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'Papia tortures woman in prison'

Says victim's brother in complaint against the ex-Jubo Mohila League leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

Incarcerated former Jubo Mohila League leader Shamima Nur Papia along with jail guards and some inmates allegedly tortured a woman in prison, leaving her in a critical condition.

The victim's brother made the allegations in a complaint filed with the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Gazipur on June 25.

Victim Runa Laila, 38, is now in Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital. The authorities of Kashimpur Women's Central Jail also denied her adequate treatment following the incident, claimed Runa's family.

They said the authorities tried to hide the incident and even made a woman call Runa's brother pretending to be her.

Runa's brother Abdul Karim in his complaint said he learnt that Runa had Tk 7,700 on her which was found during a search. In order to take the money from her, Papia, along with habildars Fatema Begum and Nasima Akhtar, and inmates Sonali, Anandika, Abantika and Najma took her sister to a place where there is no CCTV coverage and tortured her.

Karim said during the torture, his sister defecated, started vomiting blood and eventually lost consciousness.

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Kuwait's Abdullah Ammar Albloushi celebrates his decisive goal during extra time of a 1-0 win over Bangladesh in their SAFF Championship semifinal at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru yesterday. (Inset) Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera consoles defender Bishwanath Ghosh as the other players and coaching staff reflect on the heartbreaking defeat.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Brilliant Bangladesh go down fighting

AL-AMIN

When the Bangladesh football team set off for Bengaluru around a fortnight ago to play the 2023 SAFF Championship, not many had expected them to cross the group-stage hurdle.

But the men in red and green belied all the pre-tournament connotations with a stunning performance before going down fighting against Kuwait in a captivating semifinal at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh might have lost the game 1-0, conceding the only goal deep into the first-half of extra time after the regulation 90 minutes had failed to break the deadlock, but the result hardly reflected how gamely Bangladesh fought

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4 go missing as oil tanker explodes

Divers from fire service carry out search in Sugandha river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people suffered burn injuries and four others are missing after an oil tanker exploded on the Sugandha river in Jhalakathi yesterday afternoon.

There were nine people on board, and one of them was rescued unharmed, firefighters said.

The tanker, Sagar Nandini-2, with seven lakh litres of diesel and four lakh litres of petrol, was anchored near the ferry terminal of the town around 2:00pm when it suddenly went up in flames, witnesses said.

The cargo brought from Chattogram belonged to Padma Oil Company, said Shariful Islam, a marketing officer of the company.

The tanker exploded just before it was supposed to unload the cargo at a storage facility, he added.

Injured crew members Mainul Islam Hridoy, 25, Sakil Ahmed, 23, Faridul Islam Patoary, 60, and Ikbal Hossain, 27, were admitted to the burn unit at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

The identities of the missing crew members could not be known, firefighters said.

Liton Ahmed, deputy assistant director of fire service in Barishal, said six teams of firefighters from Jhalakathi and nearby upazilas brought the fire under control after two hours and rescued the injured men.

It was too early to say what caused the explosion, he added.

The man rescued unharmed is in police custody, he said, adding that firefighters will continue to look for the missing men.

Sakil, one of the injured crew members, said the blast was so powerful that it sent the bridge of the tanker flying.

Third death anniversary of Latifur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday was the third death anniversary of Latifur Rahman, the CEO and founding chairman of Transcom Group.

Soft-spoken and humble, the visionary and ethical businessman passed away in his sleep on July 1, 2020, at his paternal home in Cumilla after suffering from lung diseases for a long time.

His passing coincided with the death anniversary of his grandson Faraaz Ayaz Hossain. The student of Emory University in Atlanta, US, was brutally killed by militants during the July 1 attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan in 2016.

Latifur was the founding

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Fatima Yasmin appointed as vice-president of the ADB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Secretary Fatima Yasmin has been appointed the first Bangladeshi vice-president of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The multilateral lender headquartered in Manila, Philippines announced her appointment in a press release on Wednesday.

Fatima will serve as the vice-president for Sectors and Themes at ADB for a period of three years. She is expected to join ADB in late August.

She will also be responsible for the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department under ADB's new operating model.

Fatima, currently serving as senior secretary

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Riots over teen's killing rock France

Macron halts Germany trip as fourth night of unrest hits major cities; more than 2,000 arrested; over 200 police injured

REUTERS, Paris

French police arrested more than 1,300 people during a fourth night of rioting ahead of the funeral of teenager Nahel M, whose shooting by police sparked the unrest that yesterday prompted President Emmanuel Macron to postpone a trip to Germany.

Macron's government deployed 45,000 police officers as well as armoured vehicles overnight to tackle the worst crisis to face his leadership since the "Yellow Vest" protests which brought much of France to a standstill in late 2018.

The French president postponed a state visit to Germany that was due to begin today due to the ongoing unrest.

France's interior ministry said on Twitter that 1,311 people had been arrested overnight, compared with 875 the previous night, although it added the violence was "lower in intensity".

Nahel, a 17-year-old of Algerian and Moroccan descent, was shot by a police officer during a traffic stop on Tuesday in the Paris suburb of Nanterre.

Several hundred people lined up to enter Nanterre's grand mosque, which was guarded by volunteers in yellow vests, while a few dozen bystanders watched from across the street.

Some of the mourners, their arms crossed, said "God is Greatest" in Arabic, as they spanned the boulevard in prayer.

Salsabil, a young woman of Arab descent, told Reuters that she had come to express support for Nahel's family.

"I think it's important we all stand together," she said.

Nahel, a 17-year-old of Algerian and Moroccan descent, was shot by a police officer during a traffic stop on Tuesday in the Paris suburb of Nanterre.

Marie, 60, said she had lived in Nanterre for 50 years and there had always been problems with the police. "This absolutely needs to stop. The government is completely disconnected from our reality," she said.

The shooting of the teenager, caught on video, has reignited longstanding complaints by poor and racially mixed urban communities of police violence and racism. Macron had denied there is systemic racism in French law enforcement agencies.

Ancient Greek altar unearthed on Italian island



REUTERS, Rome

An ancient Greek altar for family worship dating back more than 2,000 years has been found in the archaeological site of Segesta on the Italian island of Sicily, local authorities said on Friday.

Sicily's regional government said the altar was probably in use at the height of Hellenic cultural influence, just before the rise of the Roman empire in the first century before Christ (BC).

It had been buried for centuries by a few centimetres of earth and vegetation in the area of the Southern Acropolis at the Segesta site, which is in the western part of the island.

"The Segesta site never ceases to amaze us," said Sicily's regional culture minister Francesco Paolo Scarpinato.

"Excavations continue to bring to light... pieces that add new perspectives and interpretations to a site where multiple civilizations are stratified," he said in a statement.

Segesta, renowned for its 5th-century-BC temple, was an ancient Greek city nestled between mountains.

Apart from the altar, archaeologists also dug out a similar-shaped relic that they believe may have been a support for a sculpture. Both finds are perfectly preserved, the regional government said.

DSA continues to stifle freedom of expression

MSF says 7 DSA cases filed in June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite concerns expressed by national and international bodies, seven cases were filed under the controversial Digital Security Act (DSA) last month, according to the Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF), a human rights organisation.

Two people were arrested in connection with the cases. In a report released on Friday, signed by MSF founder Sultana Kamal, the rights body called for the repeal of the DSA.

The report is based on news items published by 18 media outlets, which were verified by human rights activists.

Among the cases, two were filed last month for "tarnishing the image" of the country or making "defamatory remarks" against Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina via social media posts, shares, and comments.

Another two cases were filed in Chattogram for the unauthorised use of Information Minister Hasan Mahmud's personal information. In the cases, seven individuals who run YouTube channel called "Nagarik TV" and its affiliated Facebook page were accused of "disseminating information unlawfully".

Furthermore, two cases were filed for posting "critical content" on religion and religious figures, and one case was filed for "spreading false information" on Facebook.

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Leftover pieces of rawhide are being dumped along the Dhaleshwari river just outside the tannery estate in Savar's Hemayetpur. The rawhide will eventually end up in the river, polluting the water body. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN