

RAPE OF GIRL IN COMILLA HC orders NHRC to explain inaction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked for an explanation from the National Human Rights Commission about its alleged inaction in taking steps regarding the rape of a girl in Comilla last year even after receiving prayers for doing so.

In response to a writ petition, the court ordered the NHRC chairman and its secretary to submit a report containing their explanations before it by September 10.

Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Abdul Halim told The Daily Star that the girl at Basantapur village in Choudhogram upazila was raped on August 29 last year.

The following day, a case was filed with the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Comilla in this connection.

During the trial, the tribunal on February 24 this year granted bail to the accused on the condition that he would marry the rape victim within two weeks.

Hearing that the rapist got released from jail on bail, the victim escaped to Dhaka and approached rights organisation Children's Charity Bangladesh Foundation and applied to the NHRC for getting a certified copy of the court order that asked the rapist to marry the victim.

However, the NHRC did not respond to the request even after the victim applied twice on April 3 and May 18 this year, the lawyer said.

Interestingly, the NHRC chairman in his introduction to its annual report of 2011 mentioned that rape, murder and acid violence would not be considered as human rights violation unless they are committed by any state agencies or their employees, Halim said.

The victim's mother in June this year filed a writ petition with the HC seeking necessary orders against NHRC.

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Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh Iftekharuzzaman, centre, addresses a press conference at Brac Centre Inn in the capital yesterday, where the anti-graft watchdog unveiled the findings of a recent study on corruption at Chittagong Port. TIB Trustee M Hafizuddin Khan, right, and TIB official Manzoor-e-Khoda are also in the photo.

PHOTO: STAR

BRIBERY CASE Tarique's personal secy denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a bail petition of Mia Nur Uddin Apu, personal secretary to Tarique Rahman, in a bribery case filed against him.

The court also ordered to send Apu to jail.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) filed the case on October 4, 2007 accusing several people, including Apu, of being involved in giving and taking a Tk 21 crore bribe to cover up the murder of Bashundhara Group director Humayun Kabir Sabbir by Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir, son of Bashundhara Group Chairman Shah Alam.

Judge Bashudev Roy of Special Judge Court-3 of Dhaka passed the order yesterday after Apu's lawyer moved a bail petition in his presence.

The judge passed the order saying Apu's bail petition was rejected as he was on the run for over seven years. Apu had surrendered before a Dhaka court on June 18 this year and sought bail in the case. However, the court rejected the plea and sent him to jail. On May 6 in 2008, the Anti-Corruption Commission pressed charges against seven people including Sanvir, his father Shah Alam, Khaleda Zia's elder son Tarique Rahman, former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and Apu over the bribery.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, City



Abul Mohsin died due to old age complications at a clinic in the capital yesterday. He was 78.

Mohsin, son of eminent educationist and writer Abul Fazal, left behind his wife and three sons.

Mohsin had served as the director of the Power Development Board of Bangladesh. "Kichhu Smirti Kichhu Kotha" is one of his famous books. Many of his writings were published in national dailies including The Daily Star.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held on Takwa Masjid premises in Dhanmadi today after Zohr prayers.

Govt disregarding CHT

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building the headquarters for its Battalion 51.

"We are at our wit's end to understand why the state should need so many cantonments and BGB camps in addition to police in the hill districts," said Santu.

According to him, there are six army cantonments in the three districts. In the statement, he said the AL held power for over nine years in phases since signing of the accord, which is mostly immaterialised till date.

Replying to journalists' questions, Santu said even the Rangamati MP, Ushatan Talukder, was unaware of the passage of the development board act and amendments to the zila parishad laws.

The CHT regional council act mandates getting consent from the council and the three CHT zila parishads before passing any law. Ever since the zila parishad acts expired before the 1997 treaty, the parishads had been constituted without any election. "The zila parishads have become the rehabilitation centres of ruling party men engaged in unbridled corruption," said Santu. The state's decision of increasing the number of the parishad members from five to 11 people has taken adivasis by surprise, he added.

The indigenous communities found the government's decision to set up a university and a medical college in Rangamati ill-intentioned. The statement cited the example of Kaptai Sweden Political Institute, 90 percent of whose students are outsiders. Adivasis see the new initiatives as an effort to send in more settlers. Oikya NAP's President Pankaj Bhattacharya, columnist Syed Abul Moksud, and Adivasi Forum's General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong attended the conference among others.

Education ministry asks

FROM PAGE 5

transaction" at the universities.

When contacted, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, however, claimed that they had not received any letter from the ministry.

"I have learnt about the letter and its content from the media. We will provide all the information sought by the education ministry as per our capacity and policy," he told The Daily Star.

The ministry's letter came nearly two weeks after TIB unveiled the report titled "Private universities: Challenges of good governance and way out".

TIB, in the report, alleged that a section of officials at the ministry, UGC and private universities were involved in corruption at different stages.

The organisation claimed to have conducted a research on 22 private universities in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet between June 2012 and May this year for the report.

However, the education ministry came down hard on TIB after the report was released. On July 6, the ministry, UGC, and private universities unanimously rejected the report terming it "baseless" and "false".

Businessman shot by fellow in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman was shot allegedly by his fellow at HT Electric Market in the capital's Nawabpur road yesterday over setting up an exhaust fan.

Asif Alam, 36, owner of Asif Enterprise, received one bullet in his left leg and is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police detained Kaiyum Mollah with his licensed pistol.

AL, JSD

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disappearances and repressive acts of the government," she said, adding that the people want to get rid of the current regime.

"The country is not safe at the hands of the Awami League-led government." The government has made all institutions dysfunctional by politicising those, she said.

Khaleda called upon all to wage a strong movement after Eid to force the government to step down and hold a fresh election under a non-party administration.

BNP demands

FROM PAGE 5

army officials in the name of combating military coups.

"It was General Zia who had established Jamaat that opposed our Liberation War," he said, adding that as Zia's successor, Khaleda Zia would have to apologise to the nation for Zia's misdeeds.

JS body

FROM PAGE 3

journalists will be briefed about the team's recommendations soon, he added.

Other delegates included lawmakers Kujendra Lal Tripura, Yesin Ali, Feroza Begum Chinu, Mostafa Lutfulah and Quazi Rosy.



Discussion

Ain o Salish Kendra will organise a discussion on "Bangladesh's Engagement with the UN Special Procedures". Venue: Cirdap auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Memorial lecture

Prof Begum Akter Kamal will deliver the The Mohammed Wajed Ali Trust Fund Lecture on literary practice of Muslim women of the 20th century. Venue: Auditorium of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh; Time: 4:00pm.

Inauguration ceremony

Swadeshi, eight boutique houses of the country under one roof, will be inaugurated. Venue: Jamuna Future Park. Time: 12:00noon.

NEWSIN brief

ATN Bangla's 17th founding anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's first satellite television channel ATN Bangla will celebrate its 17th founding anniversary today.

On the occasion, the private television channel will air special programmes all day long, said a press release.

ATN Bangla has been maintaining distinctive quality in telecasting news and programmes since its inception and has achieved different international awards.

The TV channel also gives priority to telecasting sports and organises ATN Bangla Gold Cup Football Tournament.

UK government marks 30 years of Chevening scholarships

CITY DESK

To mark 30 years of the UK's most prestigious scholarship programme, over 500 Chevening scholars representing 118 countries gathered at Chevening House on July 9.

Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Hugo Swire, hosted the event.

The Programme finances graduates around the world for postgraduation at British universities.

Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson, Iceland Prime Minister and Dr Hania el Sholkamy, professor of Social Research Center, the American University, Cairo, were present among others.

Ramadan, World Cup dent

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dealt a blow to the tourism business.

Nurul, also coordinator of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Cox's Bazar, said most of the hotels were struggling to earn their maintenance costs with less than 10 percent room occupancy on an average.

Echoing him, Humayun Kabir, general manager of Hotel The Cox Today, said just 15 percent out of 276 rooms of his hotel was occupied on Sunday.

The occupancy rate is 10 to 15 percent in the month of Ramadan, he said, adding that they were incurring losses every day.

A thin presence of tourists also brings woes to low-income people. About 800 photographers, who live from the earning of taking pictures of tourists on the beach, are now almost workless.

Dulal Sharma, a photographer, said he used to earn Tk 300 to Tk 500 a day, but now his income had declined to Tk 50 to Tk 100.

Hussain Sharif, a 12-year-old boy, sells garlands made of sea-shells on the beach. He said his daily income was around Tk 300 during the peak period, which had plummeted to around Tk 50 a day.

Abdus Samad, a driver of a three-wheeler, said his earning was around Tk 1,200 a day in the peak season which had come down to almost half nowadays.

Contacted, Md Abul Hossain, additional deputy commissioner (general) of Cox's Bazar, said around 60,000 people directly or indirectly dependent on tourism business in the district were having a tough time these days.

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Job Description:

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Age Limitation: Maximum 50 years. Job Location: Tongi. Dead Line: 21 July 2014

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