

3 women held in capital over child abduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police claim to have arrested two women from Savar for their alleged involvement into abducting a three-year-old boy from the capital's Mirpur last Saturday.

The arrestees are Rashida (30) and Fatema (25), said Ashraful Karim, additional deputy commissioner of DB (Mirpur Division) police.

He said Rashida earlier used to work in a readymade garment factory, and Fatema is a floating woman, living on footpath and Mazar area of Mirpur. On September 5, Rashida went to Shah Ali Mazar area of Mirpur around 4pm and hired Fatema and Shahin -- who also lives in the area -- to abduct a child, paying them Tk 10,000.

Fatema and Shaheen picked up three-year-old Sahadat, who was playing on the Mazar premises alone, said ADC Ashraful.

Rashida then went to Savar with the boy, he added.

The victim's mother Reema, who works as domestic help and lives just beside the Mazar area, filed a case with Shah Ali Police Station after failing to find her son.

While conducting a shadow investigation, DB police first detected the accused in close circuit television camera.

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Cars whizz by as jaywalkers look for a window to cross the road, passing through a tiny gap in the road divider. This photo was taken at Gabtoli, a busy area where speeding vehicles are a common sight. Yet people risk their lives crossing roads, although there is an underpass nearby.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The agony of being alive

Only surviving family member of Barishal road crash in shock; 5 buried in Jhalakathi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Tinni Begum had no words to spare yesterday -- as she lost six family members within the span of just a few hours.

After the death of her newborn daughter Tamanna, five of her family members including her husband Arifur Rahman (32) were on their way to bury the baby at their village home in Baukathi village of Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila.

Arif, Tinni's brother, mother-in-law, sister-in-law and brother-in-law, all were killed after a covered van collided with the ambulance they were travelling in.

Tinni survives as the only member of her immediate family, as she had stayed back in Dhaka. Her daughter Tamanna was born at Dhaka's Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, but she lived for little over a week before passing away due to illness.

A heartbreaking scene occurred at Arif's village home in Baukathi yesterday, as Tinni lost consciousness after seeing the bodies of her beloved family members.

The namaj-e-janaza of baby Tamanna, her father Arif, grandmother Kohinur Begum, uncles Tareq Rahman and Nazrul Islam and aunt Shiuli Begum were held in the afternoon.

Arif, Tamanna, Kohinur, and Tareq were buried adjacent to their residence while Nazrul and Shiuli will be buried at the village as well, said Kaiyum Hossain, Shiuli Begum's husband.

Kaiyum said he had last spoken to his wife on the afternoon of her death. "I was supposed to see her soon afterwards, but now she is gone."

"There's no one left in Arif's family except Tinni now," he added.

Arif's cousin Rashedul Hasan Sumon who had initially identified the victims, expressed his deep shock and sorrow, saying, "I was told that a grave would have to be dug for the newborn, whose death was already a tragedy for the family. Who knew that five more graves would have to be dug?"

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Tough times for traditional artisans

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Cig

Potters, musical instrument makers, idol artisans as well as folk singers across the country -- who rely on various Bengali festivals -- are living through hardship as their income fell down drastically due to coronavirus, which brought all social and traditional events nearly to an end.

The pandemic has thrown them out of their income since March when the government came up with various restrictive measures to contain the virus.

Ratan Pal, president of Idol Artisan Samity of Chattogram, told The Daily Star that they never thought such trouble days would come when they would have to think about daily meal.

"During the pre-coronavirus period, we used to lead a decent life with our income. We started losing our income as there is no puja of cultural festivals. We are now surviving on loans. We've already spent all savings..." he said.

Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA) conducted a survey on the traditional artisans in 47 districts and revealed a dire scenario of those people living off folk culture.

The survey included greater Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna, Barishal, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Rangpur divisions.

Sisir Dutta, executive director of BITA, told The Daily Star that they surveyed the districts to learn about the condition of the people involved in various traditional art forms like folk singers, who sing roving through villages, potters, idol makers, traditional musical instrument makers like tabla, harmonium and dotara.

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DU finds two teachers guilty of plagiarism; tribunal formed

Probe body submits report after three years

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities have found proof of plagiarism in a joint article of two of its teachers and formed a tribunal to determine their punishment.

They took the decision at a meeting of the university syndicate, after the probe body dealing with the matter submitted their report three years after its formation, breaching the time-frame of only four weeks for submission.

DU syndicate, the university's highest governing body, formed the five-member body on September 27 in 2017.

The investigation committee, headed by then pro vice-chancellor (education) Prof Nasreen Ahmad, submitted the findings at Wednesday's syndicate meeting, but did not mention or recommend any punishment.

DU Pro-VC (Administration) Prof Muhammad Samad confirmed the matter to this newspaper.

"The submitted report stated that the allegations against the two teachers have been proven true. The syndicate later ordered forming a tribunal to

determine their punishment," he said.

In 2017, Chicago Journal's editor claimed that Samia Rahman, an associate professor of mass communication and journalism, and Syed Mahfujul Haque Marjan, a lecturer of criminology, copied from the journal's articles without proper citations.

He had claimed that the co-authored article had copied without proper citations from French philosopher Michel Foucault's article titled "The Subject and Power", according to a letter, which was read out at September 28, 2017's meeting.

The 19-page article by Foucault was published in University of Chicago Press's journal Critical Inquiry in 1982.

The article with plagiarism is "A New Dimension of Colonialism and Pop Culture: A Case Study of the Cultural Imperialism", published in Social Science Review, the journal of DU social science faculty, in December, 2016.

Contacted, Samia said she will follow legal procedures in this regard. In 2017, she said she was

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Fire at M'singh sub-station again

Power supply disrupted for 8hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Power supply in Mymensingh district was disrupted for nearly eight hours after a fire broke out at a sub-station of Kewatkhali Power Grid yesterday morning.

The fire started around 10am from a circuit breaker and spread to the nearby control room, said Rafiqul Islam, chief engineer of Power Development Board in Mymensingh.

Two fire-fighting units brought the blaze under control soon, he said, adding that power supply to the entire Mymensingh division was halted following the incident.

However, power supply to Jamalpur, Sherpur and Netrakona districts was restored around 11:30am. "We have replaced the burnt circuit breaker with a new one," the chief engineer said.

Md Masudul Haque, executive engineer of Power Grid Company, said the power supply was restored in Mymensingh district around 7:30pm.

The incident happened two days after a fire broke out at the main station of Kewatkhali Power Grid, leaving the entire division out of electricity for several hours. Restoration work of power lines damaged during Tuesday's incident was going on when yesterday's fire broke out.

A four-member probe committee was formed by the district administration to look into Tuesday's incident.

CUMILLA TOWN HALL

A witness of history facing demolition

KHALID BIN NAZRUL

For over a hundred years, Birchandra Ganapathagar (public library) has been a centre for educational, cultural, intellectual and socio-political activities in Cumilla city.

Established in 1885 in the heart of the town in Kandirpaar area, this library, also known as Cumilla Town Hall, stands tall on a sprawling 3.4 acres of land.

It was constructed by then Tripura King Birchandra Manikka Bahadur. A library and a two-storey auditorium were also built on the premises.

However, disregarding its significance of history, tradition and culture and importance as an archaeological heritage, a decision has been taken to demolish it to make way for a "new and modern" town hall.

The Public Works Department (PWD) has already drafted a design proposal for the new establishment that includes auditorium, multi-storey building, VIP lounge, car parking and others.

PWD sent the proposal to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs for approval. As the place has cultural and historical significance, it needs



The 135-year-old Town Hall building in Cumilla city have stood the test of time, and welcomed many a luminary in its heyday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

approval from the ministry in this regard, said officials concerned.

This plan to "modernise" the Town Hall meanwhile has met with staunch criticism from cultural activists, civil society members and locals.

A witness to some of the most important events in our history such as the Language Movement and Liberation War, this town hall has been graced by the presence of distinguished individuals

including Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Mahatma Gandhi, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, among others, they said.

Cumilla Theosophical Society, Cumilla Club and Ministerial Officers' Club were also established on the Town Hall premises -- in

1889, 1917 and 1920.

Asked, Dr Ataur Rahman, regional director of Chattogram and Sylhet division of the Department of Archeology, said Cumilla Town Hall is a heritage site and must be protected.

A 16-member executive committee headed by the deputy commissioner of Cumilla is authorised to run the Town Hall.

Talking to The Daily Star, officials of the district administration said the initiative has been taken following the request of Cumilla-6 lawmaker AKM Bahauddin Bahar, an "adviser" to the Town Hall committee.

Mentionable, there is also a four-storey market on the property, which is owned by him.

The lawmaker earlier sent a letter to the ministry and in response, the ministry asked PWD to draft a design proposal for the new establishment.

On September 2, Bahar held a views-exchange meeting at the DC's office on design proposal and demolishing the structure, confirmed DC Abul Fazal Mir.

Reserved seat lawmaker Anjum

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Lower courts can't cancel HC bail if rule or appeal pending

Four directives issued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has issued four directives for the lower courts concerned over cancellation of the bail granted by this court to the accused and ordered the Supreme Court registrar general to issue a circular to this effect.

"The courts below shall not cancel the bail of an accused granted by the High Court Division without any allegation of proven misuse of the privilege of bail by the accused," the HC said in a full text of its judgement which was released recently.

The HC bench of Justice Md Habibul Gani and Justice Md Badruzzaman had delivered the verdict on October 23 last year on an appeal filed challenging a lower court order that cancelled the HC bail of an accused.

Md Ibrahim, an accused of a case filed with Chandgaon Police Station in Chattogram, has filed the appeal with the

HC, challenging the order of Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Daman Tribunal-5 of Chattogram that cancelled his bail.

On September 7, 2018, the HC had granted ad-interim bail to Ibrahim for six months and issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why he should not be granted permanent bail in the case.

But, the tribunal on June 6, 2019 cancelled the HC bail and sent Ibrahim to jail custody although the HC rule was pending.

Then, Ibrahim filed the appeal with the HC challenging the tribunal's bail cancellation order.

In the full text of verdict, the HC said, "When an accused is enjoying the privilege of ad-interim bail granted by the High Court Division for a limited period in a pending rule under Section 498 of CrPC

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'MASUD RANA' BOOKS

HC stays order on copyright claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the Bangladesh copyright office order for a month, that granted copyright of 260 books of wildly popular espionage-thriller series "Masud Rana" and 50 of "Kuasha" to its ghostwriter Sheikh Abdul Hakim.

It also issued a rule asking authorities to explain why this order of the copyright office should not be illegal.

The cultural affairs secretary, copyright office and its registrar and copyright board were made respondents.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaul Islam and Justice Mohammad Ali came up with the order and rule after virtually hearing on a writ petition filed by author Kazi Anwar Hossain, founder of Seba Prokashani, challenging the copyright office order.

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ERRATUM

The headline of yesterday's report on Page 3 'Wholesale restriction will be constitutional' was misprinted. It should have said 'Wholesale restriction won't be constitutional'. We sincerely regret this unintentional error.

MINI BYTES

How to select the perfect fitness tracker

E RAZA RONNY

Fitness trackers are so cool, right? At the very least, they offer information on your heart rate, oxygen levels and how active you have been all day. Important stuff considering our mostly static lifestyle. We ride the rickshaws, we ride the elevators and we plop ourselves down in front of a desk/PC/smartphone. We don't move. And for the last six months, those who had the privilege to stay/study/work from home, we've never been more inactive.

THE MYTH: FITNESS TRACKERS WILL HELP YOU GET FIT

Technically not a myth. It helps. But it won't do all the work for you. You still have to get up and run, jump and other activity that prevent you from doomscrolling.

CHOOSE BY BUDGET

Prices start from about 1500tk and go all the way up, up and away past the 50k mark. Xiaomi offer multiple basic models such as the Mi Band 4 at 2100 taka. Tracks your heart rate, sleep cycles and is waterproof with excellent 20-day charge. Something like this is perfect for a simple gym partner where it helps track steps, measure your heart rate giving you an idea how you are peaking.

ADD GPS FOR CYCLING

How about GPS? Dhaka and other cities experienced empty streets unlike

nothing anyone has seen after the late 90's. Terrific for cycling. With Covid fears dying because we've stopped caring or just given up, traffic is quickly getting back to abnormal. You can still bike and run.

The Fitbit Charge 4 has a fantastic and accurate GPS along with multiple band sizes. It's about \$130 and I've gotten one quote from a local supplier for just under 20,000 taka. A little pricey after the conversion considering at this range, you should get on-board music.

GET SOME TUNES

For music, you can splash out on the smartwatch route for an Apple Series 3 which is around \$200 (one online shop quoted 29k taka) or the latest Series 5 available in Dhaka for around 44,000 taka.