

SP demoted over land grabbing, misconduct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A superintendent of police was given departmental punishment on allegations of land grabbing and professional misconduct, demoting him to a lower pay grade for the next two years.

Md Salah Uddin Talukdar, commandant at In-Service Training Centre in Jamalpur, was given “stringent” departmental punishment on various allegations for his deeds when he was working as an additional superintendent of police at PBI in Mymensingh, according to a home ministry notification signed by its senior secretary Mostafizur Rahman.

During his tenure at the PBI in 2015-16, he installed a barbed wire fence around a piece of land in the Fulbaria area that had been used by some local farmers. He later bought the land in his and his wife’s names without permission from concerned authorities.

Moreover, when a Mymensingh court tasked him with overseeing the investigation of a case filed by one Yunus Ali, he interrogated the plaintiff at his bungalow, which is considered misconduct, according to the notification.

On July 4, 2022, a departmental case was filed against the police official, who was also served a show-cause notice. But he couldn’t submit any satisfactory answers before the probe body, the notification added.

Bosnia charges six suspects with war crimes

AFP, Sarajevo

Six former Bosnian soldiers and policemen were charged yesterday with war crimes against Serb detainees at a camp near Sarajevo during the 1992-1995 civil war that killed nearly 100,000 people.

They include Zijad Kadric, 72, who was described by witnesses as the commander of the camp in Visoko, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) northwest of the capital Sarajevo.

Hundreds of civilians were detained here for around eight months in 1992, according to prosecutors.

The six are accused of “acts of torture, inhuman treatment, pillaging and physical and mental abuse” in the Visoko region, “in a systematic and continuous manner”.

Stop using labour law

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assumed power in 2008, Amnesty added.

“Amnesty International believes that initiating criminal proceedings against Muhammad Yunus and his colleagues for issues that belong to the civil and administrative arena is a blatant abuse of labour laws and the justice system and a form of political retaliation for his work and dissent,” Amnesty said in a statement.

“Muhammad Yunus’ case is emblematic of the beleaguered state of human rights in Bangladesh, where the authorities have eroded freedoms and bulldozed critics into submission,” said Agnès Callamard, secretary general of Amnesty International.

She said the abuse of laws and misuse of the justice system to settle vendettas is inconsistent and incompatible with international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bangladesh is a state party,” she said.

“It is time for the government to put



Rescue teams assist in relief work in Libya’s eastern city of Derna yesterday following deadly flash floods. A week after a tsunami-sized flash flood devastated the Libyan coastal city of Derna, sweeping thousands to their deaths, the international aid effort to help the grieving survivors slowly gathered pace.

PHOTO: AFP

FLOOD-RAVAGED LIBYA UN warns of disease threat in Derna

AFP, Derna

The UN warned yesterday that disease outbreaks could bring “a second devastating crisis” to Libya a week after a huge flash flood shattered the coastal city of Derna, sweeping thousands to their deaths.

Local officials, aid agencies and the World Health Organization “are concerned about the risk of disease outbreak, particularly from contaminated water and the lack of sanitation”, the United Nations said.

The flash flood that has killed more than 11,000 people and left thousands more missing came after the war-scarred North African country was lashed by the hurricane-strength Storm Daniel on September 10.

Tens of thousands of traumatised residents are homeless and badly in need of clean water, food and basic supplies amid a growing risk of cholera, diarrhoea, dehydration and malnutrition, UN agencies have warned.

Libya’s disease control centre banned citizens in the disaster zone from drinking water from local mains, warning that it is “polluted”.

Rescue teams from several European and Arab countries kept up the grim search for bodies in the mud-caked wasteland of smashed buildings, crushed cars and

uprooted trees.

The waters submerged a densely populated six-square-kilometre (2.3-square-mile) area in Derna, damaging 1,500 buildings of which 891 were totally razed, according to a preliminary report released by the Tripoli government based on satellite images.

One bereaved Derna resident, Abdul Wahab al-Masouri, lamented what has become of his city.

“We grew up here, we were raised here... But we’ve come to hate this place, we’ve come to hate what it has become,” he said.

“The buildings, the neighbourhood, the villagers, the sheikhs... the wadi has returned to the state it was 1,000 years ago. People live in caves, the city looks dead, barren, there is no life left.”

Bulldozers cleared roads from caked mud, including at a mosque as a foul smell permeated the air and a woman prayed for the children and grandchildren killed by the flooding.

Amid the chaos, the true death toll remained unknown, with untold numbers swept into the sea.

Soldier Hamza al-Khafifi, 45, described to AFP finding unclothed bodies washing up on the coastline where “bodies were stuck between rocks”.

US prisoners fly out of Iran in swap deal

REUTERS, Doha

Five US detainees flew out of Iran yesterday in a swap for five Iranians held in the US under a rare deal brokered by Qatar between the arch enemies that also unfroze \$6 billion of Tehran’s funds.

A Qatari plane took off from Tehran carrying the five with two of their relatives, shortly after the US and Iran received confirmation that the funds had been transferred to accounts in Doha, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters.

Iran’s Press TV said two of the five Iranians to be released in the exchange had landed in Doha. There was no independent confirmation, though Iranian officials had said three of those to be freed by the US were not returning to Iran.

The funds’ release triggered an exchange sequence agreed after months of talks between the United States and Iran, who are at odds over Tehran’s nuclear ambitions and other issues.

The five Americans with dual nationality are due to fly to Doha and then on to the US “They are in good health,” an Iranian official briefed on the process said.

Female workforce rises

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higher participation of female employees in the formal sector – in Bangladesh compared to its neighbours,” said Atiur Rahman, former governor of Bangladesh Bank.

The work environment in the banking sector is also better as the central bank has introduced a favourable gender policy and takes action if there is a complaint of non-compliance, he said.

“The pay structure in this sector is quite satisfactory with reasonable scope of career uplift.”

However, the rate of increase still remains low due to perhaps a low level of recruitment as a whole in the banking sector for its sluggish growth, as not all banks are performing well in terms of returns on investment due to higher non-performing assets and governance weaknesses, added Rahman.

“Some banks, of course, are doing well and providing regular circulars for recruitment.”

Besides, Rahman said the earlier normal growth momentum in January-June 2020 must have been truncated due to the severe slowdown in businesses during the Covid-19 period.

The employment, however, started gaining pace with the post-Covid recovery of the economy.

BNP aiming for endgame

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BNP. He resigned from parliament on December 11 last year, and then successfully contested the election as an independent candidate with backing from the Awami League.

Another senior BNP leader said that this time the political situation is different as there is an immense pressure on the government from the international community for holding the election in a free, fair and inclusive manner. Also, people are angry over the rising prices of essentials.

“The intensity and frequency of the ongoing movement will increase in the coming days. One thing is for sure, this time there will be no lopsided election and we will do our best to ensure that,”

The BB data showed that the ratio of women employees had fallen to 15.80 percent in 2021, down from 18.67 percent the previous year.

Humaira Azam, managing director and chief executive officer of Trust Bank Limited, said although the number has increased overall, it still has not gone up in the key positions.

“There is a lack of support from the upper-level colleagues to flourish in the banking sector,” she added.

Echoing the same, Sayema Haque Bidisha, a professor at Dhaka University’s economics department, said the country has managed impressive economic growth in recent years but participation of women in high- and middle-skilled job market has not increased in keeping with the times.

In addition, very few women usually get the scope to promote themselves to policymaking levels, she said.

The infrastructural support dedicated to women is not also adequate, which has created a major roadblock to increasing women’s participation in banking jobs, Bidisha said.

The total number of employees in banks stood at 199,506 as of June this year, of which 32,567 are females, as per Bangladesh Bank data.

Mason picked up by ‘plainclothes’ men

Family claims DB men took him away based on a ‘complaint’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A 24-year-old man was picked up in Jashore early yesterday, allegedly by 10-12 men in plainclothes who introduced themselves as members of the Detective Branch (DB) of police.

His father, Asaduzzaman, lodged a complaint with police following the incident.

Jihad Hossain, 24, was picked up from his house in Alamnagar Madhyapara area of Jashore’s Sadar upazila around 2:00am, said Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, quoting the complaint.

Jihad, a mason by profession, was awoken by some men who were yelling his name outside his home around 2:00am, the complaint read.

When Jihad and his father got out to see who they were, 10-12 individuals dressed in white introduced themselves as DB members.

They said there was a complaint against Jihad and then proceeded to dragging the 24-year-old into a white microbus before driving off.

Meanwhile, when contacted, Jashore DB Police Sub-Inspector Mofizul Islam said no one by the name of Jihad was detained and that the complaint filed by his father was being investigated.

Two poachers arrested

UNB, Bagerhat

Police yesterday arrested two poachers with 6.5kg venison in Rampal upazila of Bagerhat.

The arrestees were identified as Shawkat Sardar, 37, son of Mongla upazila, and Sheikh Hekmat Ali, 39, of Rampal upazila.

Babul Akter, inspector of Bagerhat district police’s media cell, said, “Acting on a tip-off, police arrested two poachers in the Gilatola Bazar area. A motorcycle carrying 6.5kg venison was seized from them at that time.”

“A case has been filed against them with Rampal Police Station under the Wildlife Protection and Preservation Act. The two accused have been sent to Bagerhat Chief Judicial Magistrate’s Court,” added the officer.

Fifth-grader ‘raped’

UNB, Rajshahi

A fifth-grade schoolgirl was raped in Tanore upazila of Rajshahi on Saturday, according to a complaint.

The criminals also tied her 10-year-old brother to a tree and gagged him before committing the heinous crime, said the case filed with Tanore Police Station later that night.

The incident came to light Sunday night, when police sent the girl to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital for medical attention.

According to the case statement, the girl, her brother, and students of Chak Rahmat Government Primary School went to a field at Salbari Sallapara village, half a kilometre away from her house, to cut grass on Saturday.

At one stage, locals Jony, 32, son of Manirul Islam, and Ali, 36, son of Abul Kalam, appeared there.

They raped the girl in turns after tying her brother to a tree. Locals later rescued her at night.

Abdur Rahim, officer-in-charge of Tanore Police Station, said police were trying to arrest the rapists.

Green group sues Australian minister over coal’s impact

AFP, Sydney

Activists launched court action yesterday accusing Australia’s environment minister of failing to protect the Great Barrier Reef and other treasures from the climate risks of coal mining.

They allege the minister, Tanya Plibersek, has unlawfully refused to act on “a large volume of expert and scientific evidence of climate risk”.

The case focuses on applications to extend coal mining operations into the 2040s at two sites in New South Wales state owned by MACH Energy and Narrabri Coal Operations. Both coal mining firms have joined the minister in defending the case.

The mining extension applications are in the final stages of the state and federal approvals process.

The Environment Council of Central Queensland, which is bringing the case at the Federal Court in Melbourne, argued it was unlawful for the minister to refuse to act on the “climate science”.

The council said it wrote to Plibersek last year asking her to re-consider a number of coal mining proposals because of their link with global warming and the likely “significant impact” on environmental treasures such as the Great Barrier Reef.

AL won’t let BNP take control

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South) have been asked to remain alert in case the party has to deal with the BNP on the streets.

Thana and upazila units near Dhaka city have also been asked to support the city units, said sources.

At the party president’s Dhanmondi office, AL secretaries will hold a meeting today with leaders of Dhaka city units and top leaders of associate bodies to decide the next course of action for the ruling party.

AFP, Washington

A stealth-capable US fighter jet vanished on Sunday – not from prying eyes but rather from the American military, prompting an unusual call to the public to help locate the missing multimillion-dollar plane.

After what authorities labeled a “mishap,” a pilot flying an F-35 in the southern state of South Carolina on Sunday afternoon ejected from the craft.

The pilot survived, but the military was left with an expensive problem: it couldn’t find the jet, leading Joint Base Charleston to ask for help from local residents.

“If you have any information that may help our recovery teams locate the F-35, please call the Base Defense Operations Center,” a post from the base read on X, formerly known as Twitter.