

Case filed over rape of seven-yr-old

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed on Wednesday night over rape of a seven-year-old girl in the capital.

The girl's father filed the case with Sabujbagh Police Station accusing one Zubayer (25), who lived in his house as a subtenant, said Mahub Alam, OC of the police station.

Zubayer and his two brothers lived in a room rented out by the girl's family. On January 16, Zubayer lured her to his room with chocolates when her family was not home and raped her, the OC said.

Family members found out about the incident three days later, he added.

Police detained Zubayer's brothers for questioning, and later released them.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

A thick cloud of smoke billows from a makeshift burner in front of Chattogram's Bangladesh Railway Hospital yesterday. To repair roads, labourers are burning scrap from RMG factories to melt bitumen. At a time when environmental concerns are at a peak, reckless actions like this are putting both the nature and people at risk.

'Illogical, immoral'

Religious affairs ministry, HAAB slam proposal to raise hajj flight prices by Tk 12,000

RASHIDUL HASAN

The civil aviation ministry's proposal to increase airfare for each hajj pilgrim by Tk 12,000 from last year has drawn much criticism from Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) and the religious affairs ministry.

Both protested and opposed the huge rise in airfare of pilgrims, terming it 'illogical' and 'immoral'.

Top leaders of HAAB, a platform of country's hajj agencies, yesterday at a press conference said the Saudi government did not increase or impose any new charge or tax this year for carrying hajj pilgrims.

They also said the Bangladesh government also did not impose any new charge or tax in this regard.

"Besides, the price of jet fuel also didn't increase. Rather, the price of jet fuel has come down to 51 cents per litre compared to 71 cents last year," HAAB president M Shahadat Hossain said at the briefing.

He also said the airfare of hajj pilgrims could be maximum Tk 88,000 to Tk 1,14,000.

To back his statement, the HAAB president said during the rest of the year, the airfare on Dhaka-Saudi Arabia-Dhaka route is around Tk 44,000 to Tk 57,000.

"As the aircraft dedicated for carrying hajj pilgrims return empty from Saudi Arabia, the airfare during hajj could be maximum Tk 88,000 to Tk 1,14,000," he added.

Shahadat Hossain said it would negatively impact the entire hajj management, if airfare of hajj pilgrims is increased illogically.

He also demanded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention so that the airfare is not increased this year.

HAAB leaders said the civil aviation ministry has increased the airfare of hajj pilgrims this year to cover up Biman Bangladesh Airlines' losses that it suffered from other business sectors.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines usually carries half of hajj pilgrims every year, while the Saudi Arabian Airlines transport the rest.

A total of 1,37,198 Bangladeshi pilgrims

Report suspicious transactions: BB

Directive on mobile financial service providers in bid to stop question leaks during SSC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of the government's efforts to prevent question leaks, the central bank yesterday asked Mobile Financial Service (MFS) providers to beef up monitoring of transactions on their platforms and report suspicious activities to law enforcement agencies.

The same instructions will also be applicable for e-wallet service providers of the country, said a notice by the central bank issued yesterday.

In the notice, the service providers were asked to monitor and promptly inform law enforcers if they come across any user account with frequent transactions ranging between Tk 200 to Tk 2,000.

The details of senders and receivers will have to be submitted to law enforcement agencies if the transactions prove to be suspicious, the notice said.

The special monitoring will have to commence at least one week in advance of the starting date of the SSC examination, which this year begins on February 3 and continues throughout the month.

The central bank has asked MFS and e-wallet providers to inform agents, distributors and clients of the instructions.

Following a government decision, such cases of monitoring will be carried out during all examinations under the education ministry from now on, a central bank official said.

During these examinations, question leaks are often carried out by receiving questions online and on phones and paying through MFS and e-wallets.

Some 16 MFS and 2 e-wallet service providers are operating in the country at the moment.

NAZMUL MURDER CASE Rab arrests prime accused from Ctg

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Wednesday night arrested the prime accused in a case filed for the murder of Nazmul Hossain. He was hacked to death on January 14 in Rajshahi's Bagha upazila for protesting the stalking of his niece.

The arrestee is Sumon Pramanik (19) of Rajshahi's Sultanpur; he was on the run. Chattogram Rab-7 arrested him from Chattogram and informed Rab-5 in Rajshahi, Iftekhar Alam, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police spokesperson, confirmed the matter yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, police arrested eight others accused in the case, which was filed by the deceased's father Shahjahan Ali with Bagha Police Station against 28 persons, naming 23.

Bagha police, quoting locals, said Sumon had been stalking a schoolgirl for some months and her parents complained to Sumon's parents, which angered him.

On January 14, Sumon and his accomplices stormed into the girl's house and attacked her father.

When the girl's brother Tariqul Islam and Nazmul came to intervene, they were attacked too. Nazmul was hacked indiscriminately, which left him critically injured. Later, he was declared dead at Bagha Upazila Health Complex, they added.

Road crashes kill 2

Another succumbs to injuries two days after accident

STAR REPORT

Two people died in separate road accidents yesterday, report our correspondents. Additionally, a man from Dinajpur succumbed to his injuries following a bike accident on Tuesday.

A van driver has died after being hit by a bus in Dhaka's Motijheel area yesterday.

The accident took place in front of Motijheel's Wapda Bhaban around 3am, said Yasir Arafat, officer-in-charge (OC) of Motijheel Police Station.

The unidentified van driver, possibly in his 50s, suffered critical injuries after the bus hit his van from behind, the OC told The Daily Star.

Locals immediately took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where on-duty doctors declared him dead around 6am.

In Dinajpur, one person died in a road accident while another person succumbed to his injuries two days after a motorbike accident, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

In Biral upazila, a motorcyclist was killed in a collision with a minibus yesterday. Deceased Jahrul Islam Rinku (42) hailed from Munshipara area under Dinajpur Municipality.

On his way to office, Jahrul was critically injured after his motorcycle collided head-on with the speeding minibus at Chapaidangi village in Biral upazila of Dinajpur-Bochaganj road yesterday morning, police said.

Locals rushed him to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital. Later, on-duty doctors pronounced him dead around noon, upazila police added.

Two days after a road accident, a man from Dinajpur succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on yesterday.

The deceased was Shariful Islam (30) of Professor Para in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur.

He was critically injured after his motorcycle collided head-on with another bike at Shibpur village in Birampur on Tuesday. Following the accident, locals resued him and took him to RMCH. Following two days of doctors trying to keep him alive, he was pronounced dead yesterday noon.

Moniruzzaman, OC of Birampur police, said the other biker was also seriously injured by the collision.

Policeman dies by suicide in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policeman has reportedly killed himself by gunfire in the city's Mirpur area early yesterday.

Deceased Shah Mohammad Abdul Quddus (31) was a naik and lived at a barrack of the Public Order Management (POM) in Mirpur.

He shot himself in the chest at a field on the POM compound around 5:30am, said Selimuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station.

"Hearing the gunshot, other barrack residents rushed to the spot and found Abdul dead. He had shot himself in the chest," the OC said quoting Abdul's co-workers.

Police have started an investigation of the incident. A recent post on Abdul's Facebook provides some hints for his action, the OC added.

His body was sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

JUJA gets new committee

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association (JUJA) elected its committee for one year yesterday.

Md Asaduz Zaman of The Daily Star and Mahub Alam of Daily Inqilab were elected president and general secretary respectively.

Rahul M Yousuf of Daily Jugantar was elected vice president and Abir Abdullah of Bangla News 24 joint secretary.

A nine-member executive body was also formed.

Enamul remanded in Tk 21cr graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Enamul Haque Enu, a director of Wanderer's Club and vice-president of Gendaria thana unit Awami League, on a four-day remand in connection with a graft case.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after investigation officer of the case Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury, an assistant director of Anti-Corruption Commission, produced Enamul with a seven-day remand prayer.

In the remand prayer, the IO said Enamul amassed Tk 21.89 crore through illegal activities beyond scope of his income.

Earlier on January 19, Enamul's brother Rupan Bhuiyan, also a director of the club and joint general secretary of Gendaria thana unit AL, was remanded for five days in connection with a graft case.

On January 13, CID arrested the brothers from Keraniganj, along with one of their accomplices Sheikh Sunny Mostofa. They had been living in the flat after failing to flee the country with forged passports, CID sources said.

The brothers had gone into hiding after law enforcers launched a crackdown on illegal casinos and graft last year. Wanderers Club was raided by Rab on September 18, the first day of the crackdown.

On January 14, the two placed on four-day remand each in two money laundering cases.

Earlier in November last year, the ACC filed two graft cases for the brothers' alleged involvement in amassing wealth through illegal means.

BANGLADESH ELECTION COMMISSION Tender for Goods (Single Lot) Table with columns: Ref No, Dated, Key Information, Funding Information, Particular Information, Eligibility of Tender, Brief Description of Goods, Tender Document Price, Procuring Entity Details.

Microcredit Regulatory Authority Advertisement for Hajj Agency (Hajj Agency) with details on registration and tendering process.

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute Advertisement for e-GP: 2nd Re-Tender Notice No. 17 (2019-2020) with details on tendering process and contact information.