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Dismembered body of man recovered from Padma shoal

Ex-BCL leader among 5 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police recovered the dismembered body of a youth from a shoal on the Padma in Kushtia early yesterday and arrested five people, including a former Chhatra League leader who allegedly planned the murder for money.

Deceased Milon Hossain, 27, is the son of Mawla Box from Bahirmadi village in Khulna's Kushtia district's Daulatpur upazila. Milon lived with his wife in Kushtia city. He went missing on Wednesday morning.

Palash Kanti Nath, additional superintendent (crime and operations) of district police, said police officers conducted a search on the shoal in Sadar Upazila's Hatsh Haripur Union from Friday night and recovered nine pieces of the body early yesterday.

Nath said Milon and his partner Sajal used to run an online business.

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PHOTO: STAR

Firefighters battling a massive blaze that broke out at a warehouse of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in Narayanganj yesterday around 1:15pm. After six hours of frantic efforts, nine fire engines doused the flames around 7:30pm.

Imran, wife get 7 years for unlawful marriage

REUTERS, Islamabad

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Khan were sentenced to seven years in prison and fined yesterday by a court that ruled their 2018 marriage broke the law, his party said.

It was the third ruling against Khan this week and comes ahead of national elections on Thursday that he is barred from contesting.

Khan, 71, has in recent days been sentenced to 10 years for leaking state secrets and 14 years along with his wife for illegally selling state gifts. His representatives say he will launch appeals in all three cases.

It was not immediately clear if his various sentences would run concurrently.

Khan is in prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, while his wife will serve her sentence at their hilltop mansion in nearby Islamabad. He already faces a 10-year disqualification from holding public office.

"After hours of rushed hearings at court, no cross examination of witnesses, and no due process - a mockery of the law," Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said in a statement.

"With the way these trials are being conducted, there will be a huge question mark on the February 8th elections. This is a test case for Pakistan's higher judiciary."

The couple were each fined 500,000 rupees (\$1,800), ARY News reported.

Bushra was accused of not completing the waiting period mandated by Islam, called "Iddat", after divorcing her previous husband and marrying Khan.

The Khans signed their marriage contract, or "Nikkah",

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Tk 150 fine, 5 days' drill for cop who shot a man!

5yrs on, victim still doesn't know why he was shot; NHRC recommended compensation but govt yet to comply

SHARIFUL ISLAM

On a night in March 2019, Shahadat Hossain Shyamol and three of his friends were returning to their hometown in Keraniganj from Munshiganj on three motorcycles.

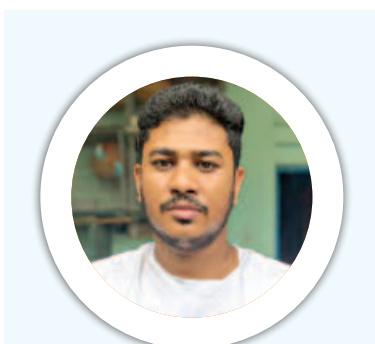
When police signalled them to stop at Kamarkanda police checkpoint in Sirajdikhan, the motorcycle at the front drove on, and Shyamol, whose bike was next, stopped.

"As soon as we stopped, a constable walked up to me with a firearm, and shot me in my right foot without saying a word," Shyamol said, describing the incident that took place on March 14 five years ago.

"I felt an excruciating pain and fell to the ground with my motorcycle. I was bleeding profusely. I asked the constable, whose name I later learned was Saiful, why he had shot me and what my fault was. He replied, 'Go to a hospital and save yourself. Then we will find what your fault is.'"

Shyamol worked at an AC repair shop in Keraniganj and was aged 20 at the time.

His friends Sajib and Rakib, who



"As soon as we stopped, a constable walked up to me with a firearm, and shot me on my right foot without saying a word."

VICTIM SHAHADAT HOSSAIN SHYAMOL

live in the area, they soon rushed to the scene."

Police then detained Gobinda, Johnny, Sajib and Srikrishna, who first drove through the checkpoint and then came back. Rakib said he was not detained because he took Shyamol to a hospital.

According to Shyamol and Rakib, the policemen at the scene said shooting Shyamol was a mistake. But the next day, a sub-inspector named Shahidul Islam filed a case with Sirajdikhan Police Station, accusing Shyamol and the five friends of trying to snatch firearms from cops.

"That moment completely altered my life. From being an earning member of the family, I became a liability. My parents are now in debt because of the legal expenses and the medical bills that went past Tk 5 lakh," says Shyamol. "The bullet went through my foot. I spent four months in a hospital bed and still cannot walk without a crutch. And I have to attend court hearings."

Shyamol's lawyer Mujibur Rahman said the trial proceedings keep dragging on because the five

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Dealing with Myanmar now more challenging

Say experts as fighting between military and rebels escalate

PORIMOL PALMA

Dealing with Myanmar is becoming more complicated for Bangladesh as the military of the neighbouring country is getting weaker in the face of strong resistance by the armed rebel groups that seized dozens of towns and hundreds of army posts in recent months, say experts.

For Bangladesh, the major dilemma lies in how it deals with the Arakan Army as Dhaka believes the Myanmar junta would help the repatriation of more than one million Rohingyas, they say.

The Arakan Army now controls a vast area of the Rakhine State bordering Bangladesh.

Security concerns for Dhaka are also deepening as conflicts in the border areas may force more Myanmar nationals to flee to Bangladesh.

International relations analysts suggest Bangladesh rethinks its Myanmar policy considering the fast-evolving situation in the neighbouring country that may witness many of its regions being controlled by rebel groups in the days to come.

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Bones from German cave rewrite history of Homo sapiens



REUTERS

Bone fragments unearthed in a cave in central Germany show that our species ventured into Europe's cold higher latitudes more than 45,000 years ago - much earlier than previously known - in a finding that rewrites the early history of Homo sapiens on a continent still inhabited then by our cousins the Neanderthals.

Scientists said on Wednesday they identified through ancient DNA 13 Homo sapiens skeletal remains in Ilsenhöhle cave, situated below a medieval hilltop castle in the German town of Ranis. The bones were determined to be up to 47,500 years old. Until now, the oldest Homo sapiens remains from northern central and northwestern Europe were about 40,000 years old.

"These fragments are directly dated by radiocarbon and yielded well preserved DNA of Homo sapiens," said paleoanthropologist and research leader Jean-Jacques Hublin of Collège de France in Paris.

Homo sapiens arose in Africa more than 300,000 years ago, later trekking worldwide and encountering other human populations, including Neanderthals. The spotty fossil record has left unclear the details of how Homo sapiens spread through Europe and what role our species played in the extinction of Neanderthals, who disappeared roughly 40,000 years ago.

Israel pounds Gaza cities

'30 percent' of the enclave's structures destroyed, UN says

AGENCIES

Israeli airstrikes killed 18 Palestinians in the Gaza cities of Rafah and Deir Al Balah, Gaza health officials said yesterday, as residents of the enclave feared Israel would expand its ground offensive into those last remaining areas where people have sought shelter.

Rafah is on Gaza's southern border with Egypt and more than half the enclave's 2.3 million population have fled there as the Israel Defense Forces press their nearly four-month-old war against the militant Hamas group.

Health officials in Gaza said an Israeli airstrike on a house in Rafah killed 14 people including women and children, Gaza health officials said, reports Reuters.

There was no confirmation from the Israeli military that it carried out the strike. A military spokesperson said: "In stark contrast to Hamas' intentional attacks on Israeli men, women and children, the IDF follows international law and takes feasible precautions to mitigate civilian harm."

The months of intense Israeli bombardment has laid waste to Gaza and set off wider conflict in the region.

Image analysis released by the UN satellite centre UNITAR on Friday based on footage collected on January 6 and 7 showed "approximately

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- Air strikes and tank fire rocked Khan Yunis overnight
- 27,238 Palestinians killed, 66,452 wounded in Gaza since October 7
- 107 killed over 24 hours



Colourful sheets cover the Ijtema ground in Tongi, Gazipur, as hundreds of thousands of Muslim devotees gather for the religious congregation. The first phase of the 57th Biswa Ijtema on the Turag began on Friday after the Fazr prayers and it will conclude with the Akheri Munajat (final prayers) today. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN