

Probe attack on journo immediately

Committee to Protect Journalists urges authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh authorities must immediately and impartially investigate the attack on journalist Mosharraf Shah and hold the perpetrators accountable, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said yesterday.



Mosharraf Shah

CPJ said this in an article published on its website.

Referring to a statement by “Bangladeshi Journalists in International Media” and the journalist, CPJ said Mosharraf, a reporter of the daily Prothom Alo, was severely beaten by 15 to 20 men on Chittagong University campus on September 24.

Mosharraf, a fourth-year student of communication and journalism, published reports in the Prothom Alo on factional clashes within the university unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the ruling Awami League.

The attackers repeatedly warned him not to write about BCL, which subsequently dissolved its CU unit.

The severe beating of Mosharraf, which appears to have been carried out by members of BCL, reflects a worryingly familiar pattern of violence, said Beh Lih Yi, CPJ’s Asia programme coordinator.

“Police must swiftly hold the perpetrators of this attack to account and end the inaction on the Chhatra League’s attacks on the press,” she said.

The government and the university authorities must ensure Mosharraf’s safe return to campus so that he can continue journalism without fear of reprisal, she added.

CPJ said it has documented “numerous unprosecuted attacks on journalists by those associated with BCL”.

According to CPJ, Mosharraf identified six of his attackers in his September 28 statement to the university, but no one had been arrested or faced action by the university.

Chattogram Superintendent of Police SM Shafiullah told CPJ that an investigation was underway and a police officer had spoken with Mosharraf about the incident.

However, Mosharraf told CPJ that police had not contacted him as of yesterday.



Vehicles make their way through the flooded Mirpur Road near Dhanmondi-27 around 12:30am today. Incessant rains since yesterday afternoon inundated many streets and alleys in the capital, causing suffering to city dwellers.

PHOTO: ZIAUL HOQUE

Russia unleashes new air strikes on Ukraine

Two killed in Kharkiv; grain, port infrastructure damaged in Odesa

REUTERS, Kharkiv

Russia unleashed new air strikes on Ukraine early yesterday, killing a 10-year-old boy and his grandmother in the city of Kharkiv and damaging grain and port infrastructure in the Odesa region in the south, Ukrainian officials said.

The boy and his grandmother were killed when Russia hit Ukraine’s second biggest city with two Iskander ballistic missiles, regional governor Oleh Synchubov said. Twenty-eight others were wounded, including an 11-month-old baby, he said.

The boy’s father, Oleh Bychko, told Reuters he had managed to pull his younger son and wife out of the rubble after the strike. Bychko, his face scratched and his clothes covered in blood, stood shocked and lost for words after the death of his 10-year-old son, Tymofiy.

The missile attack destroyed much of a residential building, where rescue workers worked among the rubble of bricks, twisted metal and wood.

The attacks followed a Russian missile strike on Thursday in which Ukrainian officials said dozens of people were killed in the village of Hroza in northeastern

Ukraine during a gathering to mourn a fallen Ukrainian soldier.

The attack on Hroza was one of the deadliest single strikes on civilians since Russia’s invasion in February 2022.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said the response to what he referred to as “Russian terror” should be Ukraine’s resilience, “our movement, and the daily losses of the occupiers”.

Ukrainian air defences shot down 25 of 33 drones launched by Russia from the annexed Crimea peninsular.

In the latest strikes overnight, Ukrainian air defences shot down 25 of 33 drones launched by Russia from the annexed Crimea peninsular, the air force said in a statement.

The drone strikes targeted Odesa and Mykolaiv regions in the south, Dnipropetrovsk region in the southeast, Cherkasy and Zhytomyr regions in the centre and also Kharkiv region in the northeast, the air force said on the Telegram messaging app.

One drone attack damaged a grain silo

in the Izmail district of the Odesa region, regional governor Oleh Kiper said. Nine trucks caught fire at the site but the fire was put out quickly.

“The air alert in Odesa lasted for three-and-a-half hours,” Kiper said. “The enemy once again targeted the border and port infrastructure of the Izmail district.”

The Ukrainian military said that operations at an international ferry checkpoint ‘Orlivka’ on the border with Romania were suspended and vehicles were rerouted following the drone attacks.

Russia has intensified attacks on Ukraine’s southern regions, home to Ukrainian Black Sea and river ports, since Moscow quit a grain deal in July that had ensured safe Ukrainian shipments via the Black Sea to help ease a global food crisis.

Ukraine is a major global grain producer and exporter, and says the attacks are intended to prevent it shipping its grain to the world.

Kyiv has mounted a counteroffensive in the south and east to try to oust the Russian forces, but has made only gradual progress in the past four months.

5 idols stolen from Munshiganj temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Unidentified criminals broke into a temple in Munshiganj town early yesterday and stole five idols of Hindu deities.

The donation box of the temple, a silver swing, and other valuables made of brass were also stolen, said temple committee President Mahadev Halder.

The stolen idols are an ashtadhatu idol of Radha-Krishna (40kg), a Gopal idol, a Ganesh idol, another brass idol of Radha-Krishna, and a brass idol of Ram-Sita, he added.

The worshippers came to know about the theft when they went to the temple early in the morning, said Halder.

District Puja Celebration Council President Samar Kumar Ghosh demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in the incident.

He said such an incident was not expected ahead of Durga Puja.

Mohammad Aslam Khan, superintendent of police in Munshiganj, and local public representatives and leaders of the District Puja Celebration Council visited the spot.

Talking to reporters, the SP said appropriate action would be taken after an investigation.

2 of a family electrocuted to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two women of a family died from electrocution at Tepatari village in Lalmonirhat’s Kaliganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Firoza Begum, 42, wife of Bablu Mia, and his younger brother’s wife Nilufa Begum, 38, said police and family.

Family members said Firoza came in contact with a live electric wire while she was taking a bath in a tin shed bathroom around noon.

Nilufa was also electrocuted when she tried to save Feroza.

Later, other family members took them to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead, confirmed Kaliganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Imtiaz Kabir.

Man, nephew struck dead by lightning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man and his nephew were struck dead by lightning in Satarbari village of Longair union under Gafargaon upazila of Mymensingh yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Sohel Mondol, 40, a trader of pharmaceutical drugs, and his nephew Razib Mondol, 35 a rice trader in the village.

Quoting locals, Raju Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Pagla Police Station in Gafargaon, said Sohel and Razib died on the spot after being struck by lightning while they were repairing the banks of their pond that was overflowing due to heavy rain around 7:00am.

On information, police recovered the bodies and handed them over to their family members.

An unnatural death case was lodged with the police station in connection to the incident, said the OC.

Don’t need any lecture on free, fair polls

FROM PAGE 1

National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, she said, “No one talked about the caretaker government. No one asked me about it... Who would want a caretaker government, given the experience with it in 2007-08? The [caretaker government] system has been ruined by the BNP.”

Asked about the measures taken to prevent foreign currency reserves from depleting further, she said, “The intellectuals talk [about reserves]. Do they know how much was in the reserves when we came to power?”

“We have enough reserves. Do we need to stay well, or is it more important to have more in reserves? Should we bring the reserves back to where it was [before the AL took office]? Should I shut down the power plants? We will shut everything down and sit idle if they talk too much... I have put everything in order. Yet, I have to hear [talks] about elections,

voting, and the economy. I refuse to listen to these.”

Hasina, also the president of the ruling Awami League, further said she had asked the state minister for power and energy to make sure there are power cuts every day, so that people learn to appreciate the value of electricity.

Responding to a question about US Ambassador Peter Haas’ concerns over his safety, Hasina said, “How much security do they provide our ambassador with? I asked this question. People are shot and killed everywhere in their country. No questions are raised about those. Then why so many questions are asked about safety here?”

“They impose sanctions on our law enforcement agency. How come they ask for security then? We need police to maintain law and order. That is why some police personnel [guarding foreign ambassadors] have been withdrawn. Armed guards have

been deployed instead.”

About the BNP’s demonstrations, she said, “We are not stopping them. It’s good that they are agitating, gathering people. They’re using the money that they stole ... At least some of it is going to the hands of the common people. I look at it this way. But as I’ve said before, if they try to harm people through arson attacks, we will not spare them.”

About the BNP’s allegation that the mega projects are not meant for the poor, Hasina said, “When they were in power, the poverty rate was 41 percent. What were they doing? We brought it down to 18 percent.”

Speaking on the wage board for journalists, Hasina said the media outlet owners should look after the journalists.

“It is the responsibility of the owners to implement the wage board. I urge the owners to make it effective. Journalists risk their lives.”

Soft opening

FROM PAGE 1

Airport at 10:00am, Hasina will watch people use the new boarding bridge to get on board a Biman flight.

“Around 10 percent of the work remains to be done. Integration, calibration, and testing of the equipment will start after the soft launch to make the third terminal building fully operational,” Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh told The Daily Star.

From today, 10 to 12 planes will be able to park at the new apron, and travellers will be able to use the third terminal by the end of next year, said Abdul Malek, chief engineer at CAAB.

The work in the final stretch is known in the aviation industry as Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer (ORAT) and it will take almost a year, he said, adding that a Japanese firm has been appointed for the task.

A team of 40 consultants will oversee ORAT and train the workforce to operate the equipment.

Around 6,000 employees and officials will be needed to run the third terminal.

Travellers using the two current terminals often complain of poor luggage handling and misconduct by airport officials.

The CAAB chairman said the new terminal will have services and equipment “we never had before. Passengers will appreciate them.”

Terminal-3 will be operated and maintained by a Japanese company under a public private partnership, he added.

Bangladesh’s prospect of becoming an international aviation hub will get brighter as around 15 foreign carriers have already expressed interest in operating flights from Dhaka.

HSIA’s two terminals can handle eight million passengers a year, which is not enough.

The number of passengers using the HSIA is expected to reach 14 million by 2025 and 24.8 million by 2035. Around 24 million people will be able to use the HSIA when the new terminal is fully operational.

Shakib’s toughest test yet

FROM PAGE 1

approaches was also on the all-rounder, but that was all his to cope with because that dark period of his career was only revealed a few months after the mega event that year.

Four years on, Shakib is all set for another World Cup as the Tigers begin their campaign today by taking on Afghanistan in Dharamshala. This will be his fifth overall appearance in the apex event and second as the captain of Bangladesh after having led the side in the 2011 edition.

Have the controversies surrounding the 36-year-old died down? Not at all – albeit unsurprising for a cricketer who rarely keeps his wives reserved only for the field.

Things have unfolded in a different and a much uglier manner for Shakib this time around. Not only are the issues mostly a creation of his own, but also none of the issues pertain to on-field cricket. Furthermore, these issues have been laid bare in public, creating a farce.

A public feud between the Bangladesh captain and his long-time national team comrade Tamim Iqbal, the country’s finest opener, has practically divided the nation into two parts – a very unusual and unprecedented development considering how the opposite always happens for any country going into a world event.

Shakib only made things worse, flinging mud and throwing accusations of ‘not being a team man’ at Tamim during an explosive interview with T Sports just before leaving the country for the World Cup in India.

Shakib knew how his statements were going to be taken, fuelling even further the already raging clash of egos between the two stalwarts, and even their fanbases, while making a mockery of Bangladesh cricket and its governing body, the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

The all-rounder has almost never let any off-field issue catch up to him while on it. But this time, it is a

different challenge altogether even for someone as nonchalant as Shakib.

If he goes on to live by his words, it will be the 36-year-old’s World Cup swansong. But more important than that is he is in charge of a team that have lost way in their most favoured format amid all the hullabaloo.

His 2019 campaign was exceptional, but only on a personal level. What he needs to do in 2023 is much more wide-reaching. Unlike what Shakib had said in that interview – that he would have preferred to just focus on his own game this World Cup – the 36-year-old will need to gel the whole team together not only by performing on the field but also by making everyone else flourish through his leadership.

Maybe only then the people of the country will once again be united, rallying behind the team as it should have been from the onset.

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 1

had out-of-form opener Fakhar Zaman caught and bowled for 12 in the fourth over.

Spinner Colin Ackermann then claimed the prized wicket of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam for five before Paul van Meekeren dismissed Imam-ul-Haq for 15 to leave Pakistan tottering at 38-3.

Shakeel and Rizwan – playing their first World Cup match – steadied the innings with a solid 120-run stand for the fourth wicket but three wickets fell in the space of 24 balls for 30 runs.

Shakeel, who struck nine boundaries and a six, miscued a sweep off spinner Aryan Dutt before De Leede bowled Rizwan and had Iftikhar Ahmed for nine.

Rizwan hit eight boundaries. Pakistan were further lifted as Mohammad Nawaz (39) and Shadab Khan (32) added 64 for the seventh wicket but De Leede dismissed Shadab and Hasan Ali off successive deliveries.

Nawaz was run out in the 47th over before Haris Rauf’s dismissal off Ackermann finished the innings in 49 overs.



Greta Thunberg holds a banner as she and other climate activists attend a climate protest, in the center of Stockholm, Sweden yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP