

SCHOOLGIRL'S SUICIDE Headmaster indicted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Police yesterday pressed charges against school-teacher Mokhesur Rahman who allegedly raped a class IX student forcing her to commit suicide in Tanore a month ago.

Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam of Tanore Police Station submitted the charge sheet with Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal of Rajshahi, said the court sources.

Mokhesur, headmaster of Chanduria Abu Bakar High School of Tanore upazila, still remains absconding.

According to the case, Mokhesur called victim -- Shanchita Khatun to the school in the morning of June 1 during the school's vacation and raped her. Returning home, the 15-year old girl hanged herself.

Shanchita's mother Rashida Khatun later filed the case accusing Mokhesur in this regard.



Members of South Asian Women's Network (SWAN) on Media along with women journalists from print and electronic media, including The Daily Star, pose for photograph during a meeting at the Daily Star Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Japanese scholarship deal signed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Japan yesterday signed official documents for Japanese grant aid for human resource development scholarship for higher studies of the government officials in Japan.

Dr Takao Toda, chief representative of Bangladesh office of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), and M Musharraf Hossain, secretary to the Economic Relations Division, signed the documents on behalf of their respective governments, says a press release.

Fifteen government officials will be recruited to study in Japan from the summer 2012. In addition to this, another 15 government officials from BCS cadre and Bangladesh Bank, will leave in August for Japan to study in master's course.

Police action on Oil, Gas body protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some eminent personalities yesterday strongly condemned police attack on leaders and activists of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports during their half-day strike.

Forty-seven people including former justice, academicians, human rights workers, writers and journalists in a joint statement demanded immediate release of the arrested leaders and activists of the committee.

Every citizen has the democratic right to protest any activity that goes against national interest, they said, urging the government to allow every citizen to practice their democratic rights.

The signatories include Justice Ghulam Rabbani, Prof Anu Muhammad, Dr Akmol Hossain, Dr Dalem Chandra Barman, Dr Meghna Guhathakurta and Dr Gitira Nasrin.

'Repeal 15th amendment to constitution'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) yesterday demanded the government to repeal fifteenth amendment to the constitution to restore 1972 constitution.

Expressing concern over the amendment to the constitution, BMP leaders, in a statement, said although four national principles—nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism—have been restored by the fifteenth amendment, Islam has been retained as the state religion.

"Religion is solely a personal matter of people. State can never have any religion," said the leaders.

POLLUTION DoE fines dyeing unit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) has fined Barnali Fabrics, a dyeing factory on the bank of Dhaleshwari river in Munshiganj, Tk 25 lakh yesterday on charge of polluting the river with toxic liquid industrial waste.

DoE Director (Enforcement) Md Munir Chowdhury conducted a drive at the factory on Saturday and fined its proprietor at the directorate yesterday, said a DoE press release.

Managing director of the Barnali Fabrics, engineer M A Rashid, admitted to have caused the river pollution and begged to be pardoned.

The DoE official issued a notice to the authority to remove the illegal underground drain of the factory that carries the untreated red-coloured liquid industrial waste directly to the Dhaleshwari river and to install effluent treatment plant (ETP) within 24 hours. The fine will be realised today.

Earlier, the DoE officials found the ETP of the dyeing factory was left totally out of order though the production was going on.

The industry had been given warning twice to stop discharging liquid waste and to set up ETP but the factory authority ignored it.

Fake doctor arrested for treating patients at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He used to treat the patients of gynecology ward at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) over the last one month. He used to look after the patients of the ward in the evening shifts, gave various advice to them and even scrutinised the patients' treatment files.

But, actually he is not a doctor but he has done all these things in guise of a doctor.

Police yesterday arrested fake doctor, Mashiur Rahman Samrat, 24, from DMCH.

Police seized his fake identity card, blood pressure machine, stethoscope, apron and some medical books from his possession.

Hospital's doctors said two duty doctors of labour ward found Samrat was flipping a patient's file and behaving indecently with another patient for being late to give his treatment file at about 2:30pm.

The duty doctors then challenged him for his suspicious behaviour, they said.

Samrat could not give proper answers to them but said he was a doctor of DMCH, they added.

As they were not convinced in his reply then he

claimed that he is a student of K-66 batch of Dhaka Medical College, said the doctors.

Later, he was placed before the hospital director but he could not reply the director's questions.

The hospital authorities handed him over to the police.

Golam Rabbani, a commander of Ansar of the hospital, filed a case against him with Shahbagh Police Station in this connection.

An on duty nurse said Samrat had been serving at the ward regularly since the first week of June this year.

Bulbuli Begum, a patient of the ward said Samrat looked after few patients of the ward, including her, and he also checked her treatment file.

Samrat, however, claimed that he is a student of the medical college and also an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League and became a victim of conspiracy by his rival group.

But he could not give any answer about his academic background.

Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said they will place him before the court today.

TV news presentation course ends

METRO DESK

A month-long training course on 'Television News Presentation' organised by Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIJEM) concluded at the institute in the city on Saturday.

Lion MA Awal, chairman and managing director of Haveli Group, was present as the chief guest while Muzahidul Islam Sibbir, news presenter of ETV and Jasminara Fardousy, news presenter of My TV, were present as special guests.

BIJEM Executive Director Mirza Tarekul Qader presided over the programme.

A total of 40 participants, including 28 female students of different universities and colleges, took part in the course.



Activists of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports damaging a vehicle on Dhaka University campus during its hartal yesterday protesting production-sharing contract (PSC) with US-based oil company ConocoPhillips for oil and gas exploration. Inset: the owner of the vehicle begs them not to damage it.

PHOTO: STAR

Shun hartal

FROM PAGE 1
achieved by enforcing hartal. In the end, all matters will be solved through talks. Enforcing hartal in the mid-way is misuse of time, money and wealth.

"So join parliament and place proposals on any issue. Let's start discussion," he said after a discussion at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium at Central Public Library in the capital.

Ashtaf, also the LGRD and cooperatives minister, said still there are issues that have not been resolved through the constitutional amendments. "How the election commissioners will be appointed remains unresolved. When the next election will be held and how the voter list will be updated, among many other issues, need to be discussed."

Since 1971, issues like caretaker government, voter

list and election commission have been resolved through discussion, said the AL leader hoping that all the matters will be resolved through discussion in the future too.

"I request the opposition to shun hartal and sit for talks to reach a consensus on how to hold the next election. We hope the BNP will respond to the call for discussion."

On the hartal called for July 6 and 7 by BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami, he said they hope it will be observed peacefully. The government will take all measures to maintain law and order and protect the lives and property of the people.

He added that there is no possibility of confrontation if the opposition observes the hartal peacefully, but the government will go tough if it resorts to violence.

Manmohan's comment

FROM PAGE 1
necessity of one more statement on the issue," Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes said yesterday.

He was talking to journalists after a 75-minute meeting with Indian High Commissioner Rajeev Mitter at the foreign ministry.

Rajeev declined to make any comment about the meeting.

Responding to questions, the foreign secretary neither confirmed nor denied that Manmohan remarks were discussed at the meeting.

Asked whether the high commissioner was summoned, Quayes said it was a pre-scheduled meeting relating to the upcoming visit of Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna. Deputy High Commissioner Sanjay Bhattacharyya was

also present at the meeting. Krishna is due to arrive in Dhaka on July 6 on a three-day official visit for talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Dipu Moni as preparatory to Manmohan's visit to Bangladesh likely in September. He is also due to call on President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In reply to a question, Quayes said some of Krishna's programmes in Dhaka might be rearranged as the "hartal issue surfaced" before his visit.

The main opposition BNP and its allies have called a 48-hour hartal on July 6-7 protesting abolition of the caretaker system and other constitutional amendments.

Meanwhile, India yesterday denied that its envoy to

Bangladesh was summoned to explain the prime minister's "off-the-record" remarks and added that the meeting [with Bangladesh foreign secretary] was only scheduled to discuss the external affairs minister's visit to Dhaka this week.

"Our HC (high commissioner) in Dhaka 2 (to) meet BD (Bangladesh) FS (foreign secretary) 2day (today) to discuss forthcoming official visit of EAM to BD," Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Vishnu Prakash said on his twitter account.

He also said media reports that Indian envoy Rajeev Mitter was summoned to explain the prime minister's remarks was "speculative", according to a report in Indian media yesterday.

Rules amended

FROM PAGE 20

crimes against humanity in 1971 will be considered an accused.

About protection of witnesses and victims, the latest amendments state the tribunal, on its own initiative or on the application from either party, may pass necessary order directing the authorities concerned to ensure protection, privacy and well-being of the witnesses as well as the victims.

The process of providing protection to the witnesses or victims will be considered confidential and the other side will not be notified.

The government will also arrange accommodation, security and surveillance to the witnesses and victims.

In case of holding proceedings in camera, both the prosecution and the defence counsel will provide undertakings regarding confidentiality of the proceeding, and will not reveal any information arising out of such proceeding including identity of the witness, the amendments read.

Anybody violating such undertaking will be prosecuted under the act.

Before the latest amendment, there was no provision in the act for protecting witnesses

and victims.

About granting bail, the amendments say in case of failure of the investigation agency to complete the probe within a year against an accused in custody, the accused may be released on bail by fulfilling some conditions as imposed by the tribunal.

But, in exceptional circumstances, the tribunal by showing reasons to be recorded in writing may extend the period of investigation and also the order detaining the accused in custody for a further period of six months.

Caretaker system

FROM PAGE 20

But the ruling party has done it to establish parliamentary dictatorship by a prime minister," said BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir while addressing a press conference at the party's Naya Palton office.

The press briefing was convened to declare a 48-hour nationwide hartal on July 6 and 7 protesting 15th amendment to the constitution.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami also declared a similar protest programme against the scrapping of CTG system at a press conference in its Moghbazar office yesterday.

"Awami League hurriedly

passed the amendment only to hold election under its umbrella so that they can stay in power forever. But they [Govt] forgot that a confrontational situation will arise if the election is held under a political government," said Mirza Alamgir in the press conference.

He also said the people's right to vote have been snatched and the glorious history of independence has been distorted through this amendment. It is also an attack on religious sentiment. "Even ruling party's foreign friends are giving signals of warning following the amendment," he said hinting at Indian premier's recent controversial remark on Bangladesh political situation.

Parliament on Thursday passed the 15th constitution amendment bill scrapping the caretaker government system. But BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia asked the government to rescind the amendment, saying her party will not participate in an election under any political government.

Khaleda, also the leader of the opposition, held a meeting with her allies and like-minded party leaders and decided to go for a long-term movement against the government.

Earlier, on June 12 and 13 the BNP-led opposition parties enforced a 36-hour countrywide hartal protesting the government move to scrap the CTG system.

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