

'Lalon belongs to all'

Speakers tell Udichi rally

DU CORRESPONDENT

Singing Lalon songs, a group of singers protested yesterday at Shahbagh over the arrest of a young man for posting lyrics from a Lalon song on social media.

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi organised the protest rally. At the rally, speakers said arresting someone for sharing excerpts of Lalon's song is an insult to our culture. Lalon wanted to unite people through his songs, but fundamentalists will not understand that, the speakers added.

Sanjoy Rakhit, 40, a goldsmith from Shariatpur, was arrested on April 29.

Police booked him under Section 54 of Code of Criminal Procedure, which allows police to arrest, without a warrant, someone they suspect to be linked to an offence.

He soon secured bail from a Shariatpur court.

Amit Ranjan Dey, general secretary of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, and its assistant general secretary Sangita Imam spoke at the rally, among others.



Despite a footbridge just a few yards away, many people, including students, ignore it while crossing the busy Airport Road in the capital. With a lot of traffic rushing towards them, some are even signalling the vehicles to slow down and give them the chance to cross. Such endeavours pose serious risks of accidents. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

TAKING TK 9 LAKH FOR POLICE JOB

Suspended, 2 cops now blame each other

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Ratan Das, 22, was an employee of a cosmetic shop in Madaripur. During a visit to the shop in December 2022, Tanjila Akter, a constable, offered him a job in the force.

As Ratan agreed, Tanjila asked him to apply for the post of constable. Ratan stood third in the physical test but failed in the written.

But Tanjila and her colleague Shahidul Islam assured Ratan of handing him the job in exchange for bribes.

Ratan's father Robi Das told The Daily Star, "Tanjila and Shahidul first took Tk 50,000 and then Tk 8.5 lakh more in phases. I had to sell our only land

for Tk 6 lakh and took a loan of Tk 3 lakh more."

"But they did not provide any job to my son. For this, I had to submit a complaint to the SP office," Robi said.

When asked why he paid the money, Robi replied, "Tanjila and Shahidul acted like expert professionals, they visited our house three times in the name of verification, and took notes on a register. It all seemed legitimate. So, I just arranged the money, for a better future for my son."

"I have the footage of providing money," he claimed.

Upon receiving the written complaint, the Madaripur district police suspended Tanjila and Shahidul on May 9.

Md Masud Alam,

superintendent of Madaripur police, told The Daily Star yesterday, "We have suspended the constables as we found evidence of financial transactions between the constables and the complainant."

Asked about the figure, he said they were yet to get the actual figure.

"The constables first assured the victim of the job in 2022, but failed. Then they assured him of getting the job done in the next exam, but failed again," he added.

"A departmental case will be filed against the constables now. Details can be known after further investigation," said the SP.

Contacted, Constable Shahidul said, "I am not involved with the embezzlement. I have been

working in the district for the last six years and was on leave during the time of the incident."

"Tanjila is my batchmate and she once took a Tk 20,000 loan from me. As I put pressure on her to return the money, she just involved my name in the crime. I am innocent," he told this newspaper.

In response, Constable Tanjila said Shahidul knows everything about the crime.

"Shahidul invested a fortune on different sectors in Dubai and was involved with many other things. So he needed the money. He is now shifting the blame on my shoulder by spending all the money," she added.

Tanjila also claimed that she is innocent.

NON-GOVT EDU INSTTS HSC mandatory to become president of governing body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has set the Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent degrees as minimum educational qualifications for becoming president of non-government school and college management committees.

In the new regulation, it also said a person cannot be elected president of the governing body of more than two schools or colleges.

The managing committee for non-government college is called governing body, while for schools, it is called school managing committee.

There are about 35,000 non-government schools and colleges in the country.

Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar, chairman of Dhaka education board and chief of inter education board coordination committee, yesterday told The Daily Star that the new regulation has been uploaded to the Dhaka education board website.

Setting qualifications for the chairman of governing bodies of educational institutions will help improve quality, he said.

The new regulation says a person will be able to perform duties for highest two consecutive terms, and a committee will be formed for two years.

Government body is in charge of collecting finances for educational institutions, approving the annual budget, asset maintenance, maintaining the fund, and paying teacher and employee salaries.

Currently, recruitment of assistant teachers in non-government education institutions take place in line with recommendation of Non-Government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority, but managing bodies have the full power to appoint principal, headteacher and assistant head teacher.

The High Court in June 2016 said no lawmaker can become chairman of the governing body of any private educational institution without elections. MPs cannot even nominate anybody for the post.

A lawmaker, however, can become the chairman through election to the governing body, and that too, of a maximum of four educational institutions, ruled the court.

No visa

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(Hajj Wing) of Religious Affairs Ministry Matiul Islam told The Daily Star.

The ministry on Friday wrote to the Saudi Hajj and Umrah Ministry to increase the deadline for applying for visa, he said, adding, "But we are yet to get any reply from the Saudi authorities in this regard."

"However, the positive side is the Saudi authorities have still kept their server open for receiving hajj applications from Bangladesh end."

Officials of the ministry said Saudi authorities have already increased the deadline twice following requests from Bangladesh government.

The Saudi Hajj and Umrah Ministry on May 7 extended the deadline for the second time for applying for visas to May 11.

Contacted, President of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) M Shahadat Hossain Taslim said they have instructed respective private hajj agencies to complete the visa process of hajj pilgrims within yesterday's deadline.

People are source

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between Bangladesh and India did not improve as BNP created enmity with India. "Before 1996, the ruling parties including the BNP fostered enmity with neighbouring India, failing to realise any rights. However, upon Awami League assuming power, Sheikh Hasina has broken the wall of mistrust," said Quader while speaking as the chief guest at a peace rally at Ghaznavi Road in the

capital's Mohammadpur.

Referring to the various agreements made with India, Quader said, "It was Sheikh Hasina who brought the Ganga water. Who made the water distribution treaty? Who made the agreement on the border problem? Sheikh Hasina and prime minister of India."

He also criticised BNP leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy for labelling AL as an Indian agent.

"Where have you (Gayeshwar) been for so long? Where did you come from? Where have you been hiding? In India?" questioned Quader.

He said such labels were previously given to AL by Ayub Khan and Yahya.

Not AL

FROM PAGE 3

police, law enforcers, administration and judicial system.

Addressing AL, he said, "The movement to restore democracy cannot be stopped by repression, enforced disappearances, killings and murders."

"Bangladesh became independent 53 years ago. But the people have not become independent. They are deprived of voting rights. Since 2008, they have not been able to vote impartially," Fakhrul also said.

Fakhrul said people are being denied both democratic and economic rights as commodity prices keep soaring amid economic mismanagement.

"When people go to markets, they cannot buy anything -- rice, lentils, onions, and garlic. Prices of almost every daily essential are increasing. Electricity, gas, train and bus fares are rising," he said.

"Ask rickshaw-pullers how they are running families. They eat one meal, not two. Even middle-class families changed their food menus," he added.

Fakhrul also alleged that the government was favouring bank loan defaulters through new rules after "finishing the looting of banks".



Guests at the launch of "My Golden Bengal: Views and Voices from Civil Society", a collection of introspective interviews of eminent civil society members of Bangladesh.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Lack of awareness to blame

FROM PAGE 3

Nirapad Sarak Chai (Nischa) at Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the capital.

The minister identified various key reasons for road accidents, including using mobile phones while driving, over-speeding, lack of overhead bridges, violations of traffic laws, and negligence of traffic police.

Unauthorised vehicles and reckless driving are other major causes, he said.

"Road accidents are a global phenomenon resulting in deaths and injuries," he said, adding, "We are working to lower such accidents in our country."

He said the authorities want to ensure that only skilled drivers operate vehicles.

Citing recent police data, he said, "Most of the road accidents in last 15 days were

related to unfit vehicles. We are keeping an eye on it."

He also shared his personal experience of being involved in a road crash after the Liberation War. "I had an accident too. After the war, I had hopes. But the road accident shattered all my hopes. Allah closed one path and opened the way to enter politics for me," he said.

Speaking at the event, Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary ABM Aminul Ullah Nuri said daily road crash deaths highlight the urgent need for united public awareness efforts.

"People died due to Corona. We become cautious during the dengue season. But everyday people are dying in road accidents," he said.

He said all, not just the police, need to be proactive in raising awareness about

road safety and rules.

Nuri said various campaigns were undertaken to raise awareness, but "now we have to stand on the road and make people aware".

Nischa Chairman Ilias Kanchan said if the goal of reducing road crashes is not achieved, they will have to change their strategy for the awareness drive.

Former UP

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10:30pm, they said.

As the news spread, his supporters attacked a rival group, leaving two injured. One of them sustained a bullet wound, they said.

Kanchan Kumar Ray, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station, said they took the two injured into custody as suspects in the murder of the UP chairman.

Cops foil

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At one stage, the law enforcers removed them from the road and detained several protesters.

Shariful Hasan, coordinator of the movement, claimed that police detained 15-20 demonstrators from the spot.

Mostazirur Rahman, in-charge of Shahbag Police Station, did not comment about the detention.

Sources at the police station said police took 13 protesters to the police station.

Recently, the Ministry of Education proposed increasing the age ceiling for entering government service from 30 to 35 years. Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury recently forwarded a letter to the Ministry of Public Administration outlining the proposal.

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PRAYER TIMING
MAY 12

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-45	5-00	6-36	8-00
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	6-40	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION