



Man dies after mob beating, illegal detention

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A 27-year-old man accused of theft died at Brahmanbaria General Hospital yesterday, four days after being held in illegal police custody following a mob beating.

Brahmanbaria police have arrested and suspended a sub-inspector of Salinganj police camp over the incident.

The victim, Md Abdullah of Baherchar village in Bancharampur upazila, was detained on September 23 at Salinganj Bazar by a group of locals led by shopkeeper Tobí Miah, who had earlier reported the theft of Tk 5.37 lakh from his house.

The First Information Report in a murder case filed by Abdullah's brother, Shakil Miah, alleged that Abdullah was beaten by a mob, then taken to a house in Barail village and tortured.

Severely injured, he was handed over to the Salinganj temporary police camp under SI Mahim Uddin. Instead of being produced before a court, he was kept at the camp for four days.

Shakil said Abdullah's fingernails

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Encroachers have built structures on the Atrai river in Naogaon's Atrai Bazar. Some of the structures are multi-storey and have been built damaging the paved embankment of the river.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE Govts always blame it on conspiracies

Says Prof Anu Muhammad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Successful governments have blamed "local or foreign conspiracies" for communal violence rather than holding the perpetrators to account, Prof Anu Muhammad said yesterday.

"When Ramu happened, the then home minister called it a Jamaat-BNP plot to sabotage war crimes trials. Now, as Khagrachhari burns, the current home adviser claims it was 'made in India'. The pattern of denial is the same: investigations never happen, often because their own local leaders are involved."

He made the remarks at a discussion titled "Timeline of Communal Violence: 13 Years Since the Ramu Buddhist Temple Attacks and Communal Violence in the Post-Uprising Bangladesh", organised by Ganatantra Odhikar Committee at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Anu Muhammad argued that communal violence is systematically orchestrated for political, economic, and institutional gains. He cited the 2012 Ramu attacks, when



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Islami Bank fires 200, makes 4,771 OSD

The employees were recruited during S Alam era with fake certificates or without tests

- » About 48pc of bank's 21,000 employees recruited during S Alam era
- » No circulars were issued for their recruitment
- » Competency exam for 5,385 employees held on Saturday
- » Only 414 of them showed up for the test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Bank has made 4,771 officials OSD (officer on special duty) and terminated another 200 for violating service rules.

The development comes after their no-show in the special competency evaluation test, ordered by the management on September 22, for the 5,385 officials whose recruitment were questionable.

The officials were appointed by the S Alam Group without any exam and with fake certificates after the Chattogram-based business group forcibly took over the country's largest private bank in 2017, The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

Most of the 11,000 appointments made during S Alam's tenure were non-transparent, with no official circulars issued, M Kamal Uddin Jasim, additional managing

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VIOLENCE IN CHT

NCP leader quits over party silence, 'false rape' claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party's joint chief organiser for the north Alik Mree, tendered his resignation in protest against the party's "silence" over the recent violence and killings in Khagrachhari following protests over the rape of a schoolgirl.

Alik, a young leader from the Garo community and the only indigenous representative in the party's central committee, announced his resignation in a Facebook post.

"In protest of NCP's silence on the rape of an indigenous girl in Khagrachhari, attacks on indigenous people, arson on their homes, and the killing of three indigenous people, as well as against the false statements of NCP leader Abdul Hannan Masud on the rape incident, I, Alik Mree, resign from my post," he wrote.

"I have sent my resignation letter to the party office and also via email. Best wishes for the NCP," he added.

The resignation came after NCP's senior joint chief coordinator, Hannan Masud, described the Khagrachhari rape incident as "fake" during a programme in Noakhali on Sunday.

"India is playing its last trump card. An attempt is being made to destabilise the region by pitting the hill people and Bengalis through a fake rape incident," he said at a rally.

His remarks went viral on social media, sparking widespread criticism

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Eight people test positive for anthrax in Rangpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight out of 12 people, whose samples were collected from Pargachha upazila of Rangpur with anthrax symptoms, tested positive at the laboratory of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

IEDCR Director Prof Tahmina Shirin confirmed the matter to The Daily Star yesterday.

The agency collected the samples after two people had died in Pargachha earlier this month and last month with symptoms resembling anthrax.

However, IEDCR could not confirm whether they had died of anthrax, as no samples were taken from them before their deaths.

Earlier this month, the Department of Livestock also detected anthrax in frozen beef in the same area.

Anthrax is an acute bacterial infection of zoonotic origin that affects both humans and animals, according to IEDCR.

Humans can contract the disease through skin breaches, ingestion of raw or undercooked meat, or inhalation of spores, with an incubation period ranging from 1 to 20 days.

The infection is usually fatal for affected animals. While the fatality rate in humans is very low, if not promptly diagnosed and treated, the infection can turn deadly.

Since 2010, anthrax has been reported every year from different areas of Bangladesh,

particularly in the northern regions.

The country experienced a major outbreak in 2015, and IEDCR initiated surveillance for anthrax in 2018, an IEDCR official said.

Panic gripped people in Pargachha after the death of two persons with symptoms resembling anthrax and the death of more than 100 cows over the past three months.

- Two people died in Rangpur with symptoms resembling anthrax
- Anthrax was detected in five out of six frozen beef samples
- Cattle vaccination drive has begun
- Transmission occurs via skin breaches, ingestion of raw/undercooked meat, or inhalation of spores

On August 2, Abdur Razzak, 60, a farmer from Maita village, reportedly slaughtered a sick cow and developed a fever and sores the next day. He died at the hospital on August 9.

Similarly, Komola Begum, 58, a homemaker from Anandi Dhaniram village, fell ill after handling and cooking meat from a sick cow and died on September 6.

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Neighbouring country and fascists behind hills violence

Claims home boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday alleged that the recent violence in Khagrachhari is being fuelled "by a neighbouring country and fascist groups".

"A vested quarter is trying to create unrest to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of Durga Puja of the Hindu community. They attempted to prevent the festival from being celebrated with religious fervour and festivity. This vested group is behind the Khagrachhari incident," he said.

The home adviser was talking to reporters at the old Ramna Police Station after inaugurating the construction of five administrative/barracks for Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

A journalist asked whether firearms and money were being supplied to Khagrachhari from India.

In response, the adviser said, "He [the journalist] said the violence is being instigated by India or by fascist groups. We are taking all-out measures to ensure that they cannot be successful."

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Amazon trees getting bigger due to climate change

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Trees across the Amazon rainforest are growing larger in response to rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, according to a major new study.

The research, published in the Nature Plants journal, found that the average size of trees in the Amazon has increased by 3.2 per cent every decade for at least the past 30 years.

Scientists say the trend is consistent with the fertilising effect of higher concentrations of CO₂, which can boost plant growth.

The findings come from the RAINFOR network, an international partnership of more than 60 universities in South America, the UK and elsewhere, including the Universities of Birmingham, Bristol and Leeds. Almost 100 scientists monitored trees across 188 permanent forest plots to build the long-term dataset.

Professor Beatriz Marimon, from Universidade do Mato Grosso in Brazil, who coordinated much of the data collection in southern Amazonia, said: "This is a good news story. We regularly hear how climate change and fragmentation are threatening Amazonian forests. But, meanwhile, the trees in intact forests have grown bigger; even the largest trees have continued to thrive despite these threats."



Wounded Palestinian children receive treatment at Al-Shifa Hospital after their homes were hit by an Israeli strike in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Seize Sikder family's Tk 133 crore in Thailand

Dhaka court orders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has ordered the freezing of investments worth 353 million Thai baht (about Tk 133 crore) in seven companies in Thailand by former National Bank Chairman Zainul Haque Sikder's three children.

The order – passed by Judge Md Sabbir Faiz of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka on Sunday – came following an application by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Assistant Director Md Ashikur Rahman, said ACC's Public Relations Officer Aktarul Islam yesterday.

The seven companies – registered in Thailand between April 2, 2004 and June 23, 2015 – are Koi Restaurant Co., Sikder Group, Sikder Holdings, R & R Restaurant Group, Jirana Co., JR Architects International Co. and Sikder & Garret Development Co., according to court documents.

Zainul's sons Ron Haque Sikder and Rick Haque Sikder and daughter Parveen Haque Sikder

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