

NEWSIN brief

Teacher jailed for sexually harassing schoolgirl in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A mobile court has sentenced a primary school teacher to six months imprisonment for sexually harassing a class IV female student in Satoria upazila of Manikganj. The court of Satoria Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shahin Akhter gave the verdict on Thursday.

Earlier, police held the convict, Rafiqul Islam, an assistant teacher of Jalshuka Nasurpur Government Primary School, from the upazila complex area following complains of the victim's family members.

Six held with gun in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested six alleged arms traders and seized a foreign made gun and two rounds of bullets from their possession at Kolerandi-Bottola in Ishwardi of Pabna Thursday night.

The arrested -- Biplob, Jewel, Mamun, Rashid, Raju, and Saidur -- hail from Jhenidah.

They were sent to jail yesterday.

A Rab-4 team from Mirpur in the capital raided the spot around 10:45pm and arrested them with the firearm and ammunition.

Road crash kills RMG worker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female garment worker was killed and another injured after a car hit them at Khilkhet in the capital on Thursday night.

The deceased Tania, 16, daughter of Shajahan, was a resident of Khilkhet.

Injured Rubel, a worker of a tailoring shop, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The accident occurred when few pedestrians, including Tania and Rubel, were crossing Dhaka-Mymensingh highway around 10:15pm, said Habibur Rahman, a witness.

School building for visually impaired girls inaugurated in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A school building with special facilities, including computers with Braille software and Braille dictionaries, for visually impaired girls has been constructed with assistance from the Japanese government in Mirpur of the capital.

The building was inaugurated by Shiro Sadoshima, ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, on Wednesday, said a press release.

The Japanese embassy donated US\$ 102,057 for the construction of the school under its Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects scheme and JICA Bangladesh delivered the Braille dictionary for the students.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Anwara Haider, wife of former chief justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, will be held at Gulshan Azad mosque after Asr prayers today.

Family members of late Anwara, mother of Justice Naima Haider, have requested all relatives and well-wishers to attend the programme.

Anwara, 72, died of old age complications at Apollo Hospitals on Wednesday.

She was buried in Banani graveyard on Thursday.



Some 120 members of BDCylists take part in a 25-kilometre race, organised by Ifad Multi Products Limited and supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency and Dhaka North City Corporation, in the capital's Hatirjheel yesterday. Inset, they later take part in a garbage collection campaign in the area.

PHOTO: STAR

FOUR CITY CORPORATION POLLS

45 of 116 councillors-elect accused in cases

STAR REPORT

Of the 116 general councillors-elect of the four city corporations of Sylhet, Barisal, Rajshahi and Khulna, 45 are accused in different cases, as per the affidavits submitted to the regional Election Commissions.

However, only two of the 39 councillors elected in the reserved seats for women are accused in cases.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports: Among the 26 councillors-elect of Sylhet City Corporation's 27 wards, eight are accused not only in different cases but in more than one. These eight are among 12 councillors who have been reelected.

Another 14 councillors who have been elected for the first time have a clean sheet. However, none of the nine councillors elected from the reserved seats for women are accused in cases.

The result of the remaining ward 16 has been withheld as two candidates got an equal 1,774 votes. Returning Officer SM Ejharul Haque said they were preparing to hold reelection there.

The highest number of cases, five,

were filed separately against two councillors-elect -- Azadur Rahman Azad, elected for a third term in ward 20, and Farhad Chowdhury Shamim of ward 6.

Our Barisal correspondent reports: Among the 30 councillors-elect of Barisal City Corporation, 14 are accused in different cases.

However, none of the 10 councillors elected in the reserved seats for women have cases against them.

The highest number of cases, five, were filed separately against two councillors-elect -- Ziauddin Shikdar of ward 25 and Advocate Salahuddin Masum of ward 14.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: Among the 29 councillors-elect of Rajshahi City Corporation's 30 wards, nine are accused in different cases.

Of the 10 councillors elected in the reserved seats for women, two are accused in cases.

The election in ward 8 has been withheld as electronic voting machines broke down. The regional Election Commission is preparing to hold reelection there.

The highest number of cases, five, was filed against Iqbal Hossain of ward 12.

Three of the cases filed in 2012 include charges of causing explosions, attacking law enforcers and destabilising law and order. Another case was filed in 2011 over mugging and attempted murder charges and another in 2003 over theft and beating charges.

Following close behind with four cases is Ruhul Amin of ward 4. The cases, filed in 2008, 2011 and 2013, include charges of attempted murder, violence, clashes, and hindering government activities.

Our Khulna correspondent reports: Of the 31 councillors-elect of Khulna City Corporation, 14 are accused in different cases.

However, none of the 10 councillors elected in the reserved seats for women are accused in cases.

The highest number of cases, six, were filed against Golam Mowla Shanu of ward 26 followed by Sheikh Zahangir Hossain Helal of ward 31 with three cases.

MIGRANT WORKERS' WELFARE

WB, Brac sign \$2.58m deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank and Brac yesterday signed a US \$2.58 million agreement to launch a programme in the capital focusing on the welfare of migrant workers.

Christine Kimes, WB Bangladesh office acting head, and Dr Mahabub Hossain, Brac executive director, signed the agreement at the Brac Centre Inn in the capital.

The programme, funded by Japan Social Development Fund, aims to provide information support to aspiring migrant workers so as to reduce the risks they have to face, says a press release of Brac and WB.

"Remittances contribute hugely to the gross national product. It is important to reduce the risks that workers going abroad have to face," said Mahabub.

The population of Bangladesh must be utilised as a resource, said Hiroyuki Minami, minister of the embassy of Japan. Bodiar Rahman, deputy secretary of the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry, recognised that migrant labourers often have to fall victim to different fraudulence.

"The information support to be provided would include professional development for the overseas jobseekers. The knowledge would be provided through organisations working within the community," Md Aminul Islam, manager of the migration programme, told The Daily Star over the phone.

It would also provide jobseekers with information about existing funding sources that they can use to make the trip abroad, such as the Brac microfinance programme for migrant labourers, said Mahabub at the signing ceremony.

Christine Kimes also spoke at the event.

Many ruling party men own vested properties

Says Sultana Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some people claim to believe in the spirit of the Liberation War but their actions do not reflect their belief, said Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra, at a discussion yesterday.

Criticising the Vested Property Return (amendment) Act-2013, Sultana Kamal said she is aware that many ruling party members illegally own vested properties at present.

The government wants to win the hearts of people by talking about good governance, fighting against corruption, religious harmony and so on, but there is little reflection of such promises in its work, she said.

The discussion on eliminating all the amendments of the Vested Property Return Act 2001 was organised by nine rights organisations at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The organisations are Ain o Salish Kendra, Association for Land Reform and Development, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, Arpito Shompotti Ain Protirodh Andolon, Nijera Kori, Sammilito Samajik Andolon, Human Development Research Centre, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, and Bangladesh Puja Uddjapan Parishad.

Talking about the recent city corporation polls, Sultana Kamal said the results reflect the government's way of ruling the country at present. "People are talking about the abuse of religious sentiments during the recently concluded four city corporation polls. If such things happened then we should feel ashamed as we have failed to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War," she said.

"The results are reflections of the failure of the government," she added. Dr Gowher Rizvi, the prime minister's foreign affairs adviser, said the government would not take any action that goes against the minorities of the country.

Reform EC on opinions of Hasina, Khaleda

Suggests Nazmul Huda to end political crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To end political crisis, former BNP leader Nazmul Huda yesterday proposed to reform the Election Commission based on opinions from Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

According to his new proposal, the chief election commissioner would have the same executive power vested upon the chief adviser to a caretaker government and now in the hands of the prime minister.

Nazmul was addressing a discussion organised by Agnisena, a pro-BNP platform, in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Addressing the discussion, BNP leaders including Moazzem Hossain Alal and Helen Zerin Khan said the number of "mentally imbalanced" persons in the ruling Awami League were increasing.



Communications Minister Obaidul Quader and Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique release balloons at the inauguration of the first reunion of Surya Sen Hall Alumni Association at Teacher-Student Centre in Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

DHAKA TODAY

Rally
Bangladesh Projanmo Academy, and Grameen Bank Rakkha o Durjan Protirodh Kendra will stage a rally protesting conspiracy against the bank; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
Sangbidhanik Odhikar Forum will hold a discussion on protection of people's rights; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Meeting
Dhanmondi Math Rakkha Andolon will arrange a meeting demanding the Dhanmondi playground free from grabbers; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Sammilita Samajik Andolon will hold a discussion on the proposed budget 2013-14; Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha; Time: 10:00am.

Workshop
Brac University will organise a workshop on "Governance role against climate change induced migration"; Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali; Time: 9:30am.

HATHAZARI-CTG CITY ROUTE

Commuters suffer for transport workers' whim

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Commuters on the route number 3 between Fatehabad of Hathazari upazila and Chittagong city are suffering for lack of vehicles after evening, as drivers of the human haulers (minibus) have started refusing to leave the city after sundown.

For the whim, the travellers not only have to wait long hours but pay two or three times the regular fare for using alternative transports like auto-rickshaws, which too are inadequate.

Shakhawat Hossain, who travels to the city from Hathazari every day, said he often reached home at night for not availing any transport. Auto-rickshaws charge Tk 15-20

for a trip from Oxygen in the city to Fatehpur when a human hauler takes Tk 6, he said.

Drivers of the human haulers say they refuse to go outside the city after evening because they did not get passengers during the return trip.

Golam Rasul Babul, general secretary of the Chittagong bus, minibus and human hauler owners association, recognised the situation and said they were looking into it.

Uttam Kumar Pal, additional deputy commissioner (traffic-north) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said they asked the owners' association to solve the issue soon. "If they do not, the route permit of the vehicles not following rules will be cancelled."

Let your voice be heard...

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