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ABU SAYED KILLING 'Forced to conceal pellet wounds in inquest report' SI testifies at ICT-1

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A police officer told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday that he was forced by a senior officer to conceal pellet injuries in the inquest report of Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed, who was killed in Rangpur at the beginning of the July uprising.

Testifying as a prosecution witness in the case filed over Sayed's killing, Sub-Inspector Md Tariqul Islam said that around 4:30pm on July 16 last year, he was informed from Tajhat Police Station that a body required an inquest at Rangpur Medical College Hospital. There he learnt that Sayed had been killed in police firing in front of the university. The hospital was tense and heavily guarded, he added.

Around 7:00pm, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Kotwali

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A building in Doha, Qatar, damaged in an Israeli strike, which Israel said was aimed at Hamas leaders, is pictured yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UPRISING CASES Committees to identify those falsely implicated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed committees at the district and metropolitan levels in an attempt to identify and discharge individuals falsely implicated in cases filed over the crimes committed during last year's mass uprising.

These committees will oversee the submission of interim investigation reports in cases related to the uprising, assessing whether such cases accuse any individuals with the sole intent to harass.

Besides, a dedicated ministry-level committee has also been formed to supervise all the district- and metropolitan-level committees.

This move follows the recent addition of Section 173A to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, which mandates the submission of interim investigation reports.

The committees are tasked with overseeing whether the new

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A glimmer of hope for Joy Robidas

Son of Rangpur mob victim
returns to school with
support of well-wishers

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Over a month after cobbler Ruplal Robidas was killed by a mob in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila, his 14-year-old son Joy Robidas is trying to rebuild his life — this time with books in hand instead of a needle and thread.

Joy stands tall despite the turmoil. He had to fill his father's shoes and take up the responsibilities of the household, foregoing his dreams. However, an outpouring of support has turned the tide.

After The Daily Star published a story and photo of Joy stitching shoes, both government and non-government organisations, along with individuals, came forward to help the family.

Joy told The Daily Star, "Many people have helped and stood by us. But I cannot forget the pain of losing my father. It is very difficult for us to live without him. I am now regularly attending school. My classmates and teachers are encouraging me. I want to complete my studies

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Govt to buy 300 vehicles for polls duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will procure around 300 vehicles for use during the upcoming national election, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase, he dismissed media reports about buying 60 vehicles for ministers of the next government as "untrue".

"The public administration ministry had submitted this proposal, but it has been rejected," he said.

Salehuddin explained that the new vehicles would mostly go to Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs), while some would be allocated to deputy commissioners (DCs).

"To ensure effective field-level operations, better vehicles are needed as many existing ones have become unusable," he added.

In August, the public administration ministry proposed purchasing 280 vehicles at a cost of Tk 445 crore.

The plan included 60

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5 killed as Israel attacks Hamas leaders in Qatar

US, UK, France, Arabs condemn attack; people told to flee Gaza City as Israel plans to intensify offensive

AGENCIES

Israel launched an airstrike against arch foe Hamas leaders in Qatar yesterday, expanding military actions that have ranged across the Middle East to include the Gulf Arab state where the Palestinian Islamist group has long had its political base.

Qatar, a key security partner of the United States and host to al-Udeid Air Base, the largest US military facility in the Middle East, has acted as a mediator alongside Egypt in talks on a ceasefire in the almost two-year-old war in Gaza.

Qatar condemned yesterday's attack as "cowardly" and called it a flagrant violation of international law. The assault is likely to deal a serious, if not fatal, blow to the ceasefire efforts, especially since negotiations have often taken place in Qatar.

Two Hamas sources told Reuters that Hamas officials in the ceasefire negotiating team survived the attack, which followed an evacuation order in Gaza City, where Israel is waging an offensive to try to destroy the group and its military capabilities in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials told Reuters the strike was aimed at top Hamas leaders including Khalil al-Hayya, its exiled Gaza chief and top negotiator. His son was killed in the attack, two Hamas

sources told Reuters.

Israel is still gathering information on the strike and is yet to determine whether any Hamas officials or leaders were killed, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters.

Hamas said six people were killed in the strike, including a Qatari security officer. Three bodyguards and Gaza ceasefire negotiator Khalil al-Hayya's aide and son were all killed in the attack, the group said, affirming "the enemy's failure to assassinate our brothers in the negotiating delegation".

In Washington, a White House official said Israel had notified the US about the strike beforehand.

The airstrike took place shortly after Hamas' armed wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, claimed responsibility for a shooting on Monday that killed six people at a bus stop on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

The Israeli operation drew strong reactions. The leaders of Britain and France condemned the strike.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the attack violated Qatar's sovereignty and risked "further escalation" in the volatile region, while Macron called them "unacceptable" whatever the reasoning behind them might be.

The United Arab Emirates, which normalised relations with Israel under the Abraham Accords

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Father files case over son's killing in Rajbari attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Around 4,000 unidentified people have been sued over the death of a man during a clash at the darbar sharif of Nurul Haque, locally known as "Nural Pagla", in Rajbari's Goaland upazila on September 5.

Victim Rassel Molla's father Md Azad Molla lodged the case with Goaland Ghat Police Station on Monday night, police said yesterday.

Md Sharif Al Rajeeb, additional superintendent of police in Rajbari, said the charges in the case include murder, arson, burning of a body, vandalism, theft, and assault.

He added that police have so far arrested two people — Md Abdul Latif, 35, of Gior upazila in Manikganj, and Ovi Mandal, 29, of Goaland upazila in Rajbari — in connection with the case.

Earlier, Selim Molla, a sub-inspector of the Goaland Ghat Police Station, filed another case accusing 3,000-3,500 unnamed people of attacking police, and vandalising vehicles. Police have so far arrested 16 people in that case, two of whom gave confessional statements under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before a court.

Rassel, a follower of Nurul Haque, was killed during clashes on September 5, after hundreds of people attacked the darbar sharif, exhumed the body of Nurul Haque from his grave, and set it on fire.

Venice's famous winged lion statue actually Chinese

CNN ONLINE

To visitors, Venice is a glorious tapestry of historic buildings, waterways, bell towers, red roofs — and a mighty winged lion, the symbol of the Venetian republic, carved into structures across the city.

Possibly the most famous version of the lion is a bronze statue standing atop a column in the Piazzetta adjoining St Mark's Square — and now, researchers think the statue was made in China.

After studying samples from the metal lion using lead isotope analysis, researchers from northern

Italy's University of Padua found that the copper used to create the bronze alloy (which is a mix of copper and tin) on the original bronze work came from the Yangtze river in China, according to a study published in the journal *Antiquity*.

This, they said, would explain why the 4-metre- (13-foot-) long and 2.2-metre- (7-foot-) high statue, previously thought to have been made locally, in Syria or Anatolia, is stylistically mysterious.



In broad daylight, influential groups are illegally extracting sand from the Padma riverbed in Rajshahi, endangering embankments and putting the region at risk. Trucks haul sand day and night from multiple points in Godagari upazila, with Shyampur among the worst-hit areas. The photo was taken yesterday from Shyampur.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Ex-secretary Shafiqul Islam arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former secretary Bhuiyan Mohammad Shafiqul Islam to jail in an anti-terrorism case.



Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ariful Islam passed the order after police produced Shafiqul before the court, said a court staffer.

Police arrested Shafiqul from a resort in Kalapara, Patuakhali, early yesterday.

Yesterday, the magistrate also rejected bail petitions of Shafiqul and former secretary Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan in the case, said defence lawyer Mohammad Liton Miah.

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