

GANG-RAPE ROW IN INDIA Govt seeks life term for rapists

AFP, New Delhi

India's government, facing swelling protests over the gang-rape of a female student on a bus, vowed on Friday to press for life sentences for her six attackers and promised stricter policing.

Home Secretary RK Singh also said the government would pay the medical bills of the 23-year-old victim of the brutal Sunday night attack who is fighting for her life in hospital after suffering serious injuries to her intestines.

"We will ask for the maximum punishment of life imprisonment and ask the court for the speedy trial of the accused," Singh said as New Delhi and other cities continued to be swept by an unprecedented wave of demonstrations by women demanding better safety.

Six drunken men were joyriding on a bus when they picked up the physiotherapy student and her 28-year-old male companion and took turns raping her. Afterwards, they threw the pair off the speeding vehicle.

Police say the woman was attacked with an iron rod after being raped.

Experts say a combination of abusive sexual behaviour, a scant fear of law and India's creaky judicial system encourages such attacks in the bustling city of 19 million people.

Five people, including the bus driver, have been arrested while a search is underway for the remaining suspect, city police commissioner Neeraj Kumar said.

Kumar said police have charged the detained suspects with rape and attempted murder.

Kumar promised a slew of measures to "make Delhi safe," promising squads of officers would patrol the city, crack down on vehicles with darkened windows and zero in on drunken motorists.

The number of rape cases in New Delhi has risen 17 percent to 661 this year compared with 2011. The number of rapes is triple the number reported in India's financial capital Mumbai.

Yaba floods port city

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Coast Guard and Directorate of Narcotics Control in their separate drives seized 2,09,586 Yaba tablets. He was using guava selling as a front for his drug trade.

The narcotics department seized 1,000 Yaba tablets and arrested two people at Alfala Gali in the port city on November 1. The arrestees were law students of a private university.

These types of drives and recovery are becoming everyday incidents in the port city, said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Detective Branch Tareq Ahmed of CMP.

At GEC intersection, students from schools, colleges and universities openly buy the drug from at least a dozen peddlers.

The situation is more or less the same at major intersections, slums, and transport stations in Chittagong. Some drug dealers even make home deliveries getting their orders via mobile phone.



Indian students and teachers shout anti-government and police slogans as they demand the resignation of the Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit during a protest in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

The smugglers use Cox's Bazar, Teknaf, Banskhali, Rangamati, Bandarban, Comilla, Feni and Mirsarai borders as their smuggling routes, said sources.

The border routes have remained under strict surveillance due to the recent Rohingya issue and the smugglers now use Sathkhira and Khulna as their new routes to Chittagong, using buses, trucks and trains, said DBB sources.

Deputy Director Mukul Jyoti Chakma of the narcotics department in Chittagong said the law enforcers, in most cases, are not able to arrest ring leaders and end up catching traffickers only. "When a trafficker is arrested, he cannot give full information about the ring leaders."

The department sources said there were more than 20 Yaba factories in Maungdaw in Myanmar, just across the river Naff.

Myanmar is the largest

Parties cry foul, but field alleged rapists

AFP, New Delhi

At least 20 men accused of raping women ran in Indian elections in the last five years, according to a think-tank report published amid growing outrage over the gang-rape of a student on a bus.

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) study was released on Thursday.

"Since 2007, political parties gave tickets to 20 rape accused to fight in state elections," Jagdeep Chhokar, the founder of ADR, said.

"The politicians who come out to condemn rape are the ones who are openly giving the rape accused a chance to fight elections. This is hypocrisy," he told AFP.

The report stated that political parties had also given tickets to 260 men who were charged with other crimes against women.

ming" with a Mexican Otomi Indian master, Dabadi Thaayroyadi, who said his slender hand-held drums were made with prayers embedded inside.

The drums emit "an intelligent energy" that can heal emotional, physical and social ailments, he says.

During the opening ceremony, participants chanted mantras to the blazing Yucatan sun, which quickly burned the fair-skinned crowd.

Violeta Simarro, a secretary from Perpignan, France, taking shelter under an awning, noted that the new age would not necessarily be easy.

"It will be a little difficult at first, because the world will need a complete 'nettoyage' [cleansing], because there are so many bad things," she said.

But not all seers endorsed the celebration. Mexico's self-styled "brujo mayor" or chief soothsayer, Antonio Vazquez Alba, warned followers to stay away from gatherings.

Celebrants later held their arms in the air in a salute to the morning sun.

"The galactic bridge has been established," intoned spiritual leader Alberto Arribalzaga. "At this moment, spirals of light

are entering the centre of your head ... generating powerful vortexes that cover the planet."

Despite all the ritual and banter, few actually believed the world would end today - the summit was scheduled to run until tomorrow.

Instead, participants said they were here to celebrate the birth of a new age.

A Mexican Indian seer who calls himself Ac Tah, and who has travelled around Mexico erecting small pyramids he calls "neurological circuits", said he held high hopes for the day.

"We are preparing ourselves to receive a huge magnetic field straight from the centre of the galaxy," he said.

At dozens of booths set up in the convention hall, visitors could have their auras photographed with Chi light, get a shamanic cleansing or buy sandals, herbs and wholegrain baked goods. Cleansing usually involves having copal incense waved around one's body.

Visitors could also learn the art of "healing drums

lead to stampedes or "mass suicides, of the kind we've seen before", he said.

Others saw the gathering as a model for the coming age.

Participants from Asian, North American, South American and European shamanistic traditions mingled amiably with the Mexican hosts.

The Maya, who invented an amazingly accurate calendar almost 2,000 years ago, measured time in 394-year periods known as baktuns.

Some anthropologists believe the 13th baktun ends on December 21. Still, archaeologists have uncovered Mayan glyphs that refer to dates far, far in the future, long beyond December 21.

Yucatan governor Rolando Zapata, whose state is home to Mexico's largest Mayan population and has benefited from a boom in tourism, said he too felt the good vibes.

"We believe that the beginning of a new baktun means the beginning of a new era, and we're receiving it with great optimism," he said.

UK PM visits troops in Afghanistan

AFP, London

Prime Minister David Cameron on Thursday paid a pre-Christmas visit to British troops serving in Afghanistan, insisting that the "high price" paid by servicemen had been worthwhile, his office said.

Cameron told reporters that Afghan security forces were "doing better than expected" as he defended plans for the British force to be cut to 5,200 next year, according to his office.

The premier, who was touring Camp Bastion in Helmand Province, said he was confident that the draw-down of nearly half of the British troops deployed, announced in parliament on Wednesday, would not pave the way for an increase in terrorist activity.

Infighting costs

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insiders, many leaders like Sharfuddin Ahmed Jantu and Nur Mohammad Mondal left JP only because of intra-party feud.

JP secured all six constituencies in Rangpur in 2001 national elections.

In 2008, it took Rangpur-1, -2 and -3 and Awami League got the other three. However, the two parties were allies this time.

Jatiya Party in 2009 upazila parishad polls secured two out of eight upazilas; AL and independent candidates captured the rest.

Mosiur Rahman Ranga, also a JP presidium member, said let the city corporation polls be a lesson to the leaders, supporters and activists.

"This lesson will be useful in the next general elections and restoring the base of JP," he added.

First marrow

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down the transplant cost to Tk 5 lakh, whereas it takes about Tk 1 crore in the US, Tk 50 to 60 lakh in Singapore and Tk 40 to 50 lakh in India.

Bone marrow transplant has the potential to cure thalassaemia (major and minor), several types of bone cancer, and other non-malignant and non-cancerous diseases.

About 10 percent children of the country were suffering from thalassaemia and different types of blood cancers, said the DMCH director.

He said although the number of such patients is so huge, the unit would be able to treat only six

patients at a time. "The idea is, once we have the expertise in the country the private sector will be encouraged to set up more similar units," he added.

"Medical equipment worth Tk 19 crore have already been procured for the transplant unit," said Rahman, adding that Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) was providing technical support for the programme.

Bimalangshu R Dey, a Bangladeshi doctor working in the US as an assistant professor of the Department of Medicine at MGH, was one of the key figures in arranging the deal between the

Bangladesh government and MGH.

On the programme, Dey said, "For the first six months, the unit will only try the simpler methods [autologous stem cell transplant]. About 80 to 90 percent patients, who are born with thalassaemia major, can be fully cured if the transplant is done at the right time."

The collaboration with MGH is mainly focused on the education and training of physicians, technologists and nurses, said Saiful Islam, additional director general of the Directorate of Health Services.

The training will go on for the next 10 months, he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police
Central Police Hospital
Rajbari, Dhaka

Invitation for Re-Tender

Sealed re-tender are hereby invited from the suppliers/local agents in their official pad for the purchase of the following items for Central Police Hospital, Rajbari, Dhaka for the year 2012-2013.

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.			
2	Agency	Central Police Hospital, Rajbari, Dhaka.			
3	Procuring entity name	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police.			
4	Invitation for	Purchase of different hospital items.			
5	Invitation Ref. No.	CPH/Tender/04(Part-2)/2012-2013.			
6	Date	17/12/2012.			
7	KEY INFORMATION	Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
8	Procurement method	Revenue Budget (GOB).			
9	FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds				
11	Tender publication date	20/12/2012 & 21/12/2012.			
12	Tender last selling date	02/01/2013.			
13	Tender closing date and time	At 12:00 noon on 03/01/2013.			
14	Tender opening date and time	14:00pm on 03/01/2013.			
15	Name & address of the office(s)				
	Selling tender document	1. Office of the AIG (Supply), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka. 2. Office of the Deputy Police Commissioner (Supply), DMP, Dhaka. 3. Office of the Superintendent of Police, Dhaka. 4. Office of the Superintendent, Central Police Hospital, Rajbari, Dhaka.			
	Receiving tender document	1. Office of the AIG (Supply), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka. 2. Office of the Deputy Police Commissioner (Supply), DMP, Dhaka. 3. Office of the Superintendent of Police, Dhaka. 4. Office of the Superintendent, Central Police Hospital, Rajbari, Dhaka.			
16	Opening tender document	Office of the Superintendent, Central Police Hospital, Rajbari, Dhaka.			
17	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (bidder must present for avoiding any future hassle of ensure quality product)	Office of the Superintendent, Central Police Hospital, Rajbari, Dhaka. Date 31/12/2012 Time 11:00			
18	INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
19	Eligibility of tenderer	(1) Up-to-date trade license (2) Up-to-date TIN certificate (3) Up-to-date VAT registration certificate and (4) Other documents described in tender document.			
20	Brief description of goods				
21	Sl. No.	Name	Price of tender document	Tender security in Taka	Completion time in days
1	Pathology Reagent	Tk. 500/-	36,000/-	15 (fifteen) days from the date of work order	
2	Medical & Surgical Requisites (MSR)	Tk. 500/-	40,000/-	15 (fifteen) days from the date of work order	
3	Miscellaneous	Tk. 500/-	22,000/-	15 (fifteen) days from the date of work order	
4	Furniture	Tk. 500/-	45,000/-	15 (fifteen) days from the date of work order	
5	Medical Equipment for UN Mission	Tk. 500/-	19,500/-	15 (fifteen) days from the date of work order	
6	Medicine, Re-agent and other items for UN Mission	Tk. 500/-	45,000/-	15 (fifteen) days from the date of work order	
22	PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
23	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. AKM Nizam Uddin.			
24	Designation of official inviting tender	Superintendent.			
25	Address of official inviting tender	Superintendent, Central Police Hospital, Rajbari, Dhaka.			
26	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 88-02-8312075, Fax: 88-02-9342297			
27	Special instructions				
28	a)	No tender will be received after the deadline for submission.			
29	b)	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceeding.			
30	c)	Bangladesh Police will establish framework agreement with the successful tenderer for supply of goods.			

Dr. AKM Nizam Uddin
Superintendent

For Director (DIG)

Central Police Hospital

Bangladesh Police, Rajbari, Dhaka

Phone: 8312075, Fax: 9342297

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