

'Homecoming' two years after death

Body of migrant worker brought back from Brunei

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dreaming of a better future, Shipon Hawlader of Barishal's Gournadi borrowed Tk 4 lakh from different NGOs and persons with high interest and went to Brunei in 2020.

But a year into going there, Shipon, an undocumented worker, suffered a heart attack in January 2021 and was admitted to a local government hospital. Following a year-long treatment, he died there on January 31, 2022, said his family.

Since his death, Shipon's body has been kept at the hospital's mortuary as his employer did not pay the hospital bill equivalent to Tk 15 lakh. His poor family also could not arrange the hospital bill and airfare required to bring the body home.

A diplomatic and government effort started after Abu Ahmed Faijul Kabir, senior coordinator of Ain o Salish Kendra, a rights body, sent an application to the Bangladesh high commissioner in Brunei in January 2023, seeking her help to bring back the body.

With formal and informal efforts by Bangladesh High Commissioner Nahida Rahman Shumona, the RIPAS Hospital authority waved Shipon's hospital bill recently.

The body was finally sent to Dhaka on a flight and it reached the airport on Wednesday night, said Md Abu Bakkar Siddique, first secretary (labour) at the embassy.

He said the embassy arranged the airfare of around Tk 4.5 lakh.

He said they wrote Shipon's employer Majedy Bin Haji Abdul Gani to pay the hospital bill but he did not pay heed. "I have lodged a complaint against the employer with the Labour Department of Brunei," he told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Shipon's wife, Khorsheda Begum, said after she heard that her husband was admitted to a hospital, she borrowed another Tk 1.65 lakh from neighbours and relatives for his treatment.

"Now my daughter and I have been passing days in financial hardship. But despite all the pain, I am finally at peace to see my husband's body return home around two and a half years after his demise in a foreign land," Khorsheda told this newspaper.



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Involve those affected in decision making

Speakers tell workshop



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday said local and affected communities should be included in different climate change and disaster management related initiatives for better and durable solutions to their problems.

Besides, collecting data on climate-induced displacements is crucial to address problems faced by the vulnerable groups, they said.

Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) organised the workshop on "Avert and Minimise Displacement" at Dhaka University.

Noted economist Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said inclusion of affected people in different plans and their implementations is one task that needs to be done.

There have been government

efforts to rehabilitate displaced people or avert displacement while civil society is also active nationally and locally in this regard, he said.

However, the issue of including local communities in the plan has been under-addressed, he added.

RMMRU Founding Chair Prof Tasneem Siddiqui said displaced people are often excluded from the decision-making process.

"Their rights are often disregarded and, in many cases, they end up in more environmentally vulnerable areas," she said.

Lack of data makes it difficult to seek climate change related fund for the affected and vulnerable people, she added.

Awami League lawmaker Tanvir Shakil Joy said adverse climate condition is becoming more apparent day by day because of climate change.

Local people should be included

in different climate change and disaster management related plans since they know the best way to resolve their problems, said Shakil, also member of the parliamentary committee on environment, forest and climate change ministry.

Addressing the event as chief guest, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Mohibbur Rahman called for building a disaster resilient Bangladesh.

Abdusattor Esoev, chief of mission of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Bangladesh, said it is important for Bangladesh to have data resources to address climate change related displacements.

He said IOM is committed to continue its support to the country in fighting climate change related challenges.

Kamrul Hasan, secretary of disaster management and relief ministry, also spoke.

Bangladeshi killed in South Africa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

An expatriate was killed in a "robbers' attack" in South Africa on Wednesday afternoon, said his family.

The deceased is Afif Iqbal Kamal, 50, of Sonargaon upazila, Narayanganj.

Kamal had a shop in Haybusa area in South Africa, said his nephew Arafat Hossain Sifat.

"On Wednesday (Bangladesh time around 3:00pm), a gang of robbers looted Kamal's shop and strangled him to death," he added. "We came to know about my uncle's death through his Bangladesh neighbours there," Sifat said.

Kamal, who had been in South Africa for the last 10 years, left behind his wife and daughter.

His family members said they are trying to contact the embassies concerned to bring the body back home.

However, Sonargaon UNO Abdullah Al Mahfuz said they have not received any such news so far.

"If deceased family members contact us, we will help them as per government proceedings," he said.

CERTIFICATE FORGERY

Computer operator held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have arrested a computer operator on charges of forging marksheets and certificates of Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB).

The arrestee, Kamrul Hasan Abed, 28, works at a printing shop in the capital's Paltan, said Detective Branch officials.

During a raid on Wednesday, the DB seized blank papers for making marksheets and certificates of BTEB from a house in Khilgaon.

DB's Lalbagh division Deputy Commissioner Mashur Rahman said they got information about Kamrul while investigating the case of selling fake certificates.

A case was also filed yesterday, the DC added.

'Golden' Monir

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Later, Rab filed three cases against him under the Arms Act, the Narcotics Control Act and the Special Powers Act.

In January 2021, investigation officer Abdul Malek, an inspector of the Detective Branch, submitted a charge sheet in the arms case to

the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

On August 23 that year, the court framed charges against Monir in the case.

The trial is yet to begin in the drug case, while proceedings are underway in the case filed against Monir under the Special Powers Act.

Eight years on, trial

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Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of police submitted a charge sheet in the case to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, accusing nine members of the banned militant outfit Ansar al Islam, including Syed Ziaul Haque alias major (sacked) Zia.

The eight other accused are Mozammel Hossain Saimon, Arafat Rahman Siam, Sheikh Abdullah alias Jubair, Rashed-Un-Nabi Bhuiyan alias Tahsin, Akram Hossain, Asadullah alias Foyjul, Sabbirul Haque Chowdhury, Junaid Ahmed

alias Maulana Junaid.

On January 17, 2022, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal accepted charges against the nine accused.

Of them, Mozammel, Arafat, Sheikh Abdullah, Rashed-Un-Nabi are now behind bars.

"The accused will be produced in court on May 16, the scheduled date, and the charges will be framed against them. After that, we will try our best to finish the trial of the case quickly by producing witnesses before the court for statements," hoped state lawyer Jakir.

Syndicate struck

FROM PAGE 3

him. If he is arrested, it will be clear how he gets the question," said Harun.

Meanwhile, a source within the police said Asim may have fled the country. The alarm bells rang after seven individuals in Madaripur and one in Rajbari were detained with leaked question papers on their mobile phones during the March 30 exams.

Cases were filed separately in these districts. Although most of the candidates arrested in Madaripur were granted

bail, one individual confessed in court about how he obtained the leaked papers. Following a request from the Superintendent of Police of Madaripur, the DB initiated an investigation, leading to the recent arrests.

Meanwhile, the exam results were published on April 21.

Asked whether the DB would request the authorities to cancel the exam, the DB chief said, "We will report everything to the higher authorities. They will then decide."

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order for Bangladesh to uphold these principles."

The US embassy in Dhaka now has a labour attaché and trade representative, which means it is helping

B a n g l a d e s h improve labour conditions as well as support policies that help attract more foreign investments, he said.

He said the IPS, which was released in February 2022, is often wrongly understood as an alliance and meant to counter China.

China launched its global strategic

programme Belt and Road Initiative in 2013.

Martin said the IPS does not seek to become a military alliance against any country.

"Our vision is not about forcing countries to choose between the UN and other partner. It is about ensuring that the region is free and open so countries can freely make their own choices," he said.

Martin recognised that Bangladesh maintains a balanced foreign policy, having relations with countries be it China, India, Russia or the US.



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Last Date for Submission: 30 June 2024

Take prompt

FROM PAGE 5

a memorandum addressed to the premier through the Kaunia UNO.

Hundreds of residents joined the programme that continued for an hour.

Speakers placed their six-point demand at the event.

Their demands include prompt implementation of the Teesta Comprehensive Plan, signing of the Teesta Treaty, construction of dams and barrages on the river, establishing connections between the river's branches and tributaries with its eastern course through dredging, eviction of encroachers, and restoring river navigation.

পুট বিক্রয়
বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক এলাকায় "জে" ব্লকে ৩০০ ফিট রোডের নিকটে, ৫ কাঠা রেডি পুট বিক্রয় হবে। শুধুমাত্র প্রকৃত ক্রেতাদের যোগাযোগ করুন।
মোবাইল: ০১৯৯৯৯৯৯৯৯৯

Teachers

FROM PAGE 5

where Prof Sadeka Halim, vice-chancellor of Jagannath University and also a member of the syndicate, was given the responsibility to resolve the issues after discussing with the teachers' association," he also said.

"A meeting has been arranged for May 16 to discuss teachers' applications for promotions to Grade 1 and Grade 2, respectively," Prof Moyeen added.

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 26
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-20 12-30 4-45 6-29 8-00
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-00 6-34 8-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্রমিক নং/ বিভাগ	প্রতিরক্ষা/ মন্তব্য
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ বিভাগ
০২	অধিদপ্তরের নাম
০৩	বাস্তবায়নকারী অফিস
০৪	অর্থায়নের উৎস
০৫	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির নম্বর ও তারিখ
০৬	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির নাম/ বর্ণনা
০৭	ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া
০৮	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)
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১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান
১১	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় আরম্ভের তারিখ
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ
১৩	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
১৪	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
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