



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina chairs a meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee at her Gono Bhaban residence in the capital yesterday.

Upazila unit ex-Jamaat ameer held on rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Satkhira

Police yesterday arrested Abdul Bari, Shyamnagar Upazila chairman and former Jamaat leader, on charge of raping a housewife in his residence.

The victim filed a case against Bari, ex-ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami's Shyamnagar upazila unit, with Shyamnagar Police Station yesterday.

The victim in her case statement said Bari had taken Tk 3.46 lakh, in installments, from their family with the promise of giving her husband the post of assistant computer operator at upazila parishad.

However, the accused did not keep his word and so they wanted their money back, she added.

Bari returned Tk 2.80 lakh in phases and on Thursday asked the victim to go to his house to get the rest of the money. When she complied Bari raped her in his house, she continued.

Contacted, Bari said his political rivals have fabricated the story to tarnish his image and that the incident never occurred.

Bari was produced before a Satkhira court following his arrest from his village house in Bandhghat.

UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Stronger climate forums stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday emphasised strengthening the forums working on interests of climate vulnerable countries ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

They also put importance on negotiations with persons or countries that play decision making roles in climate conferences to reap better benefits in the upcoming climate conference.

Conference of the Parties (COP-18), scheduled to be held in Doha from November 26 to December 7, is the 18th session of the UN Climate

Change Conference.

COP-18 Campaign Network, a coalition of seven organisations, organised the seminar titled "COP 18 Climate Conference -- Experience with Bangladesh Perspective" at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Presenting the keynote paper, Zakir Hossain Khan, project coordinator of Climate Finance Governance Project, said Bangladesh should play a vital role in strengthening the Climate Vulnerable Forum for the interest of these vulnerable countries which include Bangladesh.

Noted economist Dr Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad said

Bangladesh was vocal in the last few climate conferences and the country drew attention from other countries.

"But addressing at the climate conferences yields little as main decisions are taken behind the curtain," said Khaliquzzaman, chief of Bangladesh Negotiation Team.

"So we should negotiate with those who play roles in policy making," he added.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury and Ziaul Haque Mukta moderated the seminar while Monjurul Hannan Khan and Ahsan Uddin Qumrul Islam Chowdhury, among others, spoke.



Commerce Minister GM Quader, right, hands over a formalin detector machine to the Gulshan 2 Adarsha Bazar Committee during a programme organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries in the capital's market yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO:STAR

Road crashes kill 18

METRO DESK

Eighteen people were killed and 16 others injured in separate road accidents in the country on Thursday and yesterday.

A correspondent from Gopalganj reports, five unidentified persons were killed and eight others injured as a bus hit a microbus on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Mazra area of Kashiani upazila last night.

Kashiani police said the accident occurred when the Gopalganj-bound bus collided with the microbus from the opposite direction. The injured were rushed to Kashiani Upazila Health Complex.

Meanwhile, Gopal Boddha, 60, of Dinajpur, was killed as the bus hit a tree beside Pirkhan-Bochagan road at Bashgara village in Pirkhan upazila on Thursday morning.

Our Munshiganj correspondent reports, three people were killed and four others injured when a private car collided head-on with a covered van on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at the eastern side of Meghna bridge early yesterday.

The dead are Jhonu Sarker, 25, a female Baul singer (traditional folk singer), and her troupe members Md Sharif, 26, and Edon Mia, 30.

Police rushed the injured to a local hospital where Edon died.

Meanwhile, an unidentified woman was found dead on a road of Sagarika in Shreenagar of the district around 6:00am. Shreenagar police suspect a vehicle ran her over.

Our staff correspondent reports, jute mill worker Nowsher Bapari, 38, of Nagorpur in Tangail, died after he was hit by a truck in Demra area of the capital on Thursday morning.

Victim's wife Barun Begum said the truck hit him before his workplace, Karim Jute Mills, around 7:45am.

In Thakurgaon, bus helper Babu, 25, of Dinajpur, was killed as the bus hit a tree beside Pirkhan-Bochagan road at Bashgara village in Pirkhan upazila on Thursday morning.

In Bogra, a Bhutbuthi (human hauler) driver Ariful Islam, 18, of Joypurhat, died as his vehicle plunged into a roadside pond in Dhap Molamgari near Mostafapur Bazar in Dupchachia upazila Thursday noon.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, Mohammed Iqbal, 17, son of Jalal Ahmed of

Rajpur upazila in Laxmipur, died as a truck hit him from behind in front of Sagarika Cinema Hall in Chittagong city early yesterday.

He was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports, Ripan Mia, 9, son of Dulal Mia, died as a speeding truck knocked him on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Satbarga village in Bijoynagar upazila on Thursday evening.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports, schoolboy Sujan, 10, son of Abdul Aziz, died instantly as a truck hit near Dhamainagar Bazar in Raiganj upazila yesterday.

UNB from Laxmipur reports, Rubel, son of Hossain Ahmed, died when an auto-rickshaw carrying him fell into a roadside ditch in Miar Beri area of sadar upazila at about 11:00am yesterday.

Four of the injured were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital.

In Gazipur, CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Abu Taher, 65, died when a bus rammed his vehicle on Tongi-Ghorasal road at Arikhola in Kaliganj upazila yesterday morning.

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Shakti Foundation gets Women's World Banking Leadership Award

Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women has received an award for Excellence in Leadership in Microcredit from the Women's World Banking, New York.

The prestigious award was given for Shakti's contribution for gender diversity, principled leadership and excellence in financial and social performance. These are areas in which Shakti Foundation has been working tirelessly for the last two decades.

The award was received by Humaira Islam, PhD, Founder and Executive Director, Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women, in New York at a gala event jointly organized by the Women's World Banking and MasterCard Foundation.

Shakti Foundation is a network member of Women's World Banking (WWB). WWB is a nonprofit organization that provides strategic support, technical assistance and information to a global network of 39 microfinance institutions (MFIs) that offer credit and other financial services to low-income entrepreneurs in the developing world, with a particular focus on women.



Excellence in Leadership Award received by
Humaira Islam, PhD

Shakti Member gets "Citi Microentrepreneurship Award", 2011

Razia Begum, member of Shakti Foundation from Comilla won "Best Microentrepreneur of the Year" award given by Citi Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Citigroup NA. The programme jointly organized by Citi Bank NA & Credit and Development Forum (CDF).

Shakti Foundation was established by its Founder Executive Director Humaira Islam, PhD and a group of social visionaries, committed to the socio-economic empowerment of poor women through intervention of social and financial activities. The journey began from Dhaka city in April 1992 and currently the organization is working in 53 districts of Bangladesh and providing services to women in 500000 poor households. Shakti Foundation follows an integrated approach for the socio-economic empowerment of its members who are all women through programs:

- Microfinance and SME
- Health education and primary health care
- Gender awareness
- Financial literacy and simple accounting



Member Razia Begum

**The Daily Star
Star Campus**
LINKING YOUNG MINDS

COMING OUT TOMORROW

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has an array of exciting articles for the readers. The Spotlight is on the scarcity of playgrounds for the upcoming generation to not only nurture their athleticism but also release the pent up energy within them. The Extra Credit is on the important qualities of a leader that will help them sustain the title while taking their respective country forward. The Star Chat this week is on actor, Nirob while he shares stories about his childhood, inspirations and aspirations. Do not forget to grab your copy of Star Campus, as in hits the country tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!

HEADS UP FEET DOWN