

RAPE OF GAZIPUR NINTH-GRADER HC orders arrest of 4 for 'cover-up'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has directed police to immediately arrest four people including a schoolteacher of Gazipur, and to produce them before it on Sunday, for covering up an incident of rape of a ninth-grader.

In a suo moto rule, it also ordered the officer-in-charge of Kaliakoir Police Station to take appropriate legal action against the accused schoolteacher, and the three others, who are responsible for covering up the incident through an arbitration.

Sujan Mahmud, a teacher of Daffodil Ideal High School at Vannara in Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila, raped the student some days ago, according to a report published in the Bangla daily Prothom Alo on February 17.

Local arbitrators including Anwar Uddin, Abul Hashem and Mosharraf settled the matter through an arbitration on February 15. In the negotiation, Sujan was exempted after he was beaten with shoes, and fined Tk 1.5 lakh, the report said. It added that the victim and her family members had also been beaten and forced to leave the village.

The HC on Tuesday asked the government to inform it by March 15 what measures had been taken against the OC for not taking any legal action in connection with the incidents.

PM alleges Khaleda

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"All measures necessary under law will be taken against Khaleda Zia," added Hasina, also leader of the house. Khaleda cannot avoid her responsibility for killing people through petrol bomb attacks, she said.

The AL president said the BNP chief was killing people through arson attacks by giving orders from her office. The sufferings of so many people who have been killed and injured in arson attacks could not pass by without the trial of the BNP chief.

"The trial of these will surely be held on the soil of this country, as this big injustice can't be tolerated. If it is, the country will go towards the verge of destruction."

She said Khaleda suddenly imposed hartals in the country from February 2 when the SSC exams were scheduled to start.

She asked what Khaleda wanted to achieve by ruining the academic lives of the examinees and killing innocent people.



Food and Agriculture Organization Of the United Nations

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations invites bids for Vegetable Seeds and the bids should be submitted in the format indicated in the ITB. ITB document can be downloaded from the organization's Website: <http://www.fao.org/bangladesh/fao-in-bangladesh/employmentprocurement/en/>

Closing date and Time for submission of Bids is 01 March 2015, 12:00 Hrs.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks proposals from interested and well qualified organizations in response to the following RFP in the CHT.

Socio Economic Baseline Survey and Livelihoods Assessment of CHT Watershed Co-management Activity (CHTWCA), Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), UNDP

(Pre-bid Meeting date : Monday, 23 February 2015 at 02:30 pm)

(Pls download solicitation document - http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=20679

All interested organizations are requested to attend a pre-bid meeting at CHTDF, UNDP Dhaka Office (IDB Bhaban, 7th Floor, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka) as per above schedule. Maximum two (2) participants from each organization are allowed.

The deadline for proposal submission is Wednesday, 04 March 2015 04:30 pm (Local Time)

Terminally ill has right to painless death

Physicians, cultural personalities tell workshop
on palliative care in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terminally ill patients have the right to die a painless death, said senior physicians and cultural personalities at a workshop yesterday.

After losing all hopes of curing a patient, the doctors as well as the society should try to make sure that the patient is spared from unnecessary medication or life support, they said.

The workshop on palliative care was organised by the Centre for Palliative Care (CPC) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in its auditorium in the capital.

"Palliative care is a scientific approach towards making the last hours of a person comfortable," explained Nizam Uddin

Ahmed, professor of palliative care at BSMMU.

About seven million people died from cancer in the world in 2007, he said, almost 70 percent of them had to endure excruciating physical and mental agony for a prolonged period of time.

BSMMU Vice Chancellor Pran Gopal Datta said a 19-bed CPC was launched at BSMMU in 2011.

The World Health Organisation has recently advised its member states to include palliative care in the health policies, he informed.

Cultural personalities Samina Chowdhury, Bappa Majumder and Momtaz Begum were present among others.

RTI act's success

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bound to provide that.

"Among 1,100 laws now in force in the country, the RTI act is the only one that makes the people feel they are the owners of the country," he said. "The people will be empowered with the RTI law only when they are made aware of the power of the act."

This law is the tool to end secrecy, and reduce corruption and bad governance, said Farooq.

Sharing his experience, Shekhar Singh from India, co-chair of TAG, said proactive disclosure of

information by the government was still much less than desired.

The government agencies must make public the information they are supposed to disclose without wasting their time and the time of people in the name of working on applications," he said.

Findings show that 40 percent of all applications under the RTI act do not seek specific information, he said. So the law will not succeed as a stand-alone tool; it will require proactive action of the government, NGO activists and expert groups, he added.

Last year, four million applications were filed under the RTI act in India, where the law has been in force for a decade now, said Shekhar.

Shamsul Bari, chairper-

son of RIB and co-chairperson of TAG, said a little over 61,000 applications were filed in the first four years since the act was introduced in 2009 in Bangladesh, including 25,000 in 2010.

The number of applications is very insignificant given the size of the population, he said.

Some 77 RTI act experts, activists and practitioners including 27 from all South Asian countries took part in the workshop.

Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam said the mass media had an important role in creating public awareness through regular reporting on RTI issues.

Two volumes of book with the same title were also launched on the occasion.

One bomb

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blockaders did not hold processions or rallies. "They only attack innocent commuters and transport workers in the dark of the night."

However, none has been arrested over Tuesday night's attack, said Rangunia police. "We could not identify the criminals yet," he said. "We are trying to get them."

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GRAFT CASE Ex-DMCH dy director jailed for 10 years

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced three people, including a former DMCH deputy director, to 10 years rigorous imprisonment each in connection with a graft case filed against them for misappropriating Tk 81 lakh.

The court also fined former DMCH deputy director Kazi Kamaluddin Ahmed, its former chief assistant ABM Abdur Rashid and ex-cashier Md Giasuddin Tk 30 lakh each, in default to suffer one more year in jail.

According to the prosecution, the accused in collusion with others misappropriated the money from the medical fund which was collected from different sources including salaries of the third and fourth class employees of DMCH sometime between 2002 and 2007.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station on November 19, 2007.

Stay alert against swine flu

Nasim directs officials
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister

Mohammed Nasim directed officials concerned to take all necessary precautions, including creating mass awareness, against swine flu.

He also directed the district hospitals as well as Infectious Diseases Hospital and National Institute of Chest Diseases and Hospital to open specialised units with additional stocks of medicines to treat swine flu patients.

The minister was addressing an emergency meeting at the ministry in the wake of swine flu pandemic in India that killed about 600 this year. He ordered the medical teams at the airports to check passengers from India.

Swine flu usually hit Bangladesh between April and September, Mahmudur Rahman, director of IEDCR, told The Daily Star.

Chehulum

CITY DESK



A doa mahfil for Prof Syed A Wadud, an eye surgeon, will be held at his Gulshan-2 residence (road-66, house-9) at 4:00 pm tomorrow.

He was the founding chief consultant of Islamia Eye Hospital and director of the Ispahani Institute of Ophthalmology.

He died on January 1 at the age of 89 in Atlanta.

Keeping an almost

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"After the Pakistani (occupation) army burned down the only existing press of the script during the Liberation War of 1971, the use of the script almost became extinct," said Salim.

Salim said Sufi literature of the 14th century Bengal was written using this script and Utso is trying to rediscover and reprint those with transliteration.

Last year, Utso brought out a Nagri Grantha Shombhar, a set of 25 Sylheti Nagri books.

The titles include Haltunnabi, Jung Nama, Hashor Toran, Moskhil Toran, Doi Khur Raag, Bahram Johura, Hushiar Gafeleen, Shohor Choret, Ociotunnabi, Mayarshi Duchra, Mohobbat Nama, Hashor Micheel, Chandra Mukhi, Desh Choret, Horeen Nama, Kori Nama, Saat Konyar Bakhan, Sodochi Mochla, Soyful Bedat, Sunavancer Puthi, Ved Kaya, Ved Choret, Nur Porichoy, Akhame Chorka and Raag Hori Bongsho.

"This year I wrote and edited a book introducing the script and a contemporary puthi by Muhammad Hasnat Anwar, 'Biletnama', was published," said Salim.

"My aim is not to earn money but I want that our museums should have at least 100 copies of these old treasures," he added.

Four new books were launched at the fair yesterday while another 91 arrived.



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