

Man held on charge of sexually abusing 4 children in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly sexually abused four children over the course of a week, luring them with candy, in the capital's Khilgaon area.

The victims, aged between six and nine, were sent to one-stop crisis centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Wednesday night for medical tests.

Police arrested the accused, Sazal Mollah (55) after victims' families filed a case last evening in this regard, said Faruqul Alam, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station.

The OC said the children live near Sazal's home in Goran area, and that Sazal is a rickshaw puller.

Quoting victims' families, police said Sazal used to lure the children with candy to his home and sexually abused them.

He had been doing this for several days, Faruqul added.

The families came to know about it and filed a case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Sazal will be sent to court with a remand prayer today, said the Khilgaon Police Station OC.



Workers of readymade garment factories leave their workplaces for lunch in the capital's Agargaon yesterday, with not a mask in sight. The World Bank in a report yesterday said one in 10 people of the capital may have already been infected with the novel coronavirus.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Another month-old rape surfaces only after video release

Two teens confess to crime

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Two accused among 15 in a case for gang-raping a girl and assaulting another in Savar confessed to court of the crime yesterday.

Earlier on Wednesday night, the rape victim's elder sister filed the case against 10 named and five unnamed members of a gang, Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The accused are: gang leader Sharuf (18), "Shadhu market" Al-Amin (19), "Diamond" Al-Amin (18), Zakir (18), Redoan (19), Badsha (18), Jihad (20), "Goru" Al-Amin (19), "Bata" Al-amin (19), and Shakil (19).

All are members of a gang known as "Prince gang" lead by Sharuf, police said. Sharuf, Diamond Al-Amin, Jakir and Rakib were detained in separate drives on Wednesday, said OC Kamruzzaman.

Among the detainees, three were shown arrested in the case and sent to court with seven-day remand prayers, while Rakib was released as police did not find his involvement in the incident, the OC added.

Dhaka's senior judicial magistrates Md Rajib Hassan and Md Moniruzzaman recorded the confessional statements of Sharuf and Zakir respectively under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) after investigation officer AKM Fazlul Haque, an inspector of Ashulia Police Station, produced the duo at their chambers.

Diamond Al-Amin was also produced before the court with a seven-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

ATTACK ON HASINA'S MOTORCADE HC clears way to resume trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the lower court concerned to resume the trial proceedings of a case filed over the attack on motorcade of the then opposition leader and now Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Satkhira in 2002.

The court lifted its stay order and also discharged the rule issued more than three years back, questioning the proceedings. It also directed the trial court to finish the trial proceedings in three months.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain delivered the verdict after virtually holding hearing on the rule.

AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, the lawyer for Rakib alias Rakibur Rahman, an accused of the case, told The Daily Star that the HC has discharged the rule as the trial court has recorded the statements from the witnesses.

Mahbub Uddin, however, said his client will move an appeal before the Appellate Division, challenging the HC order as he was 10 years old during the incident.

The case is now pending with the chief judicial magistrate court in Satkhira, he informed.

Following a petition filed by Rakib, another HC bench on August 23, 2017 stayed the trial proceedings.

During hearing on the rule recently, Mahbub Uddin

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Tk 2,000CR SCAM Freeze 88 accounts of 5 including ex-AL leader: court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday

ordered the authorities

concerned to freeze 88

bank accounts of five

accused, including a

former Awami League

leader of Faridpur in a

Tk 2,000-crore money

laundering case.

The accused are: Sajjad

Hossain alias Barkat,

former general secretary

of Faridpur unit Awami

League, and his brother

Imtiaz Hasan alias

Rubel, former president

of Faridpur Press Club,

Rubel's wife Soheli Imroz

Punam, Barkat's wife

Afroza Akhter and their

accomplice Abdus Sadek

Mukul.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Enact, enforce strict laws for rape: Speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday said strict laws have to be enacted and enforced as well as exemplary punishment for rapists must be ensured as soon as possible.

"Repression and rape against women is not acceptable in any way. Rape is the worst form of crime," she said while addressing a virtual dialogue.

UNFPA and parliament secretariat organised the programme, "Concerted Response to Stop Child Marriage, Prevent Gender Based Violence and Improve Maternal Health During Natural Disaster and Covid-19 Pandemic".

The Speaker joined the programme virtually as the chief guest from the Jatiya Sangsad.

"As part of the national response plan, the upazila women's affairs officers can play the role of first responders and assist them in getting all the legal help if any woman is being abused in remote areas," she said, adding that awareness is needed to prevent violence against women.

The event was chaired by Awami League MP Meher Afroze, convener of the sub-committee on prevention of child marriage and gender based violence and also chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on women and children affairs.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatun Nessa Indira, UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo and UNFPA Representative Asa Britta Torkelsson, among others, joined the programme. Aroma Dutta, a member of the sub-committee, presented the keynote paper.

Road crashes kill four

STAR REPORT

Two persons died in separate accidents in Dhaka early yesterday, while two more lives were lost on the road in Khulna.

The deceased were identified as Jahidul Islam (30) and Md Ripon (18).

An unidentified vehicle hit Ripon while he was crossing a road near Jamuna Future Park around 2am. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, said Bachchu Mia, in-charge of police outpost at the hospital.

In Tikatuli, another unidentified vehicle hit Ripon, leaving him dead, he added.

Jahid's nephew Md Ali said Jahid was on a truck last night to carry bricks from Manikganj to Tikatuli. "We came to know that he died in a road accident around 4am," he added.

Our Khulna correspondent adds, two people were killed and another was injured as a bus and a human hauler collided in front of Muktiyoddha Mahila College in Dumuria upazila yesterday.

The deceased are human hauler driver Aminul Islam (55) from Sajiara village in Dumuria; and Mizanur Rahman Sheikh (60) from Sahas village in the area, said Dumuria Police Station OC Aminul Islam.

50pc irregularities will come down if cases filed centrally

Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 50 percent of irregularities at the Supreme Court will be reduced if cases are filed centrally, said Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain on Wednesday.

"If we don't find out the root of the problems, irregularities will not be dispelled..." he said without elaborating the irregularities.

He made the comment while speaking as chief guest at a meeting organised in memory of late Attorney General Mahbubey Alam who passed away on September 27.

Law Reporters Forum (LRF) organised the event at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium.

Mahmud Hossain said, "Mahbubey Alam had told me that all the irregularities at the court must be stopped and he also said if a central system (of filing cases) is introduced, the irregularities will be prevented."

"I want his wish to be implemented. No case will be heard and disposed of from now on breaking the serial," the chief justice said.

He also asked journalists to publish reports on SC verdicts regarding confirmation of death sentences of convicts along with verdicts of the acquittals of accused.

He said the government is embarrassed at the incidents of rape as a minister reportedly said the government cannot avoid the responsibility of the incidents. "We, who are in the judiciary, also want proper trial of the

incidents," he said.

Reminiscing works and life of Mahbubey Alam, the chief justice prayed for eternal peace and salvation of his departed soul.

Law Minister Anisul Huq, who spoke as special guest, told the meeting that the late attorney general never compromised with his non-communal belief and spirit of the Liberation War.

He never backtracked from protecting the independence and dignity of the judiciary. "If the rare qualities of Mahbubey Alam are followed, he will be honoured properly," the minister said.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim said giving false enrolment certificates by the Bangladesh Bar Council has been stopped through the sole attempts of Mahbubey Alam as its chairman.

The judiciary has accepted and recorded many of his (Mahbubey Alam) arguments, he said, adding that research on Mahbubey Alam needs to take place.

Justice Obaidul Hassan, a judge of the SC's Appellate Division; State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mahbub Ali; High Court judges Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Jahangir Hossain Selim; former Appellate Division judge Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik; SCBA President AM Amin Uddin, Additional Attorney General Murad Reza, SCBA Secretary Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, SC lawyer KM Saifuddin and LRF President Mashudul Hoque also spoke.

SC modifies Muhuri murder verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday modified its verdict in the sensational Gopal Krishna Muhuri murder case of Chattogram.

In the modified verdict, the SC fined Tk 50,000 to each three convicts whose death sentences were commuted to imprisonment till their natural death.

In the default to pay the fine, the convicts will have to serve imprisonment for more one year, the SC said in the modified judgement. Deputy Attorney General Amit Das Gupta told The Daily Star.

He said a three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Muhammad Imman Ali modified its verdict on suomoto (voluntary) move as there is a provision for fining along with the life imprisonment until death under Section 302 of the Penal Code.

On October 6, the SC, inadvertently, did not mention the punishment of fining in its verdict, said the DAG.

Meanwhile, Khandker Mahbub Hossain, a lawyer for convict Alamgir Kabir alias Baita Alamgir, said his client will move a review petition.

He said the fine is a must along with the imprisonment as per Section 302. But how will the convicts serve imprisonment for one more year after they die if they don't pay fine? he said.

The ground on which the apex court delivered the verdict could not be known as its full text is yet to be released.

On October 6, the Appellate Division bench had delivered the verdict in Gopal Krishna Muhuri murder case after hearing the appeals of three convicts against the High Court judgement.

In the verdict, the apex court commuted the death sentence of three convicts -- Azam, Alamgir Kabir alias Baita Alamgir and Taslim Uddin Montu to imprisonment till their natural death.

Where good deeds is the currency

MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

It's not a regular restaurant. You won't see the usual imagery of a shabby hotel here. No waiters running around like shuttle trains, no customers hagglng with cash counter supervisors over a bill. It's so different in fact, that it doesn't even run on monetary exchange!

At Bhalo Kajer Hotel, the accepted currency is "good deeds". It's a restaurant where you can eat to stomach's peace day and night, all for free, as long as you have done a good deed on that day.

The "restaurant" is located beside a footpath near the Kamalapur Railway Station. At the spot, a white wall bears the name of the eatery, written in deep red for your eye's convenience.

If one crosses the area between 1:30pm and 3pm from Sunday to



Samaritans enjoy a filling meal at Bhalo Kajer Hotel in Kamalapur.

Thursday, a battery-powered van can be seen parked there. This is the Bhalo Kajer Hotel.

A couple of youths can be seen picking up food packs from the van and distributing them to a waiting crowd gathered on the footpath.

When this correspondent went

to visit the place, he saw a young volunteer in the role of a surveyor. With a clipboard in hand, he took turns asking the crowd two questions: "What's your name?" and "Did you do any good deed today?" That's all you need to eat at the mobile restaurant.

It's only been a few months since the initiative was launched -- it started in August this year.

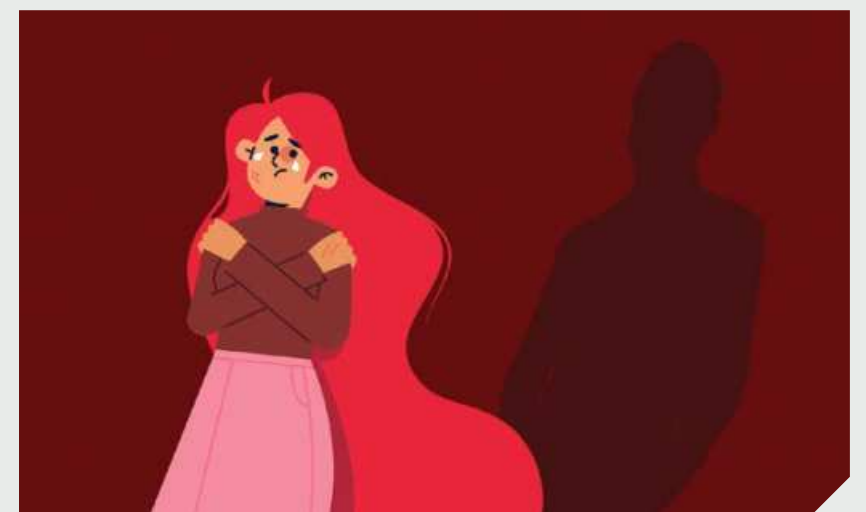
The eatery opens its door between 1:30pm and 3pm from Sunday to Thursday and between 7pm and 9:30pm on Saturday. Along with the spot at Kamalapur, they also distribute food to almost 300 people at various mosques and orphanages across Dhaka around Jumah time every Friday.

On weekends, the food packs come with chicken, beef, mutton khichuri and tehari. Khichuri and eggs go for the rest of the week.

The initiative was started on August 29 by Youth for Bangladesh (YFB), a Facebook-based volunteering organisation, said its founder Ariful Rahman. The endeavour goes further back

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

MINI BYTES



3 personal safety apps for travelling

EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

A woman can't really walk through the city streets alone without feeling that uneasy need to look over the shoulder. Bangladesh saw an increase in rape by 19 percent from 2018 to 2019. This year seems to be competing with incidents of sexual assault, kidnapping and violence against women and children. Following are a list of personal safety apps that are a no-brainer for women that need to increase their chances of safety while travelling.

LIFE360 FAMILY LOCATOR APP

You sync family members and friends in one place for a single texting thread. The app notifies family when you reach a particular destination while providing real-time info of your whereabouts. You can also limit the number of people who can track your whereabouts. This is great if you need to travel for work.

MY SAFETIPIN

This app shows up on a regular basis as one of the top safety apps. I tried it and it is quite simple to use with an easy interface. It has GPS location tracking and auto calling of preset emergency contact numbers.

It also suggests areas safe nearby while allowing you to give ratings according to how safe or unsafe you consider a particular location. The data is collected based on number of women and children around, the population density and availability of public transport.

WOMEN SAFETY

While the other apps send messages to emergency numbers, this one also sends emails containing your location and a Google Maps link to preselected people. The app also takes and sends two pictures from your phone's camera along with a video/audio clip.

It has quick react buttons of three colours for three categories. Obviously red will directly inform someone of a dangerous situation that you are in. Basically, if you think you are in a difficult situation, you would have to get hold of your smartphone and press



the button from the app. The one major flaw is it has ads that pop up.

KEEP IN MIND:

These apps won't prevent trouble. And taking out a phone may not always be possible. But having technology to assist means you have that one extra factor aiding your safety. We have had a few local apps come up tackling this issue. Apps like Joy 109 was launched couple years back but now it is nowhere to be found. BD 999 is a promising app but it wouldn't let me register. It alerts Bangladesh Police by sending emergency messages along with your location and a quick video with subsequent updates. Also, all these apps require GPS which will drain the battery faster so keep your smartphone charged and preferably carry a powerbank to top up.

For further queries, contact ronnyraza@gmail.com