of Akhi and her baby] are very unfortunate. There are protocols [for C-sections], and we do

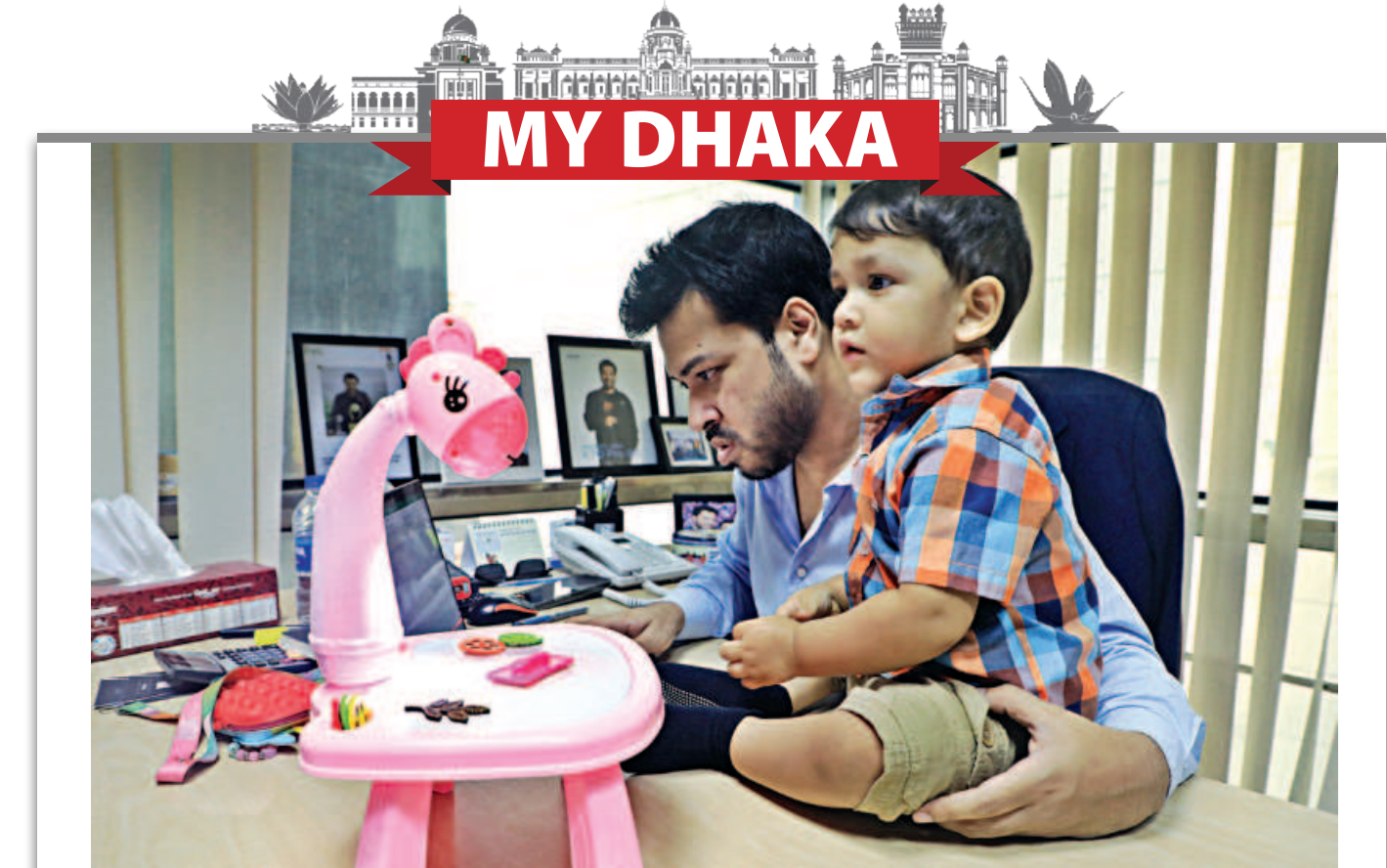


PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BRINGING CHILDREN TO WORK

A welcome change in FATHERHOOD

RBR

How often do you see a doting father lull his baby to sleep, on a working day, and that too at work? A father baby-talk with his child on the phone from his desk at work? Even attend a meeting with a baby sleeping on the office sofa?

These are very rare shots, in reality, yet modern fathers are trying to teamwork with their spouses when it comes to childrearing. In many offices in Dhaka, you will see fathers bringing their children to avail the on-site office day care centre just like their female colleagues.

Modern day fathers in Dhaka are breaking that age-old norm that child rearing is only a mother's job. They are taking equal responsibilities and sharing the chores. Long gone are the days when it was said that a father stuck to their three primary roles of being the protector, the provider, and the disciplinarian.

That picture of a father has changed now. With both parents working and with a nuclear family equation, it is mandatory to share chores. Moreover, a family schedule can change without notice, the care provider might get sick, or the spouse might unexpectedly have to travel on business. The only

alternatives in these cases are to take a sick day or take your kid to work. What impresses me the most is when I see my male colleagues bring their children to work for the lack of a responsible babysitter.

Our office has a crèche or day-care centre and I see young parents dropping their wards off and attending work. The other day at work I saw my

Just as the mothers exchange parenting notes, I saw the men doing the same on how to calm a cranky baby or how to feed a fussy child. Moreover, if a child sees that both parents working, they will learn to respect the work and appreciate their roles.

colleague conducting all sorts of meetings and business calls, and all the while he was patting his baby so that his sleep is not disturbed. When the baby was crying, he took him on his lap lulling him back to sleep. A heart-warming picture that made me realise fatherhood has come a long way.

Our office is not the lone example here, many corporate conglomerates and offices have options to facilitate young parents. This is the right thing to do and this allows young adults to give their best performance because they do not have that gnawing tension at the back of their mind about how their tots are doing at home.

Just as the mothers exchange parenting notes, I saw the men doing the same on how to calm a cranky baby or how to feed a fussy child. Moreover, if a child sees that both parents working, they will learn to respect the work and appreciate their roles.

Everything works better if couples cut each other a bit of slack. It is easier to balance work and parenting if you have a crèche option at work, it eases off the work stress and allows you to stay focused without disturbance from home when you are at work. Office on-site day-care centre gives employees a reliable childcare solution.

Kudos to modern fathers, who share childrearing duties with their working or stay-at-home wives.

The office is livelier with children running around the floor in cute pigtailed and making friends with us. They give us a reason for distraction and a much-needed break from the tedious job of editing or writing.

Bangladesh won't give in to external pressure

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essential ones and doing whatever necessary to develop the country.

Hasina said Bangladesh is progressing and will go further, defying many obstacles and conspiracies.

Bangladesh faced obstacles and conspiracies time and again, she said, adding that it has successfully overcome those.

"Still, many obstacles and conspiracies continue. The reason is that when a country makes rapid progress, many may not tolerate it. So, they start making various types of trouble", said the premier.

"There is no reason to be unnerved by these (disturbances)," she said asking all to move with self-confidence and self-esteem, keeping the heads high as an independent and victorious nation on the world stage.

Talking about modern technology, the premier asked the armed forces and law enforcement agencies to pay special attention to preventing the misuse of the latest technology.

Geopolitics behind Moody's downgrade

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Moody's downgraded Bangladesh's ratings to B1 from Ba3, which it held since 2012, on account of "heightened external vulnerability", "persistent liquidity risks" and "institutional weaknesses uncovered during the ongoing crisis".

The B1 credit rating signifies that the issuer is relatively risky with a higher-than-average chance of default, while the Ba3 rating indicates there are speculative elements and substantial credit risk.

"Moody's gave the [Ba3] rating to us in 2012. Go back to 2012 and see what was the state of the economy then. What was our reserves then? It was \$10 billion. What was our GDP growth, what was our per capita income then? How much were the exports and imports then? They continued that rating for the next 13 years."

The New York-based credit ratings agency did not upgrade Bangladesh's grade when the country's economic fortunes turned for the better.

"When our reserves were \$48 billion,

"Technology has opened the path for our development. But we have to pay special attention so that these technologies can't harm the people of our country..." she said.

Mentioning that the technology has created many apprehensions, she said, "I think the patterns of terrorism and militancy are changing."

The PM extended her sincere thanks to the SSF members for performing their duty with utmost efficiency and sincerity.

"I believe that SSF will continue to improve day by day through proper leadership, the right guidelines, and the professionalism and sincerity of every member of this force," she said.

On the day, PM Hasina expected that the force would become an ideal security force in terms of discipline, loyalty and professional standards.

At the outset of the event, SSF Director General Major General Md Majibur Rahman delivered the welcome speech.

A video documentary on the SSF

and its activities was screened.

PM's Principal Secretary M Tofazzel Hossain Miah was present.

At the function, the prime minister unveiled the cover of a book titled "Durnitir Biruddye Bangabandhur Ukti," a selection of 75 quotes of Bangabandhu compiled and edited by SSF DG Major General Md Majibur Rahman.

On June 15, 1986, the Presidential Security Force (PSF) was formed, which was later renamed as Special Security Force (SSF) in 1991 following the restoration of the parliamentary government system in the country.

The force was originally intended to provide 'physical security' to the president wherever he may be and to VIPs, including any head of the state or government or any person declared to be a VIP by the government.

Following the restoration of the parliamentary system, its primary function has been to protect the president, the prime minister and other VIPs.

Man beaten to death at arbitration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A 24-year-old man was beaten to death allegedly by a local Awami League leader and several others at a village arbitration in Dinajpur's Parbatipur upazila on Saturday night.

Police said Yunus Ali, a truck driver, was killed after he refused to pay a fine of Tk 4 lakh set at the arbitration led by Nur Alam, general secretary of Mominpur Union Unit AL and a member of Mominpur Union Parishad.

Yunus was a resident of Purbapara village. The arbitration was held after a man complained to village elders that Yunus had an affair with his daughter, who is married to another man.

Police arrested suspects named Shafikul Islam and Saiful Islam and were looking for Nur Alam after Yunus' father Mahbub Hossain filed a case against 14 people.

Abul Hasnat Khan, officer-in-charge of Parbatipur Police Station, said Yunus' body was sent to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

BCL man shot dead in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Chhatra League activist was shot dead on Saturday night near Lokhmikunda market in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna over what his family members said were rivalries in a sand extraction business.

Family members of Tafsir Ahmed Mona, 25, said his rivals were ruling Awami League men involved in the business.

Tafsir was a resident of Rooppur Pakar More and a student of Ishwardi Government College.

Arbinda Sarkar, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said assailants opened fire at Tafsir's office around 10:00pm on Saturday and killed him.

Police later sent his body to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

His brother Ishtiak Ibrahim said he knew the AL men who had enmity with Tafsir over business matters and they are the ones who had killed him.

Biplob Goshwami, additional superintendent of police (Ishwardi circle), said police forces were deployed in the area that had been tense since the murder.

He added that the motive behind the killing and other details will be known after investigation.

Number of migrants arriving in UK in boats tops 10,000 this year

AFP, London

The number of people arriving in the UK in small boats has reached over 10,000 since the start of the year, UK government figures showed yesterday.

The provisional total covering the period up to Saturday stands at 10,139, according to data released by the interior ministry, the Home Office.

The figure is down by over 1,000 on that from the same time last year, when there had been more than 11,300 crossings by June 17.

Last Sunday saw the highest number of crossings on a single day so far this year, with 549 people making the perilous journey.