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Women repression unabated despite stringent law

1,479 rape cases recorded in 6 months

ALPHA ARZU

Despite prevailing stringent laws in the country to protect women, violence in different forms against women still goes on unabated with offenders cocking a snook at the laws of the state.

Repression on women have increased manifold over the last few months. The brutality is inflicted on them mainly for dowry, disputes over wedding and land, said women activists working to promote and ensure women's rights in the country.

At least 1,479 women had been raped in six months beginning from January of 2009 while a total of 395 rape incidences, the highest number recorded, were committed in Dhaka Range followed by 390 in Rajshahi and the lowest two in Railway Range, said Home Minister Sahara Khatun at a parliament session on October 12.

She also added that at least 3,462 women in 2008 and 3,584 in 2007 were violated.

On September 25, an adolescent was gang-raped following her abduction by 10

Bangladesh Chhatra League activists while she was returning from a Puja Mandop in Kolapar upazila in Patuakhali district.

Four police constables raped a woman from ethnic minority community on 28 February 2009 in Khagrachhari while an Indian BSF violated a Bangladeshi woman and killed her husband in Satkhira in last April.

Advocate Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), told The Daily Star, "There are a number of laws including Dowry Prohibition Act, Prevention of Women and Child Repression Act (2000) which provides for effective and efficient way of dealing with cases of violence against women such as rape, acid attacks, forced prostitution and trafficking."

The other acts include Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act 1933, Family Court Ordinance, Cruelty to Women (Deterrent Punishment) Ordinance and Trafficking in Women and Children Act 1993.

"Without proper implementation of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN
The bank of river Buriganga is being filled up for setting up a tax collection centre. This snap was taken yesterday near the first Buriganga Bridge. Inset, the site for the centre has been authorised by the BIWTA.

College student murdered in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Miscreants murdered a second year student of Rajshahi New Government Degree College in the city Thursday night.

The victim is identified as Rassel alias Babu, 18, of Patnitala in Naogaon.

He was a resident of Sheikh Chhatrabas, a private dormitory. The criminals stabbed him in front of Rajshahi Institute of Health Technology while he was on his way back to the dormitory after having dinner outside, said Afzal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rajpara thana.

He was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

No BNP committee in Delwar's home district

Manikganj dist, 7 upazila committees expired 9-10 years ago

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The main opposition party BNP has no committee for the last 10 years in Manikganj, the home district of its secretary general, to run its activities.

Manikganj was also one of the four BNP district units, which were left out from the convening committee forming process that started from June this year.

Even the seven upazila unit committees under the district expired at least nine years ago.

Interestingly, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain has not taken any initiative in forming even a convening committee there over the last one decade.

He, however, told The Daily Star on

Wednesday, the committee would be formed whenever the chairperson asks for.

But the BNP standing committee at a meeting on Thursday night decided to hold party's national council on December 8 and asked all district units to complete the process of forming full-fledged committees through holding council by November 25.

The last committee of Manikganj district BNP, a convening one led by ex-MP Harunur Rashid Munnu, was dissolved in 1999. The last full-fledged Manikganj BNP was headed by Delwar prior to that.

After 1999, no committee could be formed due to strong opposition from Khandaker Delwar Hossain, local leaders alleged.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Assam worried over China's planned dam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The government of northeastern Indian state of Assam is seriously concerned over the reported construction of a dam by China on the Yarlum Tsangpo River in Tibet, the source of the river Brahmaputra.

Tarun Gogoi, chief minister of Assam, yesterday said, "The Assam government is seriously concerned about the construction of a dam by China over Yarlum Tsangpo. We apprehend it will affect Assam and dry up the river Brahmaputra and other water resources downstream."

Experts say construction of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Villagers chase sand lifters

Drive them away from Bongshai bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over a thousand people of Savar and South Keraniganj yesterday drove away sand collectors who were dredging the river Bongshai illegally.

Witnesses said the people from 10 villages later barricaded Savar-Keraniganj road at Itabhabra Bridge for over three hours from 1:30pm.

They said their houses and land along the riverbank have been threatened by erosion due to illegal sand lifting from the river.

The villagers equipped with bamboo, sticks and other weapons chased after the sand collectors at about 1:30pm.

Witnesses said employees and hired labourers of the sand collectors tried to attack the villagers who were protesting at illegal sand lifting. As the number of villagers was much higher than the people of sand collectors, the latter beat a retreat.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

7 JMB men on fresh remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The seven arrested members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were taken on a fresh five-day remand last afternoon.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate BM Tariqul Kabir granted the five-day remand after police had produced the militants before the court with remand prayers for eight days, said Sub-Inspector M Hafizur Rahman, investigation officer (IO) of the case.

Police identified the arrestees as JMB Rajshahi division chief Ashraf alias Haider, 32, Naogaon district

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



HELLO MAYOR ... IS THIS OUR FOOTPATH?

Construction equipment and materials kept on Gulshan Avenue and its footpath compels pedestrians to take the main traffic lane risking their lives and limbs. This common complaint of the citizens, incidentally, goes unnoticed by the authorities.

PHOTO: STAR

CANAL RECOVERY

KCC suspends drive for fund crunch

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) has suspended its drive against encroachers of canals reportedly due to fund crisis although half of the city canals still remain under the grip of illegal occupiers.

Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, who is now abroad, however showed no specific reason for discontinuing the drive that was launched on

July 3 with a vow to free the canals from encroachers.

A new long-term project is being planned to resume the drive with the same aim, said acting Mayor Azmal Ahmed Tapan who was made convenor of the 16-member drive committee after the murder of his predecessor ward councillor Shahid Iqbal Bithar on July 11.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

3 of a family die in boat capsize

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A father and his two baby daughters died when their boat capsized at Gopinathpur

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Bombings kill 13 at Pak police station

Suicide attackers set off 2 blasts

AP, Peshawar

A trio of suicide attackers, including a rare female bomber, set off two blasts outside a police station in the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar yesterday, killing 13 people in the latest bloodshed in an unrelenting wave of terror plaguing the country.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but suspicion fell on the Taliban, who have been blamed for two weeks of attacks that have killed more than 150 people across the country and appear aimed at forcing the government to

abandon a planned offensive into the militants' stronghold along the Afghan border.

The Friday afternoon attack targeted a heavily fortified police station next to a mosque in the main city in Pakistan's Taliban-riddled North West Frontier province. A car filled with explosives drove to the main gate of the police station as a motorcycle carrying a man and a woman pulled up behind it, Peshawar police chief Liaquat Ali Khan said.

The woman jumped off and ran toward a nearby housing complex where army officers

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OnlinePoll

Do you think the NBR case against Awami League leader Abdul Jalil is politically influenced for his recent remarks on national election and the cabinet?

Yes (90.9%)
No (8.2%)
No Comments (0.9%)

Total votes: 954

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Khaleda Zia's decision not to attend the anti-poverty rally with Sheikh Hasina is right?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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