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Your Right to Know

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"Zero cost for the workers ... so that means plane tickets and all other expenses have to be borne by the employers."
MALAYSIAN HUMAN RESOURCES MINISTER M KULASEGARAN ON LABOUR RECRUITMENT FROM BANGLADESH (PAGE 3)



"In terms of equal opportunities for all [in campaigning for Dhaka city polls], the BNP is above us."
PM'S ADVISER HT IMAM AFTER A MEETING WITH THE ACTING CEC (PAGE 3)



"We will not give the black boxes to the manufacturer [Boeing] and the Americans."
IRAN CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION HEAD ALI ABEDZADEH



Culprit a serial rapist: Rab

Lone suspect in DU student rape arrested; victim 'identifies' him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He is a serial rapist and he tried to kill the Dhaka University student after raping her in the capital's Kurmitola area on Sunday night, Rab said hours after arresting the suspect in nearby Shewra area yesterday.

The law enforcers also said the arrestee, Majnu, a 30-year-old drug addict, had earlier raped several female beggars and intellectually challenged women near the same place.

"Majnu is a mugger, a vagabond and a serial rapist ... He raped his victims whenever he got a chance while mugging them," Lt Col Sarwar-Bin-Quasem, Rab's legal and media wing director, said at a press briefing at their media centre in the city.

He claimed Majnu admitted during primary interrogation that he alone raped the DU student and tortured her for about three hours.

Majnu told the Rab that he was lying in wait for a victim on his way from the Kurmitola General Hospital on Sunday.



Majnu

When the DU student was walking from Kurmitola bus stop to a friend's house in nearby Shewra area around 7:30pm, he saw her backpack and started following her.

At one point, he grabbed her from behind, gagged her and dragged her to a quiet place nearby, where he slapped, beat and raped her, the Rab official said, quoting the arrestee.

The crime scene is several yards from the Airport Road, one of the busiest thoroughfares in the capital, and surrounded by bushes.

The rape incident sparked a firestorm of protests and condemnations across the country. The victim's fellow students at Dhaka University took to the streets, demanding the rapist's immediate arrest. They were later joined in by students in other districts.

After arresting Majnu early yesterday, Rab personnel showed his photograph to the victim, 21, at One-stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where she was taken after the rape.

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People stand near the wreckage after a Ukrainian plane carrying 176 passengers crashed near Imam Khomeini International Airport in Tehran yesterday. Everyone on board the plane were killed when it crashed shortly after take off.

PHOTO: AFP

UKRAINE PLANE CRASH IN IRAN

All 176 on board die

82 Iranians, 63 Canadians among them; unverified video show plane on fire in sky; Iran says they won't let the US have the black boxes

REUTERS, Dubai/Kiev

A Ukrainian airliner crashed shortly after take-off from Tehran yesterday, bursting into flames and killing all 176 people on board.

Debris and smouldering engine parts from the Boeing 737, which carrier Ukraine International Airlines said was last serviced two days ago, were strewn across a field southwest of the Iranian capital where rescue workers in face masks laid out scores of body bags.

Among the victims were 82 Iranians, 63 Canadians, 11 Ukrainians, 10 Swedes, three Germans and three Britons, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko said. Most passengers were in transit, the airline said.

The plane crashed hours after Iran launched missiles at bases housing US forces in Iraq, with the confrontation between Tehran and Washington threatening to cause a wider conflict in

the Middle East. Officials cautioned that speculation about what happened was premature. It was the Kiev-based carrier's first fatal crash, and it said it was doing everything possible to establish the cause.

Ukraine was to send a team of experts to Iran later yesterday to investigate the crash, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in the Ukrainian capital.

"Our priority is to establish the truth and those responsible for this terrible catastrophe," he said. Canadian Foreign Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said he was in touch with Ukraine's government.

"Our hearts are with the loved ones of the victims ... We will continue to keep Canadians informed as the situation evolves," he said on Twitter.

Iran's civil aviation authority yesterday said they have recovered the black boxes of the plane.

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Trump avoids escalating crisis

Imposes sanctions; 22 Iranian missiles hit US targets in Iraq

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday said the United States did not necessarily have to use its military power against Iran, in an apparent attempt to defuse a crisis over the American killing of Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani.

Speaking from the White House, Trump said no Americans were harmed in Iranian missile attacks on military bases housing US troops in Iraq overnight and suggested Washington might not carry out immediate retaliation.

"The fact that we have this great military and equipment, however, does not mean we have to use it. We do not want to use it. American strength, both military and economic, is the best deterrent," he said.

"Our great American forces are prepared for anything. Iran appears to be standing down, which is a good thing for all parties concerned and a very good thing for the world," he said.

Trump stopped short of making any direct threat of military action against Iran but said the United States "will immediately impose additional punishing economic sanctions on the Iranian regime" in response to what

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দমাতে পারবে না

Star MOTTO ON MUJIB BORSHO



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bangabandhu and Indian diplomat Sashanka S Banerjee on board a Royal Air Force VIP flight from London to New Delhi on January 9, 1972.

The words were magical, the news was electrifying and the effect euphoric -- Bangabandhu has been released and he, along with Dr Kamal Hossain, were on their way to London after a torturous nine months in Pakistani prison with the threat of execution hanging over his every breath. The wave of joy was universal and the happiness complete knowing that our leader was safe and would soon be amongst us -- the people he loved so dearly and risked his life to free.

For those who did not live through those moments it will be difficult, perhaps impossible, to understand the almost hypnotising impact of this man who had so captivated our hearts and minds that our independence felt incomplete without him. Thus his return was central to our dream of a Sonar Bangla.

The Daily Star, through its own observance of "Mujib Borsho", the centenary of his birth, will attempt to tell the story as to why Mujib is so important for us to build a democratic, secular, freedom ensuring prosperous Bangladesh.

On the way back home

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

It was 5:00am on January 9, 1972. London was fast asleep and the weather was frosty.

Bangabandhu was whisked away through the rear service door of the Claridge's Hotel to avoid being noticed while on his way to the airport.

The silver RAF jet of the British PM was ready. The jet took off around 7:00am.

People were told an Air India plane was to fly Bangabandhu home. It was a decoy.

Dr Kamal Hossain along with his family and two Indian diplomats, Sashanka S Banerjee and Ved Marwah, accompanied Bangabandhu on the flight.

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Star INITIATIVE ON MUJIB BORSHO

IN COLLABORATION WITH



Dhaka seal play-off spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Platoon ensured a play-off spot in the Bangladesh Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) with a 61-run victory against Rangpur Rangers under the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium floodlights in Mirpur yesterday. For Rangpur, their sixth defeat in 11 games meant that they were out of the race with a game left.

Chasing a modest 145 for nine, Rangpur lost two of their best batsmen -- Mohammad Naim and skipper Shane Watson -- in the very first over.

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A toddler held by a man walking across the capital's Atish Dipankar Road amidst moving traffic yesterday. Although they are quite close to the zebra crossing, no vehicle slows down to let them pass. Both the guardian and the drivers seem to be oblivious of what a momentary lapse can do in such a situation.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

INFO ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Crosscheck it before sharing

PM urges people

UNB, Dhaka

Stressing the need for ensuring cybersecurity, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to cross-check any information before sharing it on social media for the good of the country and the society.

"Cybersecurity is very much important. I would like to tell the people that it is not wise to react just after seeing anything on the internet without checking its authenticity...all have to cross-check the information," she said.

The PM was speaking at an award-giving ceremony of Digital Bangladesh Day 2019 at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

She said it has been observed that different unwanted contents appear while using the internet. "There should be a system to filter all those...there should be a system to give security [to the users]."

Hasina called upon the people not to pay heed to rumours. "The validity of information is very important because it can cause extensive damage to the society and one's personal life."

She also put emphasis on making children and youths aware of cybercrimes.

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