

Open air concert against sexual harassment today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An open air concert against sexual harassment will be held near TSC on the Dhaka University campus today from 4:00pm.

The concert will feature performances from Joler Gaan, Arnob and Friends, Shironamhin and many other popular singers and bands.

The organising committee of the event announced the concert at Sanskriti Bikash Kendra in the capital's Paribagh.

"On May 15 a month will be passed since the heinous sexual assault on women that took place on Pahela Baishakh. But, we have not seen any progress in the investigation into the incident," said Khushi Kabir, coordinator of the committee.

"Young people of the country will be motivated to raise their voice when they see their favourite singers and bands speaking out on the issue," she hoped.



Massive algae growth coupled with discarded garbage has spoiled the aesthetics of Swadhinata Stambha and its adjoining reflecting pool in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Expatriate's first wife kills 2nd wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman was allegedly hacked to death by her husband's first wife in Panchlaish area of Chittagong city yesterday.

The victim, Sharmin Akther, 25, was the second wife of Abdul Hakim of Boalkhali and mother of a one-year-old boy.

Hakim has three daughters with his first wife Rozi Akther. He married Sharmin as he wanted a son, said the victim's uncle Mohammed Azim.

Rozi Akther confessed to the murder, said Mohiuddin Mahmood, officer-in-charge of Panchlaish Police Station.

Hakim, a businessman in Abu Dhabi, kept his wives in separate houses. Hakim, who had gone abroad a month back, left his second wife with her parents. However, Rozi insisted that Sharmin live with her, said Shamsunnahar, Sharmin's mother.

Yesterday when Ali, Rozi's cousin, called her over the phone he found she was crying. Alarmed, he asked their driver Anis to check up on her. Anis found the door to the house open and after entering he found Sharmin lying in a pool of blood with cuts in her head and abdomen, said the driver. Rozi had locked herself in her room and did not come out, he added.

Why not a taskforce on rights violations by law enforcers

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to form a permanent taskforce to address violations of human rights by law enforcers and adopt a guideline or a policy to ensure public confidence in law enforcers.

The court issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers Association (BNWLA).

The home secretary, inspector general of police, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP),

deputy commissioner concerned of DMP, and deputy commissioner of Dhaka were made respondents to the rule, Deputy Attorney General Amatul Karim Swapna told The Daily Star.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akando passed the rule.

The petition was submitted centering on police atrocities on the demonstrators who tried to lay a siege to the DMP headquarters on May 10, protesting police failures to arrest the people who molested around 20 females during Pahela Baishakh celebrations on Dhaka University campus.

Three 'human traffickers' held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion detained three suspected human traffickers and rescued seven victims from a hotel in the capital's Fakirapool last night.

The detainees were active members of a human trafficking syndicate, Yasin Arafat, an assistant superintendent of police of Rab-3, told The Daily Star.

The arrestees Abdul Kuddus Mridha, Jafar and Biplob are also staff of the hotel, said Yasin, adding that two other members Tanjil and Ismail of the syndicate are absconding.

The seven fortune seekers gathered there from different districts in the last 10 days after they had been promised jobs in Malaysia and Iraq, the Rab official said.

Rab also recovered two fake passports from the hotel, he said.

Awareness must in protecting sexual minority people's rights

Speakers tell photo exhibition on their lifestyle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Building mass awareness is crucial in protecting the rights of sexual minorities, said discussants at a programme yesterday.

The speakers were addressing the opening ceremony of a photo exhibition titled "Youth Yearn" organised by Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre, Bandhu Social Welfare Society and UNAIDS at the capital's EMK Cultural Centre.

The photo exhibition captured the lifestyle and plights of sexual minorities in Bangladesh.

Speakers said these people are deprived of basic rights and are victims of repression due to lack of awareness.

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Greg Wilcock, chief guest at the function, said rights of every individual must be protected.

USAID Mission Director to Bangladesh Janina Jaruzelski said each individual must have equal opportunities in the society to flourish their skills.

The main aim of the exhibition was to create awareness among the youth about sexual and reproductive health and associated rights, said Shale Ahmed, executive director of Bandhu.

The photo exhibition will remain open to the public till May 28 from 9:30am to 6:00pm except on Fridays and Saturdays.



The launching of a social campaign, "Toys R Urs", undertaken by Ex-Cadets Forum, a platform of former cadets of the country's 12 cadet colleges, in the capital's Cadet College Club on May 7. The campaign aims to collect used, underused or recycled toys and gadgets from urban areas and distribute them among schoolchildren from disadvantaged backgrounds across the country. The Daily Star is a strategic partner of the initiative.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

IGP's remarks detestable, irresponsible

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rally titled "Palta Aghat" (retaliation), organised by Bangladesh Chhatra Union on Dhaka University campus.

She demanded immediate arrest of the molesters and of the cops who beat up the demonstrators headed to Dhaka Metropolitan Police headquarters on

May 10, protesting police failures to arrest those molesters.

Addressing the rally, President of Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahidul Islam Selim accused the DU administration and police of being negligent in investigating the sexual assault.

"First the DU administration denied that any embarrassing incident occurred. Then they claimed that no Dhaka University student was involved in the incident because it would malign the university. Actually they want to cover up the incident," he said.

Expressing dissatisfaction at the role of police, he said the force completely failed to perform its constitutional responsibilities. "Now policemen have become criminals," he added. President of Jubo Union Abdullah Al Kafee and theatre personality Mamunur Rashid also spoke.

CID again gets time

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June last year and recorded a partly statement of Manzur's daughter Lubna Manzur. Lubna also told the IO that she would give more information about her father's killing after meeting her counsel.

Advocate Sheikh Muhammad Serajul Islam represented Ershad who was earlier exempted from personal appearance before it while one of two other accused—Maj (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Haque—was present at the court yesterday. Another accused Lt Col (ret'd) Mostafa Kamaluddin Bhuiyan could not attend the court for his illness, his lawyer told the court.

On January 8, the court asked the CID to complete the investigation by yesterday.

Manzur, who was the commander of sector-8 during the Liberation War, was killed at the Chittagong Cantonment on June 1, 1981, two days after the assassination of the then president Ziaur Rahman.

His elder brother Abul Mansur Ahmed filed the murder case with Panchlaish Police Station on February 28, 1995, 14 years after the killing.

Innocent student killed

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They hacked him indiscriminately while he was trying to leave the spot sensing troubles.

Chanchal died at noon while he was being shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from a local hospital.

"My son was not involved in politics and he had no enemy," mother of the victim Salma Begum told The Daily Star. "Why he (Chanchal) had to die like this?" she questioned.

Kamal Hossain, assistant commissioner (Pallabi zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said police will interrogate the injured persons to identify the killers.

NEWS IN brief

DU Philanthropic Society donates for Nepal earthquake victims

CITY DESK

Dhaka University Philanthropic Society donated 1,500 pieces of clothes and several boxes of medicines for the victims of Nepal earthquake yesterday.

Zia Rahman, a professor of the Criminology department at DU and the moderator of the volunteer organisation, handed over the humanitarian aid to DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Aga Khan shocked at attack on Ismaili community in Pakistan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, has expressed shock at an attack launched by unidentified gunmen on a bus carrying members of the Ismaili community on their way to Karachi, Pakistan on Wednesday that left 43 people dead.

"This attack represents a senseless act of violence against a peaceful community. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and the families of those killed and wounded in the attack," he said in a statement.

Girl found dead in water tank in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a girl was recovered from the water tank in her house in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday.

Nasima Akter Mukta, 6, was daughter of Mohammad Mustafiz, a house painter.

There were injury marks in her throat, said Mohammadpur police Assistant Sub-inspector Ruhul Amin.

His daughter was found dead around 5:00pm four hours after she had gone missing, said Mustafiz, alleging that she was killed.

Police, however, could not ascertain whether she was murdered.

Hawkers push pedestrians

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to reveal the names.

The makeshift shops at GEC, Agrabad, New Market, No-2 Gate intersections are also run this way.

Contacted, Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Abdul Jalil Mandal, who joined in September 2014, said they had evicted the footpath grabbers in EPZ and GEC areas earlier but they returned and started building the structures again, a few metres from their earlier place.

However, he said there is no political pressure to prevent any drive at Agrabad and New Market intersections, but he left the matter to Chittagong City Corporation (CCC).

Admitting that footpath stalls are hindering the normal flow of traffic, the CMP chief said the hawkers at the intersections have left half of the footpaths, and if they evict them, it will be a challenge for them to find an alternative livelihood.

Asked if police approve of the footpath stalls, he said it is not their job to evict the grabbers; the CCC should do it.

Contacted, CCC Executive Magistrate Nazia Shirin said the corporation cannot alone evict the grabbers; to do that, they need political commitment and cooperation from police and local councillors.

Major action will be taken after new CCC mayor AJM Nasir Uddin takes over in July, she added.

BTRC may monitor int'l

FROM PAGE 3

Bangla Tel Ltd, and BG Tel Ltd -- collectively submitted the petition on May 4 challenging the legality of the BTRC's decision to run IGW operators switch (IOS) for monitoring the call traffic.

They also prayed to the HC to stay BTRC's decision, saying that BTRC could not create IOS without giving IGW operators' licence.

Ajmalul Hossain and MK Rahman appeared for the petitioners, while Additional Attorney General Murad Reza and Khandaker Reza-E Raquib argued for BTRC.

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