

‘Death to rapists’

GM Quader demands amendment of law with capital punishment provision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition GM Quader yesterday said the existing law on rape cases should be amended with the provision of maximum death penalty.

In a statement, the Jatiya Party chairman said a special tribunal should be set up to try rape cases.

He said the nation would be freed from this social disorder if the verdict was executed expeditiously after completing the trial within three months.

He sought the government’s attention in this regard.

In the statement, GM Quader said Jatiya Party founding chairman Hussain Mohammad Ershad had enacted a law with the provision of death penalty to stop acid attack against women.

Quick implementation of the judgment lessened such heinous activities in the country to a great extent.

GM Quader called upon the government to take effective steps to amend the rape law to protect the dignity of women in the current situation.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Five months of being closed due to the coronavirus has changed a lot of things about Rupnagar’s Islamia Government Primary School. Taking advantage of the closure, authorities have decided to erect a new premise, works for which are going at what used to be the school’s playground. Students who live nearby used to play here, and they still come to play amid all the construction materials and ditches. Though it looks all fun and frolic, a construction site is not without its risks for unattended children. The photo was taken on Sunday.

Quick action taken against perpetrators

Says home minister on Noakhali gang-rape incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said members of law enforcement agency are acting quickly to arrest the accused in the Noakhali gang rape incident case.

“You could say there is no rule of law, if we were sitting quietly, or our law enforcers were sitting quietly and not doing anything or if our local administration was doing nothing,” he said while replying to questions at his secretariat.

Everyone including the district deputy commissioner, UNO and superintendent of police are working in this regard, said Asaduzzaman.

Questioned about the police and local administration’s ignorance on this brutality for a month before it went viral on social media, the minister said, “Victims usually hide after such incidents happen to them. They do not want to disclose the matter. I don’t know what happened in this

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DU plans life after reopening

Avoiding session jams a priority

ASHIK ABDULLAH API

As possible ways out of a shutdown-induced session jam, the authorities of Dhaka University are mulling over various measures, including merging two semesters into one, taking extra classes, and cutting public holidays.

Now in its sixth month, the shutdown has already left academic calendars in disarray, prompting the authorities to start thinking of ways to make up for the loss in lessons and delayed exams once the university reopens.

In this regard, a draft instruction for residential students has already been prepared in the last meeting of the provost committee that took place on September 17.

“We are considering several measures. We have discussed merging two semesters into one. If it happens, then the classes and examinations of

chosen departments will be conducted according to the procedures of a yearly system,” said DU Pro-Vice-Chancellor (education) Prof ASM Maksud Kamal.

“For the departments that already follow the yearly system, we can take examinations by curtailing the timeline of classes by eight to nine months,” he told The Daily Star.

While Prof Kamal hoped that the students would not have to face long session jams, he said a little of it may be inevitable. “Those who are at the end of master’s or honours degree may face a jam of some months. But freshers and sophomores will not have to face any session jam,” he said.

A week after the country reported its first Covid-19 case on March 8, the DU authorities, like all other educational institutions, suspended academic activities till March 28, only to extend it further. As of the latest

announcement, the university will remain closed till October 31.

In the first week of July, DU started online classes in all the departments. But the endeavour could not yield much results as many students, especially those who went back to their homes in rural areas, did not have the access to digital devices and internet connections.

This is one of the reasons why some students think that the authorities should not hold examinations right after the reopening, and allow breathing room for such students.

“Not everyone could join the online classes. Considering their situation, the university should not hold examinations right after the reopening,” Adnan Ahmed, a final year student of marketing department, told this newspaper.

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WORLD EDUCATION WEEK

Three Brac schools among 100 selected around the world

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three Bangladeshi schools, all run by Brac, have been selected among 100 schools from across the globe to showcase their best practices and promote a higher and better standard of education during the ongoing World Education Week.

The selected schools will each host a one-hour session from 5-9 October, to be streamed live around the world.

T4, a global forum dedicated to teachers’ development, is hosting the virtual programme.

On the inaugural day (yesterday), Brac held a session titled “Making schools more resilient to climate change” on Vati Jamalgor BRAC Primary Boat School—a boat-school that became the classroom for the children of low lying haor area of Tahirpur in Sunamganj.

A boat school showcases the idea of taking education to those who cannot go to schools and risk dropping out. A total of 600 such boat schools are currently being operated

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Abul Hashem regularly stations himself and trusted pet pony outside the national zoo in the capital, to provide visitors horseback rides. He bought this horse for Tk 43,000 after the previous one died around three years ago. Carrying on with his father’s profession, he earns Tk 300-500 a day, just enough to make ends meet as he says none of his five children would look after him.

BD CSO PROCESS CONFERENCE

Ensure accountability, transparency of local NGOs: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Promoting local NGOs was a necessity to uphold dignity of the country’s marginalised population, said speakers at a virtual conference yesterday.

Besides, they stressed the need for ensuring accountability and transparency of local NGOs.

BD CSO Process, a forum of about 700 local NGOs and civil society organisations (CSO), organised the virtual conference on “Building civil societies, complementarity and leadership of local actors,” said a press release.

It was participated by around 300 local and international participants, and moderated by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, national coordinator of the forum, said the release.

Two more sessions of the conference will be held on Thursday and Saturday, according to organisers.

Chairing yesterday’s conference, Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, chairman of

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Have to start from scratch

Says Taposh on bus route rationalisation after finding almost no progress in 2yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two years after forming the high-powered committee, the new DSCC mayor yesterday found almost no progress in bringing the city buses under six companies and the traffic system under discipline.

“Though many decisions were taken in 11 previous meetings, we did not find those implemented properly, except two, for which we have to start the work from the beginning,” said Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh after holding the 12th meeting of the committee.

The government on September 9, 2018 formed the 10-member committee for bus route rationalisation.

Taposh, who chaired the 12th meeting, said a feasibility study has been done and they will be able to take it to a realistic stage centring on two things -- route rationalisation and constructing terminals -- based on the inception report.

“We will hold another meeting on November 10,” said the mayor.

Responding to the question of pilot route from Ghatarchar to Narayanganj, the mayor said the work is depending on the feasibility study’s outcome and will be decided after taking opinion from all stakeholders.

The mayor said it is very unfortunate that many decisions were taken in the previous meetings but were not implemented. Citing examples, he said there was a decision of not issuing any new route permit but authorities concerned already gave them and the initiative to start circular bus services at some places did not continue.

“We are now very serious. Previously it was said the work would be completed by two years..., so we do not want to give any specific time frame,” he said.

DNCC Mayor Atiqul islam was also present at the meeting.

MEDICAL QUESTION LEAK

‘Mastermind’ DGHE staffer arrested: CID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested a machine operator of Directorate General of Health Education (DGHE) on charges of leaking medical and dental admission test question papers.

A team of CID’s cyber police unit arrested Abdus Salam from the capital’s Banasree area on Monday, Special Superintendent of CID Ashrafal Alam told reporters at a briefing at its headquarters.

Salam, “one of the masterminds of a question-leak gang”, went into hiding after CID arrested five members of the group on July 19, he said.

After arresting the five, CID said the question papers of medical and dental admission tests were leaked repeatedly from the printing press under DGHE.

According to CID, Salam used to leak questions from the press for many years, with help from influential department officials. Another accused, Jasim -- who was arrested during the July 19 drive -- used to spread the leaked questions all over the country using a strong network.

Through this, they embezzled cores, CID officials said, adding that hundreds of students got enrolled into medical and dental colleges through this gang.

The officials said they came to know through multiple sources that these question papers were printed from the press under Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) since 1988, and members

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GOPAL KRISHNA MUHURI MURDER

SC commutes death sentence of three to imprisonment till death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday commuted the death sentence of three convicts to imprisonment till natural death in sensational Gopal Krishna Muhuri murder case of Chattogram.

Principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri of Nazirhat College in Chittagong was killed at his Jamal Khan Road residence in Chattogram on November 16, 2001. Three gunmen accompanied by an unarmed criminal broke into his house, dragged him to the drawing room from his bedroom and shot him in his head.

The gruesome killing of an educationist only 35 days after the then BNP-Jamaat coalition came to power shocked the nation.

Yesterday, a three-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Justice Muhammad Imman Ali passed the order after hearing the convicts’ appeals.

The grounds on which the apex court commuted their sentence could not be known immediately as the full text of the verdict was not released.

The three convicts are Azam, Alamgir Kabir alias Baitta Alamgir and Taslim Uddin Montu and they are now in condemn cell, Deputy Attorney General Amit Das Gupta told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the three convicts will be kept in normal prison cell as they are not death-row convicts. The DAG, however, could not say in which jail they are serving their punishment.

Following the death reference and appeals of the convicts, the High Court on July 19, 2006 upheld a lower court verdict that sentenced four people -- Nasir alias Gittu Nasir, Azam, Alamgir Kabir alias Baitta Alamgir and Taslim Uddin Montu -- to death for killing Gopal Krishna Muhuri.

Of them, Gittu had been killed in crossfire with Rab on March 2, 2005. The other three, who are in jail, filed separate appeals with the SC challenging the HC verdict.

Lawyers Khandker Mahbub Hossain and Helal Uddin Mollah appeared for the convicts.

মিস্টি সুখের আয়োজনে

Sweet drops

প্রতি ফোঁটায় চিনিমুক্ত মিস্টিস্বাদ

0 CALORIES WORRIES

বাংলাদেশের প্রথম চিনিমুক্ত সুইটস

সুইট ড্রপস্‌ উৎসব প্রাঙ্গণে অসিদ্ধকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত বাংলাদেশের প্রথম চিনিমুক্ত সুইটস। এতে রয়েছে সুকোমল বিস্কি যা চিনির প্রচুর ৬০০ কল বেশি দিলে। সুইট ড্রপস্‌ সম্পূর্ণ ক্যালোরিক বা ডায়াবেটিক এবং স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষণে মানুষের জন্য উপকারী। সুইট ড্রপস্‌-এর প্রতি ফোঁটায় মিষ্টতা এক যা চিনির চিনির সমতুল্য। তাই চা, কফি, জল এবং মিষ্টি জাতীয় খাবারে আইসি চিনির পরিবর্তে যেহে কোন সুইট ড্রপস্‌। এটি সম্পূর্ণ নিরাসাদ এবং স্বাস্থ্যের পর অসিদ্ধকার স্বাস্থ্যক।

প্রস্তুতকারক: ফার্মাসিয়া লিমিটেড