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# Abu Sayed died of pellet wounds, not head injury

Says doctor who conducted his autopsy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Excessive bleeding caused by shotgun pellet wounds led to Abu Sayed's death, said the doctor who conducted his autopsy report.

The student of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur was killed during a protest on July 16 when police opened fire on students.

His body was taken to Rangpur Medical College where Rajibul Islam, an assistant professor at the Forensic Medicine department, conducted his autopsy.

Recently, a certain quarter is spreading a copy of the autopsy report on social media claiming Sayed died from a head injury.

In response, Dr Rajibul said, "The report does not state that his death was caused by a head injury. While there are marks on his head, they are not the cause of his death." He said numerous pellet wounds caused internal

bleeding and damage to Sayed's internal organs.

The autopsy also revealed wounds on Sayed's right thigh, which damaged the femoral artery, contributing to his internal bleeding, "Shock and bleeding caused his

to his internal bleeding. "Shock and bleeding caused his death," Rajibul said.

He said while a mark was found on Sayed's head, it did

not suggest a severe injury that would typically lead to

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Due to a lack of maintenance and protective measures, this riverside walkway by the Buriganga, spanning from Dhaka's Shyampur to Narayanganj's Pagla area, remains in a dilapidated condition. In fact, one can hardly detect the existence of the walkway these days. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

#### NID cards of Aziz's two brothers revoked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has scrapped the national ID cards of the two brothers of former army chief General (retd) Aziz Ahmed.

The four NIDs of Haris Ahmed and Tofael Ahmed alias Joseph have been scrapped, said Shariful Alam, director (Public Relations) of EC.

They will not be able to avail of any facility with the NID cards in the country, the EC director said.

The move came more than three months after the EC in June this year started investigation into the allegations that the two brothers obtained the NIDs "using false information".

EC sources said several media reported that in Joseph's mother's application for remission of his sentence, she mentioned Abdul Wadud and Renuja Begum as the parents of Joseph.

But Haris took an NID SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Overshadowed, underplayed

Report says issues related to women, girls sidelined amid political unrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Issues concerning women and girl children are being sidelined as Bangladesh grapples with political unrest and national crises, said a new media monitoring report yesterday.

From January to August 2024, media coverage predominantly focused on the 12th parliamentary election, cabinet formation, and subsequent anti-discrimination student movements, overshadowing ongoing challenges faced by vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, it added.

The report, titled "Monitoring Violence and Abuse Against Girl Children - 2024," was prepared by the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, a coalition of 206 government and non-government organisations aimed at improving the status of women and girl children.

It was presented at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club.
It highlighted a sharp decline in coverage of gender-

based violence, discrimination, and girl children's rights during the first eight months of 2024.

The report also found while some victims or their families gought legal resource, very few accused were

families sought legal recourse, very few accused were arrested or punished.

"For example, data from the One-Stop Crisis Centre

shows that over 62,000 women and children have received assistance for physical and sexual abuse over the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

# Health hazards lurking in veggies, fruits

Study finds alarming levels of heavy metals, pesticides

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

A recent study has found alarming levels of heavy metals and pesticide residues in widely consumed vegetables and fruits across nine districts of Bangladesh.

The research, conducted by Bangladesh Agricultural University and the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, and funded by the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, analysed vegetables and fruits from markets in Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Gazipur, Dhaka, and Narayangani.

The study, Heavy Metals in Vegetables and Associated Human Health Risk Management, led by Professor Shafiqul Islam and Dr Mohammad Golam Kibria of Bangladesh Agricultural University, focused on commonly consumed vegetables like brinjal, cabbage, country bean, cucumber, okra, pointed gourd, potato, red amaranth, and tomato.

"We found the highest levels of heavy metals in red amaranth because we consume the entire plant, unlike other vegetables where parts are discarded," said The study revealed that the dietary intake of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, and nickel from these vegetables could increase cancer risks.



Golam Kibria.

"The outer layers contain higher amounts of heavy metals, which is why it's critical not to grow these vegetables in contaminated areas."

Red amaranth, a widely eaten leafy vegetable, showed the highest contamination levels, with cadmium reaching 704.32 micrograms per kilogramme, far exceeding the permissible limit of 190 micrograms per kilogramme.

Lead and cobalt levels were also consistently above safe limits across all districts, while cadmium levels were found to be dangerously high in most vegetables, particularly in Narayanganj.

Vegetables like brinjal (275.66 micrograms/kg), cucumber (349 micrograms/kg), and tomato (195 micrograms/kg) also contained hazardous levels of cadmium, predominantly in Narayanganj.

"These findings are alarming because these metals are toxic and can lead to long-term health problems, including cancer," the report said.

The study revealed that the SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

### 'What if we kill you like Abrar?'

RU seniors threaten fresher, force him to seek forgiveness from mother during ragging STAR REPORT

In the early hours of Monday, Nazmul Hossain Nabil and Antor Biswas barged into the room of a Rajshahi University fresher Mohammad Rocky at a hostel in Lebubagan area near the campus.

They forced Rocky to engage in an "uncomfortable conversation" which quickly escalated into a "dark game" of fear and intimidation.

The two instructed Rocky to make a phone call one that would grip his heart with dread.

"Call your mother. Tell her this will be the last time you'll speak," they demanded. Rocky, caught off guard, dialed

the number with shaking hands. His mind raced, his heart sank.

On the other end, his mother, unaware of the nightmare unfolding miles away, answered.

The seniors told him to seek forgiveness from her, leaving the young student torn between terror and confusion.

The atmosphere turned even darker when the two seniors from the university's marketing department, referenced the brutal death of Abrar Fahad, a BUET student who was beaten to death by fellow students in 2019.

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The water reservoir in front of the Swadhinata Stambha (Independence Monument) at Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka, was initially constructed to beautify the area. However, over time, indiscriminate littering has turned it into an eyesore, stripping it of its intended appeal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

