

Domestic help dies after falling from city flat

Police detain flat owner, wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage domestic help died after falling from the eighth floor of a residential building in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday.

Preeti Uran, 15, from Mittingga village of Kamalganj in Moulvibazar, worked at the house of Syed Ashfaul Haque, executive editor of The Daily Star.

Shortly after the incident, Mohammadpur police detained Ashfaul, his wife Tania Haque, their two children and two relatives from the house. They were in police custody at the time of filing this report at 10:00pm.

Mahfuzul Haque Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station, said Preeti fell from the eighth floor around 8:00am and was seriously injured.

She was taken to Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

"We are investigating the incident," he told journalists.

No case was filed as of last night.

According to the police inquest report, the victim fell on the tin roof of the first floor through the opening of the windowpane.

Building manager Md Abdul Adel rescued the girl and took her to the hospital, it added.

Preeti's body has been kept at the medical college morgue for an autopsy.

Quoting Ashfaul, relatives said Ashfaul, his wife and other family members were asleep when the incident happened.

Pollution risks worsening global water scarcity

Researchers warn

AFP, Paris

Water scarcity could affect three billion more people than previously expected by mid-century, with increased pollution rendering river sources "unsafe" for humans and wildlife, researchers warned yesterday.

The UN's climate science panel has said that around half the world's population currently faces severe water scarcity for at least a month a year and warned that global warming impacts and rising demand are key risks to global supply.

But new research by scientists in Germany and the Netherlands has found that if harmful nitrogen pollution is factored in the number of areas considered water scarce increases dramatically.

The second edition of Dhaka Makers, a pop-up marketplace that catered to the thriving creative market of our metro, was a smash hit in all regards. Local products and crafts made by the young artsy community were the heart of the festival.



PHOTO: COURTESY

MY DHAKA

DHAKA MAKERS 2

A celebration of youthful zeal

RBR

The lively event catered to the growing demand for locally crafted art and craft products.

Presented by City Bank, and set against the enchanting backdrop of the Aloki, a large and spacious community centre nestled in the heart of Dhaka on Gulshan Tejgaon Link Road, Dhaka Makers 2 was a vibrant celebration of creativity and positive growth of the thriving artistic community of this metropolis.

I do not want to go into the details of how the patrons of Dhaka Makers 2, as it was called this time, celebrated and put the spotlight on the much-talented but not very acclaimed, arts and crafts community of the city. Instead, I want to appreciate wholeheartedly, the effervescent atmosphere this unique crafts fair has had.

The four-day Makers' Market was buzzing with young and charged youth of the city; while some were displaying their crafts and others were valuing and owning their effort. The chic and swanky crowd was what got my attention the most.

What I loved most was the nonchalant atmosphere they created;

nobody thought of eyeing the other by quizzing their identity. The youths could be themselves without feeling judged.



This very particular societal shift in a fair-like event was missing in Dhaka. There was a time when teenage girls were targets of harassment at meena bazaars or fairs; the vibrant and lively atmosphere at Dhaka Makers proved that the mentality and temperament of the society have evolved over the years.

It was about time for our uber-chic socialites, who zoom off to neighbouring cities to watch a mere concert, to rise to the process of adopting the affirmative changes of cultural traits. Our mean, narrow outlook to bold youthful preferences

should change. Let the young be footloose and happy, let them have a secure, supportive space to be at their carefree best.

We should accept that when a culture is diffused with traits from other cultures and societies on a large scale it is bound to replace traditional cultural acceptance and upgrade their lookout on well-known social movements, and the visitors at the Dhaka Makers proved the change in us.

Such thriving creative economy of Dhaka should be given more such platforms to express their resourcefulness. Events like Zainul Mela, Khadi Festival, Dhaka Makers, and art exhibitions in city galleries consistently provide positivity and support to these ingenious, small, and creative artistic businesses and individuals across Dhaka. But most importantly these events give the youth of the city a safe, prejudice-free environment to express their inner self.

Dhaka Makers did well with both giving the artists an encouraging scene to showcase their talent and the city crowd an upbeat event to enjoy themselves.

Daily illegal

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organised syndicate of banks and money exchangers, Hossain said in a press briefing.

The bank booths and money changers buy foreign currency from the migrant workers and tourists and give them taka in return.

As per rules and regulations, they were supposed to give foreign currency encashment vouchers to the customer. But some do not adhere to it.

Subsequently, the foreign currency that technically came into Bangladesh are not added to the central bank's vaults.

The dollars are sold in the black market for those to be smuggled abroad again.

"Thus, the economic structure of the country is being damaged," Hossain said.

During the operation, the enforcement team collected primary data evidence, multiple fake vouchers and unsigned vouchers related to the purchase and sale of foreign currency by banks and money exchangers without encashment slips.

They also collected important information about the institutions and other related individuals involved in illegal foreign currency buying and selling, smuggling and black market.

The suspects and the involved bank officials are under the surveillance of the commission officials.

Information about their patronisers and associates is also being collected on the orders of the commission, Hossain said.

Further legal action will be taken according to the Commission Act and Rules in this regard.

4 die

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Corporation fled the scene after the crash, abandoning the vehicle.

After the incident at around 7:36am, locals kept the highway blocked for almost two hours and vandalised the bus.

In a security camera footage from the area seen by this correspondent, the BRTC bus, heading towards Rangpur, was seen going on the wrong side of the road and causing the crash.

However, the OC said no case filed in this regard till Tuesday afternoon.

Student dies amid jaundice outbreak

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diagnosed with jaundice between January 15 and yesterday.

According to doctors at the university medical centre, jaundice is waterborne. The students at the dorms and the ones living outside were infected.

Students blamed the unavailability of pure drinking water round the clock from the submersible pumps installed at the halls.

Murad died of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) and jaundice at the nephrology ward at 6:05pm on Monday, said Brig Gen FM Shamim Ahmed of RMCH.

"AKI is not a physical blow to the kidney as its name may sounds. It occurs when the blood flow to the kidneys falls short as a complication of another serious health condition," he said.

On January 28, Murad was admitted to the hospital with jaundice, according to hospital officials.

His blood test on that day showed the level of serum creatinine was 15 against a normal of 1.5 milligrams per deciliter suggesting AKI.

This test is done to see how well

kidneys are working.

Murad was treated at the hospital till February 2 when his attendants took his release to move him to Dhaka, said the director.

But he was hospitalised again the next day and he died while undergoing treatment, the director added.

Murad was preparing for his final year and BCS examinations staying at Nabil Chhatrabas, a private hostel in Rajshahi's Binodpur area near the campus, said his father Sattar Mridha, who is a farmer.

"I don't understand how a healthy person like him became so ill and died so suddenly. He had never been diagnosed with any kidney disease before," he said.

Murad went home with high fever a week before he was admitted to RMCH.

He tested dengue positive at a private hospital in Bonpara of Natore two days after his returning home, said the father.

"He tested negative three days later, but his condition was deteriorating and we took him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital," he added.

After his release from RMCH,

Personalities dominate Pakistan polls

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generals this time, after they preferred Khan at the last election in 2018.

Both former prime ministers say they were ousted at the behest of the military, which it denies.

"There seems to be a clash of victimhood," said Haqqani. "Nawaz Sharif having been victimised from 2017 until 2022 and Imran Khan claiming victimhood after that."

Sharif's party ran full-page ads on the front pages of major newspapers hours before campaigning ended yesterday declaring him "the PM".

Another contender in the fray is Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and former president Asif Zardari. He told a rally in the southern city of Karachi on Monday that if the city voted for his party, he was guaranteed to become prime

minister.

But despite being in jail and his party decimated by legal cases, Khan and his candidates, running on independent platforms, remain a force.

HUNG PARLIAMENT

Most analysts predict that no single party will come out with a clear majority in parliament, which will necessitate the formation of a coalition government.

That means an incoming administration's decision making will be hobbled at a time swift and decisive policy-making is required to tackle multiple crises.

Foremost among them is the economy, with the current short-term IMF bail-out running out in March, and the incoming government needing to negotiate a new extended programme.

Murad was taken to Khawaja Yunus Ali Medical College Hospital in Sirajganj on February 2, but doctors there suggested taking him back to RMCH, he said.

"His death surprised me," said his friend Abu Naim Khan, who stayed with Murad at the hostel.

A few days before Murad went home with fever in January, meals at his hostel was stopped and he took meals at Shah Makhdum Hall in that time, he said.

Until yesterday, the RU authorities did not know the cause of Murad's death and even some media reported that he died of dengue infection, quoting them.

"I did not know the cause of his death. But his department chairman and an assistant proctor informed me of his death from dengue," RU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Sultan-ul Islam told The Daily Star.

However, the RMCH director said Murad was never diagnosed with dengue infection since he was admitted to the hospital.

Murad was buried at his home in Kataskol village yesterday afternoon.

But the election rivals have spoken little about that.

"The 'economic programmes' articulated by the three major contenders for power in their respective election manifestos show that none has an actionable short-to long-term strategy to tackle the daunting economic challenges," Pakistan's English language paper Dawn said in an editorial.

Asfandiyar Mir, a senior expert on South Asia security at the Washington-based U.S. Institute of Peace, said neither Khan's nor Sharif's candidates had spoken about resurgent violence in the border regions with Afghanistan. Recent tensions with Iran and India were also absent.

"Neither political party has offered robust foreign and security policy positions," he noted.

More Myanmar troops

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visited the area around 3:00pm, asked locals to take shelter at the school.

Many families have already taken shelter on the school premises, reports our correspondent from Bandarban.

Around 9:00am yesterday, a mortar shell landed on the backyard of a house in Ghumdhum, said Anwar Hossain, a union parishad member.

Meanwhile, BGB Director General Siddiqui told reporters yesterday that Rohingya refugees would no longer be allowed to enter Bangladesh territory.

He added that a boat carrying 65 Rohingyas was stopped by the BGB men, and the boat would be turned away.

On Monday, a Bangladeshi woman and a Rohingya man were killed when a mortar shell fired from Myanmar exploded in Ghumdhum.

FOREIGN MINISTER'S BRIEFING

"At a time when discussions of Rohingya repatriation are going on, Myanmar's conflict is entering Bangladesh. Mortar shells are falling onto our side of the border and injuring and killing our people.... We have summoned the Myanmar envoy and issued a strong protest," Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud told reporters at his ministry yesterday.

The foreign ministry summoned Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Aung Kyaw Mow to state guest house Padma. Foreign Ministry Director General Mia Md Mainul Kabir handed the protest note to Aung Kyaw there.

About those seeking shelter in Bangladesh, Hasan Mahmud said the Myanmar authorities suggested taking the members of the security forces back via waterways. "The discussion is still ongoing."

Foreign ministry sources said the government feels it would be better to return the security forces members by air.

Hasan Mahmud rejected BNP's accusation that the country's lenient foreign policy was to blame for the Myanmar conflict spilling over into

7-yr-old girl murdered

UNB, Feni

A seven-year-old girl was murdered and her elder sister injured when criminals attacked them at their home in the Paschim Banshpada area under Feni's Parshuram upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Lamia, 7 and the injured is Fatema, 12, both daughters of Nurunnabi, a driver by profession, said Shahadat Hossain Khan, officer-in-charge of Parshuram Police Station.

Nurunnabi lived with his two daughters, Lamia and Fatema, from his previous marriage, and his second wife.

After he left for work and his wife left for Feni Sadar, two unidentified men came around the house in the afternoon, posing as electricians.

When the girls let them in, the men killed Lamia and injured Fatema, who later took refuge at a neighbour's house.

The OC said that necessary legal action would be taken after investigating the matter.

12 trafficking victims return from India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Twelve Bangladeshi nationals, including six women, who were trafficked to India returned home yesterday.

They entered Bangladesh via the Akhaura International Immigration Check Post from Agartala in India's Tripura in the afternoon

They were handed over to their families through the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala.

Meanwhile, BRAC Migration Program provided them with food, counselling services and cash as emergency assistance.

According to Assistant High Commission officials and Brac Migration Programme press release, the 12 Bangladeshi nationals were arrested at different times for illegal entry into Tripura.

Then, they were sentenced and kept in a local security home for six months to two years on court orders.

Later, their citizenship was verified, and the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala obtained the Indian government's no-objection certificate for their repatriation.

23 Bangladeshis detained by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has detained 23 Bangladeshis near the 99th pillar east of the Bangladesh-India border in Feni's Chhagalnaiya around 2:00am yesterday.

Sheikh Mohammad Badruddoza, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB-4), said a flag meeting was held between the BGB and BSF over the matter later in the day.

During the meeting, the BSF claimed that 23 Bangladeshis nationals were detained on charges of smuggling.

At the meeting, the list of detainees was given to the BGB on behalf of the BSF, he said.

"We have reported the matter to the authorities. We have received the national identity cards of the detained Bangladeshi nationals. We will take legal action in this regard," said the BGB CO.

Some villagers said the 23 were detained for smuggling sugar by cutting the barbed wire fence. More than 100 workers were carrying sugar sacks near Samarganj, India, and the 99th pillar in Bangladesh on Monday night, reports UNB.