

RAGGING STUDENT

JnU suspends four students

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University authorities yesterday suspended four students for allegedly ragging a female student on the campus.

The suspended students are: Aongkon Baul, Sabbir Ahmed, Abu Sufian and Rabbi. They are students of the land management and law departments of the university.

"We suspended them after we found them guilty in a primary investigation on an 'indecent behaviour' complaint lodged by the female student," JnU Vice Chancellor Mijanur Rahman told The Daily Star last night.

However, talking to The Daily Star, accused Abu Sufian has denied his involvement in the incident.

A three-member committee, led by JnU Proctor Mostofa Kamal, has been formed to investigate the complaint. The committee has been asked to submit a report within 10 working days, the VC said, adding that further action will be taken based on the report's conclusion.

Though university authorities used the term 'indecent behaviour' to describe the incident in a press release, campus sources said the four students ragged the girl.

Earlier on January 2, JnU authorities issued a notice that threatened expulsion for students found involved in ragging on campus.

The issue of ragging on university campuses' gained renewed interest after the brutal murder of Buet student Abrar Fahad by Bangladesh Chhatra League men on October 7 last year.

All illegal brick kilns in five districts shut down: DoE report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In line with a High Court directive, the government has shut down all illegal brick kilns in five districts -- Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Munshiganj, and Manikganj, the Department of Environment said in a report.

The report was sent to the attorney general's office yesterday for placing it before the HC, Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashar told The Daily Star.

However, he could not specify the number of illegal brick kilns that have been shut down.

DAG Bashar said the government has formed a 16-member high-powered committee, led by the environment secretary, to work towards reducing air pollution in and around the capital. The committee is also tasked with finding out how the air is being polluted.

The committee has sent another report to the attorney general's office, saying it has taken a total of 13 decisions on reducing air pollution in Dhaka. DAG Bashar said he will place the reports to the HC today.

While hearing a writ petition, the HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader on November 26 ordered the government to conduct mobile court drives to shut down all illegal brick kilns in the five districts within 15 days.

35 trains' schedules to change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway is going to change schedules for 35 intercity trains starting January 10, Rail Minister Nurul Islam Sujaid said yesterday.

The changes are being made considering public demands and benefits, he told reporters at Rail Bhaban office.

The trains include Chattogram-bound Subrana Express, Sylhet-bound Jayantika Express, Rajshahi-bound Silkcity Express, Khulna-bound Sundarban Express, Benapole-bound Benapole Express and

Panchagarh-bound Panchagarh Express. Besides, nine trains will get one to three new stations added to their usual route.

Asked whether the changes will help the authority solve scheduling problem of trains operating between Dhaka and north-western/southern destinations, the minister replied in negative.

Unless the Tongi-Ishwardi section of railway is doubled and a new railway bridge on Jamuna river is constructed, it's not possible to guarantee timely schedules, he said.

BNP wants level-playing

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proving that my activists received treatment at the upazila health complex due to attacks by AL men," he said.

Contacted, Mohammad Hasanuzzaman, Chattogram regional election officer and RO of Chattogram-8 by-polls, said they were investigating all complaints lodged by the candidates.

A total of 4,75,988 voters will cast their votes through electronic voting machine in the polls, said election commission officials.

9th anniversary

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Indian Supreme Court in 2013. Following Amiya's acquittal for the second time, Felani's father with the help of Indian human rights organisation Manobadhikar Surokha Mancho (Masum) filed another writ petition with the court in 2015, said Advocate Abraham Lincoln, Kurigram public prosecutor and the lawyer who assisted Felani's father in the case.

Meanwhile, Felani's family will organise a doa mahfil in their village home under Rumkhana union of the district's Nageswari upazila today.

Huge risk of dengue

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a white dorsal stripe and banded legs. It can act as a vector for dengue virus. It lays eggs on the inner sides of water-holding containers in urban, suburban, and rural areas as well as at edges of forest areas. Larvae can also be found in natural habitats such as tree holes and hollow bamboo stumps.

Aedes aegypti is a vector for dengue, chikungunya, Zika fever and yellow fever etc. The mosquito can be recognised by white markings on its legs and a marking on the upper surface of its thorax.

Prof Flora said "We have to focus on destroying the breeding sources [of mosquitoes] in a sustainable manner." Completed in November last year, the survey was carried out in Barishal, Meherpur and Kushtia. According to a final survey report, in Gangni of Meherpur there were 44.5 percent Aedes albopictus and one percent aegypti.

In Kustia's Chatrapara there was 65 percent albopictus, with no presence of Aedes aegypti, while in Barishal, one percent was albopictus and there was no aegypti.

Usually, Aedes aegypti is responsible for spreading dengue in urban areas and albopictus for spreading dengue outside the cities, experts said.

It is not a one-off issue and Aedes is now endemic to our country -- for which, yearlong efforts will have to be undertaken, said Prof Flora.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bidding (BB) regarding the procurement of goods and services. It includes details about the bidding process, dates, and contact information.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BSBK) regarding the procurement of goods and services. It includes details about the bidding process, dates, and contact information.

Rape incidents

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The accused get scot-free in most cases due to legal complexity, prolonged trial process and weakness of the judiciary system.

In a statement signed by its chairperson Sultana Kamal, Manobadhikar Shongskriti Foundation said the state is not being able to ensure safety and freedom of movement for women.

Hill Women's Federation, Nari Sanghati and United National Awami Party, among other organisations, expressed concerns over the rape and demanded exemplary punishment to the rapist.

The second-year DU student was raped and tortured in the capital's Kurmitola on Sunday evening, while going to a friend's house. As she was walking on the footpath, the rapist grabbed her from behind, gagged her, took her to an isolated place nearby and raped her, police said quoting the victim.

Advertisement for Sirajul Islam Choudhury, a legal professional, providing contact information and services.

BDR MUTINY CASE VERDICT

HC may release full text today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is likely to release today the full text of its verdict that confirmed death penalty of 139 accused and upheld life imprisonment of 185 others for involvement in massacre during the 2009 BDR mutiny.

Three judges of a special HC bench have completed writing the judgement of more than 29,000 pages -- in the biggest ever

criminal case in the country's history in terms of the number of accused and people convicted, court sources said.

Convicts can file appeals with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court after release of the full text.

The mutiny -- on February 25-26, 2009 at BDR's (now BGB) Palkhona headquarters in the capital -- left the nation in shock.

No recruitment at city

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for deputation. This is against the spirit of strengthening local government, he complained.

As trained officials are necessary in some posts like garbage management, a city corporation official would be better suited for it than an official on deputation.

There were research officials in city planning section and revenue department, but those posts were eliminated in the new rules, he said.

On the other hand, DNCC started its operations in 2011 with manpower shortage and the issue has continued to hamper its operations. According to the DNCC records, around 58 percent posts are currently vacant. As per its paper -- updated grade-wise till November last year -- 87 first-class officer posts, 35 second-class officer posts, 576 third-class and 403 fourth-class posts are vacant.

According to DNCC records, its urban planning section is the worst-affected. Only two employees are working against 12 posts in the department.

Waste management, another important department at DNCC, has 132 of its 217 posts vacant.

According to officials, the local government ministry created 846 additional posts for the 36 newly-formed wards and 10 zones. These 846 posts are not included in the current 1,858 posts of DNCC. The decision regarding recruitment for the new posts is underway.

There had been no rules on the recruitment process since the formation of DNCC. As a result, they could not recruit required manpower on permanent basis, an official said. However, DNCC recruited employees in some posts temporarily to run activities, and in some cases, one official is looking after multiple sectors.

"Our additional chief waste management officer is also taking care of the responsibilities of executive engineer of disposal section. The situation will hopefully be resolved soon as the new recruitment policy has come into effect," said DNCC's Chief Waste Management Officer Commodore M Manzur Hossain.

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