

BSMMU docs adhered to international protocols
Says hospital on Sayedee's treatment; 2 held for threatening doctor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in a press release yesterday said its doctors have consistently adhered to the internationally recognised treatment protocol for war criminal Delawar Hossain Sayedee, who died on Monday.

"All the specialist professors engaged in delivering the treatment fulfilled their professional responsibilities diligently," read the press release signed by Prof Hafizur Rahman, registrar of the BSMMU.

According to the press release, Sayedee was brought to the emergency unit of the BSMMU by Kashimpur jail authorities at 10:30pm on Sunday.

He experienced a sudden cardiac arrest at 6:45pm the next day.

"[Then] he was administered treatment in accordance with the advanced cardiac life support protocol; however, unfortunately, he passed away at 8:45pm on August 14," read the press release.

Masud Sayedee, son of Delawar Hossain Sayedee, was comprehensively briefed about his father's medical condition, the treatment plan, and the potential outcomes, said the press release.

Before being admitted to the BSMMU, Sayedee was taken to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital in Gazipur from Kashimpur Central Jail on Sunday.

The BSMMU press release comes a day after Prof SM Mustafa Zaman, a specialist doctor at the cardiology department of BSMMU who treated Sayedee, lodged a general diary with Dhanmondi Police Station after he received "threats".

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said threatening a physician of BSMMU is a reflection of Jamaat's terrorist attitude.

"BSMMU doctor SM Mustafa Zaman came to me last night [August 15] and explained everything," he said while addressing a discussion on the National Mourning Day.

Meanwhile, law enforcers have arrested two people, including a woman, for issuing threats to the doctor.

A team from the Rab arrested Tafsirul Islam, 23, from Maheshpur area of Jhenidah yesterday, according to Rab's media wing.

A team from the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested Hafiza Mahbuba Bristy from Uttara in the capital.



A grain warehouse heavily damaged by a Russian drone attack is seen at a compound of a port on the Danube, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Odesa region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ARMS DEALS BETWEEN NORTH KOREA, RUSSIA US slaps sanctions on three entities

REUTERS, Washington

The United States yesterday imposed sanctions on three entities it accused of being tied to arms deals between North Korea and Russia as Washington cracked down on those seeking to support Russia's war in Ukraine.

The US Treasury Department in a statement said that Russia has increasingly been forced to turn to North Korea and other allies to sustain its war in Ukraine as it spends ammunition and loses heavy equipment on the battlefield.

The action is the latest by Washington, which has imposed rafts of sanctions targeting Moscow and Russian President Vladimir Putin since the start of the war, which has killed tens of thousands of people and turned cities to rubble.

"The United States continues to root out illicit financial networks that seek to channel support from North Korea to Russia's war machine," Treasury's Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Brian Nelson, said in the statement.

"Alongside our allies and partners, we remain committed to exposing and

disrupting the arms trade underpinning Putin's brutal war in Ukraine."

Russia's embassy in Washington and North Korea's mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The entities targeted in Wednesday's action are Limited Liability Company Verus, Defense Engineering Limited Liability Partnership and Versor SRO.

The Treasury said Slovakian national Ashot Mkrtichev, already under US sanctions, is the president of Versor, founder and owner of Verus and director of Defense Engineering.

Washington accused Mkrtichev of negotiating with North Korean and Russian officials to organize potential plans to transfer over two dozen kinds of weapons and munitions to Russia in exchange for goods to North Korea.

Wednesday's action freezes any US assets of those designated and generally bars Americans from dealing with them.

Those that engage in certain transactions with the sanctioned entities can also be hit with punitive measures.

Meanwhile, Kyiv said that a civilian cargo vessel had exited its southern port of Odesa despite warnings from Russia that its navy could target any ships using Ukraine's Black Sea export hubs.

The announcement, which raises the spectre of a standoff with Russian warships, came hours after Ukraine said it had liberated the village of Urozhaine as part of a grinding push to wrest Moscow's forces along the southern front.

Russia issued its maritime threat after scrapping a key deal last month -- brokered by the UN and Turkey -- that guaranteed safe passage for grain shipments from three Ukrainian ports.

JS to go into 24th session on Sept 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament will enter its 24th session at 5:00pm on September 3.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday convened the session, exercising power bestowed upon him as per Article 72 (1) of the constitution.

The duration of the session is likely to be brief, sources at the parliament secretariat told The Daily Star.

The 24th session might also be the last session of the 11th parliament, as the Election Commission is likely to announce the schedule for the 12th parliamentary polls in October.

Several bills, including the Cyber Security Act-2023, are scheduled to be placed in the 24th session.

The Business Advisory Committee of Parliament is likely to hold a meeting before the House goes into session on September 3 to fix the duration and agenda of the session.

According to the constitution, there is an obligation to convene a parliament session within 60 days after the end of a session of parliament.

The last parliament session, the budget session, ended on July 6.

Man jailed for life in narcotics case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment in a 2021 narcotics case.

Shahabul Hasan, 30, was also fined Tk 1 lakh, in default of which he will have to spend six additional months in jail.

Judge Umme Saraban Tahura of the Additional Session and Judge Court delivered the verdict in presence of the convict, said Assistant Public Prosecutor Shipra Modak.

On June 6, 2021, Rab-11 arrested Shahabul with 725g heroin in the city's Don Chamber area and filed a case under the Narcotics Control Act with Narayanganj Sadar Police Station.

On June 26, 2021, police submitted the charge sheet.

Following the verdict, the convict was sent to Narayanganj District Jail.

BGB man arrested on rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel was arrested in a case filed over the rape of a woman in Madarganj upazila, Jamalganj yesterday.

Shafiqul Islam, 26, was sent to jail via a court order, said Mahbulul Haque, officer-in-charge of Madarganj Police Station.

According to the case statement, Shafiqul broke into the victim's house and raped her on Tuesday around 10:30pm.

Hearing her screams, locals rushed in and rescued her.

On information, police arrived at the spot and arrested him the same night.

Singapore seizes S\$1b

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financial system and prevent their dissipation.

It added that red flags such as suspicious fund flows, dubious documentation of source of wealth or funds, and inconsistencies or evasiveness in information provided had been picked up by the financial institutions that filed the STRs.

MAS said it has ongoing supervisory engagements with the financial institutions where the potentially tainted funds have been identified, and firm action will be taken if breaches are found.

The police said prohibition of disposal orders were issued against 94 properties and 50 vehicles, with a total estimated value of more than S\$815 million, and multiple ornaments and bottles of liquor and wine.

The orders mean the suspects cannot sell these properties and vehicles.

The police also seized more than 35 related bank accounts with an estimated total balance of more than S\$110 million for investigations and to prevent transfers of the suspected criminal proceeds.

Also seized were more than S\$23 million in cash, more than 250 luxury bags and watches, over 120 electronic devices such as computers and mobile phones, more than 270 pieces of jewellery, two gold bars, and 11 documents with information on virtual assets.

Among those arrested was a 40-year-old Cypriot national who was arrested at the GCB he was living in at Ewart Park in Bukit Timah. The police said officers had identified themselves outside his bedroom and ordered him to open the door.

Instead, the man allegedly jumped off the second-floor balcony and was found hiding in a drain, injured. He was taken to hospital.

He allegedly had other foreign passports believed to be issued by China and Cambodia.

The police seized more than S\$2.1 million worth of cash from the man, and issued prohibition of disposal orders for 13 properties and five vehicles with an estimated value of more than S\$118 million. They also seized multiple ornaments and bottles of liquor and wine, and froze four related bank accounts with more than S\$6.7 million inside.

Sayedee's son

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on Tuesday, said Nur Mohammad, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station.

The complaint said police used firearms, teargas shells, and stun grenades to deal with the situation.

In the capital's Paltan Police Station, Sub-Inspector Salah Uddin Kader sued 16 men arrested near Baitul Mukarram mosque and 150 unnamed others.

After Jamaat leader Sayedee died at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on Monday night, hundreds of Jamaat and Shibir supporters attempted to hold his Janaza in Dhaka, Chattogram, and Cox's Bazar.

As clashes began when police stopped them, at least one man was killed and 70 others were injured.

In Chattogram, police filed three cases with Kotwali and Khulshi police stations over the clashes in Kazir Dewri and Wasa areas. Sixty-five named and 350-400 unnamed others were accused in the cases.

In Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar, two cases were filed against 74 named and 2,200 unnamed activists. In another case filed there, unidentified men were accused of killing a 58-year-old man named Forkanul Islam, 58.

S Alam turns to High Court

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HC order, and also appealed the HC to order media, including The Daily Star, and lawyers not to make any report or comments on the HC rule and order about S Alam Group.

The petition claimed that since the HC has not itself verified the documents used by The Daily Star to write the report, the order directing the probe is liable to be vacated.

"Unless the Editor of The Daily Star submits affidavit with regard to the authenticity of the said news report along with supporting documents relied on, there is no scope for the HC to be satisfied about the genuineness and authenticity of the allegations brought against the applicants in the said news report," said the petition, adding, "Therefore the HC did not have prima facie evidence before it to issue the suo moto rule."

According the Alam's petition, The Daily Star report and the suo moto rule have influenced other electronic and print media to publish various reports. The impact of these reports on the applicants and S Alam Group is

significant both as to the dignity and reputation of the individual concerned and also of the business entities.

"In the interest of fairness and justice it is imperative that the electronic and print media in the country refrain from publishing any news based on The Daily Star report," it said.

Deputy Attorney General Saifuddin Khaled said S Alam Group submitted the petitions through senior lawyer Barrister Ajmalul Hossain.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu may hear the petitions on Sunday.

Earlier on August 13, the same bench declined to entertain a verbal prayer by Ajmalul for recalling its August 6 order in relation to The Daily Star report, that found S Alam has built at least about \$1 billion business empire in Singapore. The Daily Star investigation also found S Alam never took permission from Bangladesh Bank to invest or transfer any funds abroad.

The verbal petition of August

13 came just three days after S Alam served a legal notice on the government and four national dailies, including The Daily Star, essentially demanding that these newspapers publish no news on him or his business operations.

In a suo moto rule on August 6, the bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam and Justice Khizir Hayat ordered the ACC, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police to investigate the allegations disclosed in the report.

The HC asked the Bangladesh Bank governor and head of BFIU to come up with a report clarifying whether any permission and approval from Bangladesh Bank has been given to S Alam Group to take the "money in question" to the foreign countries from Bangladesh.

The court also asked The Daily Star editor to submit an affidavit with regard to the authenticity of its report published on August 4 to this court by October 10 and fixed the same date for passing further order on this issue.

Premium to be invested

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options under Progoti are Tk 2,000, Tk 3,000 and Tk 5,000, as per the gazette notification issued earlier this week.

Private sector employers will have to contribute 50 percent of their employees' monthly instalments.

The NPA is considering making enrolment in Progoti compulsory for private sector employers by amending labour laws.

The Samata package is designed for the ultra-poor, with the monthly instalment being Tk 1,000. The government will pay Tk 500 and the other Tk 500 will be paid by the beneficiary.

The Probash scheme is for expatriate Bangladeshis, with the

monthly instalment options being Tk 5,000, Tk 7,500 and Tk 10,000. They will have to furnish the instalment in foreign currency.

Upon their return home, they can continue the scheme by paying in taka or switch to another package. But they will get their pension in taka.

The universal pension scheme is available to those between the ages of 18 and 50 years; they will have to pay the instalment up to the age of 60.

However, those over 50 years of age will be able to participate in the scheme under special consideration. Such beneficiaries will have to pay monthly instalments for at least 10 years.

After that, they will start to get a pension every month.

Some foreign nations

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foundation of democracy and ensured the voting rights of people, uplifted the socio-economic condition of people, brought down poverty rate to 18.6 percent from 41 percent and extreme poverty rate to 5.7 percent from 25 percent.

Criticising local supporters of the foreign forces, Hasina said some clowns are in the country who speak to their tune not understanding and realising this reality. "They are doing these in many ways just for pennies."

The premier asked the people to remain vigilant in this regard. "I believe that the countries located in the Indian ocean region are conscious enough in this regard," she said.

42,350 centres to be set up

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Contacted, Additional Secretary Ashok Kumar Debnath of the EC secretariat said more polling centres would be needed because there are more voters this time around.

As per a new guideline on polling centres, there will be a polling centre for every 3,000 voters. The number was 2,500 in 2018.

According to the draft voter list published in March, the number of voters is about 11.92 crore. The number was about 10.42 crore in 2018. This election will have about 1.49 crore more voters than the last.

The EC will accept objections to the draft voter list until August 31; the objections will be resolved by September 11; and the names of

polling centres will be announced by the returning officers ahead of the polls.

As per the new guideline on polling centres, the local administration and police are involved in the selection of the centres.

In upazilas, a five-member committee convened by the upazila nirbahi officer, and in district towns, a seven-member committee convened by the deputy commissioner have been asked to make the draft list of polling centres. Education officers and police officials were members of the committees.

The selection used to be done by the EC officials alone.

The guideline adds that the

distance between two polling centres should not be more than 3km; polling centres should not be in establishments owned by anyone with political affiliations; government establishments should be prioritised; and educational institutions, community centres, cyclone shelters, and office buildings, semi-government and autonomous organisations can be polling centres.

There were 37,708 polling centres for 9.14 crore voters in 2014 general election; 35,263 for 8.11 crore in 2008; 29,978 for 7.49 crore in 2001; 25,952 for 5.67 crore in 1996; 24,154 for 6.21 crore in 1991; 22,393 in 1988; 23,279 in 1986; 21,905 in 1979 polls; and 15,084 in 1973 polls.