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 Éhutto, 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

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

"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 documents affair.

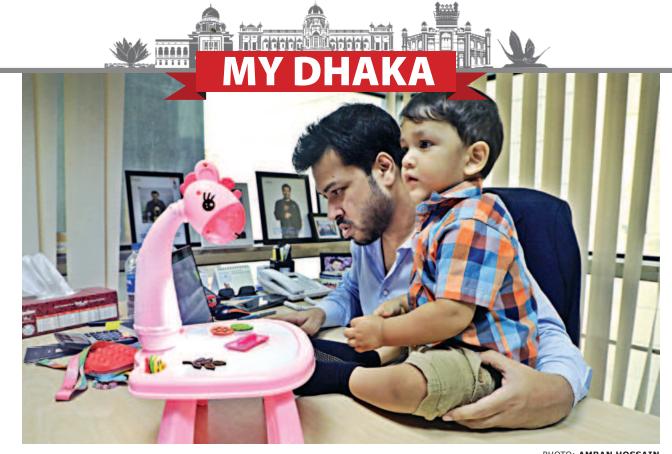


PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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 daycare 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 heartwarming 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 onsite 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 pigtails 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.

essential ones and doing whatever

Bangladesh faced obstacles and

conspiracies time and again, she

said, adding that it has successfully

conspiracies continue. The reason

is that when a country makes rapid

progress, many may not tolerate it.

So, they start making various types of

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

the premier asked the armed forces

and law enforcement agencies to pay

special attention to preventing the

misuse of the latest technology.

Talking about modern technology,

"There is no reason to be unnerved

Bangladesh

obstacles and

necessary to develop the country.

many obstacles and conspiracies.

said

Hasina

overcome those.

"Still many

trouble", said the premier.

on the world stage.

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 Shafiqul Islam and Saiful Islam and were looking for Nur Alam after Yunus' father Mahbub Hossain filed a case

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

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.

Rahman.

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

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

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

parliamentary system, its primary

function has been to protect the

president, the prime minister and other

Following the restoration of the

be a VIP by the government.

government system in the country.

Tight monetary policy. But is it enough?

FROM PAGE 1

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

"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

Inflation raced to an 11-year high of 9.94 percent in May, pushing up the average to 8.95 percent this fiscal year, way above the revised target of 7.5 percent.

Many banks are now showing reluctance to disburse SME loans due to the high operational cost, but the hike in the interest rate will encourage them to disburse the loans, Hussain said.

The interest rate hike for other loans from 9 percent to 10.10 per cent may play a positive role in decreasing

"Imposing the 9 percent interest rate cap on loans was a political decision, but we have been able to manage the policymakers to remove the cap," said BB Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder.

Withdrawing the cap was also a political decision, he said.

He went on to express hope that the country's foreign exchange market will become stable riding on the monetary policy.

He hoped that foreign direct investment will increase and the gap in the financial account will come down in the next fiscal year.

From July 1, the BB will sell dollars to banks based on the interbank exchange rate. But it did not give

Mother dies 8 days after baby

any timeline of when the multiple exchange rate would be abandoned. But Hussain said the central bank

did not give any clear idea of how the foreign exchange market will become stable.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute, echoed the same.

"The interest rate and the exchange rate will become marketbased and the financial account will turn positive. But how is that possible? You cannot maintain a flexible interest rate by way of devolvement of the Treasury bill auction. We want to see if the BB would control devolvement."

It is not clear how the central bank will give loans to the government to meet the budget deficit without expanding net domestic assets, said Mansur, a former economist of the

"If the bank borrowing continues, neither the inflation nor the exchange rate will stabilise.'

The BB's planned move to a single exchange rate is welcome.

"But if you manage the rate through banks or Bafeda [Bangladesh Foreign Exchange

Dealers' Association], then it wouldn't really be a floating exchange rate."

external vulnerability", "persistent liquidity risks" and "institutional weaknesses uncovered during the ongoing crisis".

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.

Bangladesh won't give in to external pressure

"Technology has opened the path and its activities was screened."

"Technology has opened the path and its activities was screened." for our development. But we have to PM's Principal Secretary M Tofazzel pay special attention so that these Hossain Miah was present

progressing and will go further, defying our country...," she said. Mentioning that the technology has created many apprehensions, she said, "I think the patterns of terrorism and

technologies can't harm the people of

militancy are changing.' The PM extended her sincere thanks to the SSF members for performing their duty with utmost efficiency and

"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

to \$3,000, why did they not change our

Geopolitics behind Moody's downgrade

Moody's downgraded Bangladesh's ratings to B1 from Ba3, which it held

since 2012, on account of "heightened off than in 2012, he said. The B1 credit rating signifies that the issuer is relatively risky with a

"Those who invest, they know our background and they invest knowing that. This rating does not matter to us.'

Talukder, who took charge at the helm of the central bank in July last year, also downplayed any fears of the second instalment of the \$4.7 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund getting stuck for failure to maintain the requisite amount of foreign currency reserves.

As per the terms agreed with the Washington-based multilateral lender, Bangladesh is supposed to have net international reserves (NIR) of at least \$24.46 billion on June 30 loan approved. This is one of the three mandatory conditions for the loan.

"To maintain NIR of \$24 billion I won't fail in my obligations. I don't think it would be that much of a problem if we cannot keep NIR of \$24 billion -- we will be able to convince

Talukdar went on to cite the reasons for the failure to maintain the requisite level of reserves.

apprehensions "There were that there would be a shortage of commodities during Ramadan. We provided support from the reserves. So, there was no shortage of anything during Ramadan. Do we leave people starving to meet this obligation?

Ensuring adequate power amid the summer heat was another drain on reserves, he said.

"The load shedding we saw in this summer heat was because of failure to make many timely payments. Do we keep the plants idle and go for load shedding to conserve dollars? These are the questions we ask ourselves."

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 vesterday 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

oversee whether they are maintained. Central Hospital for the last three We will continue our supervision," he told reporters.

He said a legal process was started and action would be taken according to the law.

The health directorate on Friday suspended surgery and ICU services at the Central Hospital until further

According to the case statement, Akhi was under the supervision of gynaecologist Sangjukta Saha of

months, and her condition was stated to be normal. Akhi was hospitalised with

labour pain at the hospital under the supervision of the gynaecologist around 12:50am on June 10. Even though Sangjukta was not present, her assistant told the family

that she was in the operation theatre. The arrested doctors performed the C-section that caused the death of the newborn.

When our reserves were \$48 billion.

rating? Our economy today is far better than it was in 2010." All economic indicators are better Subsequently, the rating downgrade

will not have any impact on foreign direct investment or remittance

"It doesn't matter -- they [the IMF] can waive this.'