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## 'Almighty will serve justice'

Says family of one killed in Gopalganj, refuses to file case

SUZIT KUMAR DAS from Gopalganj

Family members of the five victims killed in the Gopalganj violence last week expressed their reluctance to file cases, fearing they would not get justice.

Four people, Dipu Saha, Ramzan Kazi, Imon Talukdar, and Sohel Mollah, died of gunshot wounds at Gopalganj Medical College Hospital on Wednesday -- the day of the incident.

They were buried without post-mortem examinations or any police inquest report.

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## Start judicial probe into deaths in Gopalganj

**HRFB demands, slams use of 'excessive force'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) has demanded an immediate judicial probe into the deaths of five people and injuries to dozens following Wednesday's clash in Gopalganj, where law enforcers allegedly used "excessive force" and opened fire.

In a statement issued yesterday, HRFB, a coalition of 20 human rights and development organisations, expressed grave concern and strongly condemned the incident, saying such use of force is a direct assault on

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During the midday relaxation of the curfew in Gopalganj town yesterday, there were hardly any vehicles out on the road, save for some battery-run autorickshaws.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## No land, no death record

BRAC study finds many women's deaths not registered for not having any property

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Property ownership, or the lack of it, determines whether a woman's death is formally recorded in Bangladesh, reveals a new study by BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH).

Titled "Barriers to and Facilitators of Female Death Registration in Bangladesh", the study found that families often forgo registering a woman's death because she owned no assets, owed nothing, and left nothing behind, effectively erasing her from official records.

Where death registrations do take place, they are rarely about honouring the deceased, the study shows. Instead, they are often driven by practical concerns such as settling loans or savings, claiming social protection benefits, or transferring property rights.

for Health Initiative at Johns Hopkins University and Vital Strategies, with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies. Its findings were presented yesterday at a city hotel.

Conducted in Rangpur Division,

the research aimed to uncover the underlying causes of gender disparities in death registration and identify actionable solutions. Despite national efforts to strengthen the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system, Bangladesh continues to record a low proportion of deaths, particularly among women.

Rangpur has the lowest rate of female death registrations in the country, with significant variation within the division -- 22 percent in Dinajpur, the highest, compared to just 4 percent in Panchagarh.

One respondent told researchers, "I didn't register my mother's death. It's the same as always, the usual reasons. My mother didn't have any land-related matters. I'm talking about inheritance -- sometimes there's property from the mother's side, like from the grandmother

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## BANGLADESHI GRAFT SUSPECTS

# Rush on to offload UK assets

The Guardian reports many of the properties frozen by UK's NCA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six high-profile Bangladeshis have moved to sell, refinance, or transfer ownership of high-value UK properties in the past year amid an asset-freezing spree by British authorities, UK-based media house The Guardian reported yesterday.

Among the six are: Sayem Sobhan Anvir, managing director of Bashundhara Group; Shafiq Sobhan, a member of the same business family; Anisuzzaman Chowdhury Ronny, brother of a former land minister; Ahmed Shayan Rahman and Ahmed Shahryar Rahman, son and nephew of Sheikh Hasina's adviser and Beximco Vice Chairman Salman F Rahman.

The investigation found land registry filings showing

**At least two high-value UK properties were sold in the past year, one linked to Sayem Sobhan Anvir and one to Anisuzzaman Chowdhury Ronny.**

at least 20 "applications for dealing" -- a legal term that typically refers to sales, ownership transfers, or mortgage changes -- on properties connected to these individuals.

Some of these assets have already been frozen by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA), including a £35 million Mayfair apartment in Grosvenor Square linked to the Rahman family.

At least two high-value UK properties were sold in the past year -- one linked to Anvir and one to Ronny.

A four-storey townhouse in Knightsbridge, previously owned by Anvir through a UAE-based company, was first transferred to a UK firm and later sold for £7.35 million.

"In April [2024], the property was transferred -- apparently free of charge -- to a UK business called Brookview Heights Ltd. Brookview is owned by a director of Orbis London, a real estate advisory firm with offices in Liechtenstein and Singapore that has previously acted for the Sobhans in property transactions," The Guardian reported.

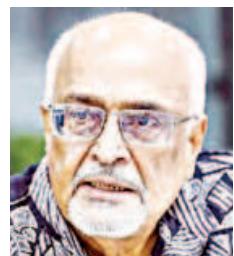
In July 2024, Ronny sold a £10 million Georgian townhouse on the fringes of Regent's Park.

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## Journalism under siege

Says Debapriya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Journalists in Bangladesh are facing growing threats from an increasingly intolerant state, profit-driven media owners, and a hostile segment of the public, economist Debapriya Bhattacharya said yesterday.

"First, a government intolerant of dissent. Second, media owners who manipulate editorial content to serve their business or political interests. And third, and most dangerously, a section of the public that abuses journalists online and, at times, physically," he said.

He was speaking at the launch of "The Economy of Scandal", authored by Shawkat Hossain Masum, head of online news management at the Daily Prothom Alo, and published by the University Press Limited, in Dhaka.

Bhattacharya, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said today's media operates "under siege" from these three fronts.

"These actors don't just criticise journalists. They try to silence them," he added, warning that the consequences

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(From L-R) Puja Das, Trishna Rani and Kanon Bahadur -- three of the four goalscorers for Bangladesh -- celebrate during their 5-0 win against Sri Lanka in their penultimate match of the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship at the Bashundhara Sports Ground yesterday. The win kept the hosts top of the table with five wins from five matches.

PHOTO: BFF

## At least 104 killed in Gaza

Of them, 37 killed near aid centres; Israeli military says it fired warning shots at suspects

AGENCIES

Israeli fire killed at least 104 people and wounded more than 100 in Gaza yesterday.

Hospital sources told Al Jazeera that at least 37 aid seekers were among the dead.

Deaths of people waiting for handouts in huge crowds near food points in Gaza have become a regular occurrence, with the territory's authorities frequently blaming Israeli fire.

But the US- and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), which has replaced UN agencies as the main distributor of aid in the territory, has accused militant group Hamas of fomenting unrest and shooting at

civilians.

Civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said the deaths happened near a site southwest of Khan Yunis and another centre northwest of Rafah, both in the south, attributing the deaths to "Israeli gunfire".

One witness said he headed to the Al-Tina area of Khan Yunis before dawn with five of his relatives to try to get food when "Israeli soldiers" started shooting.

"My relatives and I were unable to get anything," Abdul Aziz Abed, 37, told AFP. "Every day I go there and all we get is bullets and exhaustion instead of food."

Three other witnesses also accused troops of opening fire.

In response, the Israeli military

said it "identified suspects who approached them during operational activity in the Rafah area, posing a threat to the troops".

Soldiers called for them to turn back and "after they did not comply, the troops fired warning shots", it said, adding that it was aware of the reports about casualties.

"The incident is under review. The shots were fired approximately one kilometre (more than half a mile) away from the aid distribution site at nighttime when it's not active," it said in a statement.

Media restrictions in Gaza and difficulties in accessing many areas mean AFP is unable to independently verify tolls and details provided by the civil defence agency and other parties.

**মিনিকেট/জিরাশাইল চালের বাজারজাতকরণ ও  
ক্ষয়-বিক্ষয় সম্পর্কে সংঘটিষ্ঠ সকলের জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

**উপরে বর্ণিত বিষয় সম্পর্কে ১৩ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখে জাতীয় ভোক্তা-অধিকার সংরক্ষণ অধিদপ্তরে অনুষ্ঠিত সভায়  
গৃহীত সিদ্ধান্ত নিম্নরূপ-**

**ক. ১৩ জুলাই হতে কোনো কোম্পানী/সরবরাহকারী কিংবা কোনো মিলমালিক/প্রসেসর মিনিকেট/জিরাশাইলসহ  
কোনো ধরণের অননুমোদিত চাল বাজারজাতকরণ, বিপণন বা সরবরাহ করবেন না এবং অনুরূপ কাজ হতে সকলে  
বিবর থাকবেন;**

**খ. তিনটি ধাপে বাজার হতে মিনিকেট/জিরাশাইল চাল প্রত্যাহার নিশ্চিত করা হবে, যথা:**

**(১) ধাপ ১: ১৭ জুলাই -৩১ জুলাই - মিনিকেট/জিরাশাইলসহ সকল অননুমোদিত চাল বাজার হতে  
প্রত্যাহার/প্যাকেট বস্তাকে চালের নাম দ্বারা প্রতিস্থাপন;**

**(২) ধাপ ২: ০১ আগস্ট হতে ১৫ আগস্ট-বাজার হতে প্রত্যাহার/পরিবর্তিত প্যাকেট বা বস্তা সম্পর্কে বাজার  
মন্তব্য করান;**

**(৩) ধাপ ৩: ১৬ আগস্ট হতে কঠোর আইনানুগ যথাযথ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ;**

**উক্ত সিদ্ধান্ত বস্তবায়নে সকলের সহযোগিতা কাম্য।**

**জাতীয় ভোক্তা-অধিকার সংরক্ষণ অধিদপ্তর**

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