



PHOTO: COURTESY OF SUBRATA ACHARJEE

BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed being taken to a court in Shillong, India, yesterday. He was sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

Salahuddin sent to jail

FROM PAGE 16

"At the beginning of the hearing, the court asked the police whether they wanted to have Salahuddin on remand. In reply, police said there was no need for that," said the journalist.

There was no attorney on the Indian government's side either.

Salahuddin's lawyers SP Mahanta and Anil Agarwal told the court that their client was ill and had been released from a Shillong specialised hospital the previous day.

The BNP leader also told the court that he had chest pain, said Subrata.

The chief judicial magistrate then ordered the police to carry out a complete medical check-up of the former state minister of Bangladesh before sending him to jail.

After the hearing, Salahuddin thanked the Indian government for providing him with treatment, said a local journalist.

Subrata, quoting local lawyers, said the absence of any government-appointed lawyer during such a hearing was "rare" and police usually sought remand for the accused in cases filed for trespassing.

SP Mahanta told the journalist that as per law police could not interrogate Salahuddin during the 14 days and no petition could be filed in future for remanding Salahuddin in police custody.



Culprits 2, not 5

FROM PAGE 16

Contacted, relatives of the victim, who has been kept at the Victim Support Centre of police in Tejgaon, said that the Rab men showed her a video clip yesterday morning and she identified the two arrestees as her rapists.

The victim also demanded capital punishment for them, said a relative, wishing anonymity.

Asked about discrepancy over the number of offenders, another relative said the rapists in the microbus had told the victim that they had more accomplices in other vehicles that were following the microbus.

Later when they went to Bhatara Police Station, the policemen there advised them to put the number of offenders at five.

Inspector Sazzad Hossain, investigating officer of the case, said they heard a description of the incident from the victim and her family members and they were investigating the case based on that information.

"We will interrogate the detainees once they are handed over to us," he told The Daily Star over the phone, adding that all confusions would dissipate once the detainees gave confessional statements.

Later in the evening, Officer-in-Charge Nurul Muttakin of the police station told this paper that they had received the arrestees from the Rab.

TARGETED AT FIRST MEETING

The girl of Garo community had been targeted the very first time one of the rapists met her at her workplace in Jamuna Future Park, the Rab said.

Quoting the detainees, Rab Media Wing Director Commander Mufti Mahmud Khan said Tushar, the alleged mastermind, met her on May 16 when he along with two foreigners went to the shopping mall where the girl worked as a sales representative.

That very day, he started making efforts to win the girl's confidence.

Though he himself was only a driver by profession, he offered the girl a better job and kept calling her over the phone repeatedly.

"He [Tushar] planned to trap the girl and for this he lured her with the promise of a job at his office," the Rab official said.

Once the girl started showing interest in the job offer, Tushar shared his plan with Lavlu and Firoz, both of who encouraged him to go ahead with the plan.

Then on May 20, he asked her to give him her resume on Thursday night.

According to plan, Tushar and Lavlu reached Kuril Highway Bus Stand area on a microbus around 9:15pm.

Around 15 minutes later, the girl came out of her workplace and was waiting for a bus to her Uttara residence.

The criminals then drove the microbus to her. Lavlu was at the wheel.

Tushar took the resume from her and offered her a lift home. When the girl rejected it outright, he pulled her into the vehicle forcibly.

The duo then took turns raping the girl for around an hour before dropping her near her house, the Rab director said, quoting the arrestees.

Tushar was detained from Kolapara of Patuakhali district around 1:00am. Based on information gleaned from him, a Rab team caught Lavlu from the capital's Gulshan around 5:25am.

Also, the microbus used in the incident has been seized from the capital's Banani area, Commander Mufti Mahmud added.

Meanwhile the Dhaka Medical College Hospital authority yesterday handed over the victim's forensic test report to the investigators.

Prof Habibuzzaman Chowdhury, head of the Forensic Medicine department, said the report states the girl was indeed raped that night.

Text that can

FROM PAGE 16

once it has happened, but there appears to be no way to keep phones from being vulnerable to it happening again until Apple sends out an update.

If users open the Messages app and the problem text is still open, users can just send a reply to fix the problem. If it's not, users must either receive a message or send a message to themselves, using Siri or by texting from the "share" option that can be found in many apps.

Users may be able to avoid the problem by turning off notifications for text messages, or hiding the previews that show up in banner notifications.

The problem appears to come from the way that the phone tries to show the message in notifications. The characters cause that system to break, so that it briefly tries to show it before crashing and then re-setting the phone in an attempt to fix it.

The text was found by Reddit users, who also discovered how the problem was affecting phones. The issue seems to have been around since iOS 6, users said, which was released in 2012.

Apple's engineers are aware of the problem and are looking to fix it, according to Twitter users. Members of the site also found what was going on to make it work.

Dhaka, Delhi

FROM PAGE 16

expeditiously evaluate the feasibility of initially operating weekly passenger train service between Kolkata and Khulna after issues relating to customs and immigration checks at Benapole/Petrapol or at Kolkata/Dhaka get settled.

Bangladesh has agreed to examine the possibility of increasing the frequency of Moitree Express linking Dhaka and Kolkata to four times from the current three times a week, said an official statement issued in New Delhi yesterday.

It was agreed that Bangladesh Railway would conduct a due diligence exercise and revert to Indian Railways in due course, said the statement.

Indian Railways also expressed its readiness to convert Moitree Express into a fully air-conditioned service.

It was also agreed in the meeting that both sides would further pursue the initiative to shift Customs and Immigration checks to Kolkata and Dhaka.

India sought access to Bangladesh Railway network for the purposes of carrying through traffic to and from its eastern states and Bangladesh Railway agreed to have the proposal placed for due consideration at the appropriate levels of its government, the statement said.

The India-Bangladesh Inter Governmental Railway Meeting was held in New Delhi from May 25 to 27 in which officials of Indian and Bangladesh Railway, Customs, immigration and foreign ministries participated.

Verdict June 16

FROM PAGE 16

Mojaheed, a leader of Al-Badr and Islami Chhatra Sangha, had killed intellectuals including noted journalist Serajuddin Hossain in 1971, he argued.

On the other side, Mojaheed's lawyer SM Shahjahan told the SC that the prosecution had miserably failed to produce credible and trustworthy evidence and witnesses before the court against his client. Mojaheed was likely to be acquitted of all the charges brought against him, he argued.

On July 17, 2013, the tribunal sentenced Mojaheed to death for abducting and killing eminent journalist Serajuddin Hossain during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

The tribunal merged this offence with the charge of killing intellectuals and professionals, for which Mojaheed was also found guilty of and sentenced to death.

The charge concerning the killing of intellectuals says the Pakistan army set up a camp at Mohammadpur Physical Training Institute, Dhaka, and members of Razakar and Al-Badr forces used to receive training there.

Mojaheed was also given death penalty for his involvement in the killing of the Hindus in Bakchar village in Faridpur in 1971.

The tribunal sentenced Mojaheed to life imprisonment for killing composer Altaf Mahmud, Jahir Uddin Jalal, Badi, Rumi (son of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam), Jewel and Azad at Old MP Hostel at Nakhalpara in Dhaka and to five years' imprisonment for confining Ranjit Nath, a civilian, at a Bihari camp in Faridpur.

According to the verdict, Mojaheed led a "death squad" named Al-Badr that worked as an auxiliary force of the Pakistan army. Mojaheed, who was made a technocrat minister during the BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance rule in 2001-2006, came under huge criticism for his audacious comment in 2007 that there were no war criminals in the country.

Crimes aplenty

FROM PAGE 1

support from the law ministry project Justice Sector Facility (JSF), which is funded by the UNDP.

Research associates SM Atia Naznin and Tanjina Sharmin presented the findings of the report.

Twenty four judges, public prosecutors and defence lawyers were interviewed for the study. They also mentioned case backlogs, technicalities of law, dissatisfactory role of prosecution lawyers and harshness of punishment under the 2000 Act as reasons for low conviction.

Replying to questions from reporters, both the researchers said they wanted to talk to the police officials concerned but were denied interview.

Analysis of a number of Supreme Court judgments and case studies from trial courts showed that lack of sound reasoning and excessive use of jurisdiction by trial court, framing of wrong charge by the tribunals and inappropriate procedure of trial are some other reasons

Year	% of case disposal	% of conviction
2014	22.28%	0.42%
2013	25.56%	0.30%
2012	24.40%	0.63%
2011	20.17%	0.76%
2010	19.56%	1.82%
2009	21.79%	2.07%

SOURCE: BRAC UNIVERSITY REPORT 2015

why there is a low conviction rate, the study found.

"Most of the cases filed under this Act are dowry related," research associate Sharmin said, adding that women were often ill-advised to file cases under this law even when it was not applicable.

"Conviction in dowry related cases are the lowest according to the participants, while the number of rape cases filed is the lowest but has high conviction rate," said Naznin.

Commenting on the findings, eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik, director of Brac's Law School, questioned whether the filing of false cases was a reflection of the patriarchal society.

Brac University Vice-chancellor Syed Saad Andaleeb, UNDP's JSF project's Chief Technical Adviser Christian Eldon, and Brac University's Law School Head of Undergraduate Programme Prof K Shamsuddin Mahmood also spoke at the programme.



A refreshing first in India

TNN, Kolkata

India, probably the world, will get its first transgender college principal when Manabi Bandyopadhyay takes charge of Krishnagar Women's College in West Bengal on June 9.

Manabi is currently associate professor in Bengali at Vivekananda Satobarshiki Mahavidyalaya.

"This decision was taken by the College Service Commission. I don't interfere in their decisions. They are aware of our open mind. I am happy with this decision," state education minister Partha Chatterjee said on Tuesday.

Technical education minister Ujjal Biswas, who is chairman of the college governing body, said: "We were in need of a principal with a strong personality to run the college smoothly."

Welcoming the decision, Rattan Lal Hangloo, vice-chancellor of the Kalyani University to which Krishnagar Women's College is affiliated, said, "Manabi is a fine human being, a good academician and an able administrator. We are hopeful her appointment will empower other members of the transgender community."

On Tuesday morning, Manabi visited the college, sporting Raybans glasses, curly hair done up in a careless coiffure. Accompanied by her adopted son Debasish Manabiputro and transgender friend Jyoti Samanta, she was untouched by the excitement around her.

"It is not the post that I sought after. My 92-year-old father lives in Naihati. I took up this offer because I knew it will help me stay close by and look after him. My new colleagues had seen me on television but I had only heard their voices. I wanted to meet them personally before joining," she said.

'Twin' trouble

FROM PAGE 16

Huq, his counterpart in Dhaka south Sayeed Khokon and local lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh visited the spot.

Annusil instructed the authorities to form a joint coordination committee, led by the DNCC chief engineer, to address the immediate safety concerns.

FINGER POINTED AT RAJUK

Architect Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), blamed deep excavation along the boundary and road, construction of the buildings on an earth-filled marshland and poor oversight by the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) for the dangerous collapse.

"It's the duty of Rajuk to monitor constructions of buildings. There is no doubt that Rajuk had been careless about the construction work," said Khokon, mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation.

Four people died in a similar subsidence during the construction of another building on a marshland to the south of Sundarban Hotel, he told this newspaper.

The mayor was critical of the construction firms for not ensuring safety measures at the site.

Lawmaker Taposh echoed the views of Khokon.

The National Bank Limited (NBL) in December 2013 obtained approval from the Rajuk for building the high-rises on a 64-katha plot. It hired Korean firms Heerim, Donga and local MS Construction for the job.

Abdur Rahman, acting chairman and a board member of Rajuk, said the hotel survived the subsidence probably because of its strongly-built foundation.

"The boundary protection of the under-construction building collapsed due to the weakness in its structural design and inappropriate piling," he added.

Sheikh Mohammad Shamim Iqbal, Rajuk member for development, said he was not aware if the developer made the mandatory declaration to Rajuk before starting the construction work.

Shamsul Huda Khan, managing director of NBL, said contractors had been tasked with the construction of the buildings.

bank is not responsible for the accident," he told The Daily Star.

Md Salah Uddin, proprietor of MS Construction, said seepage of water through the underground sewer and water supply lines loosened the soil at the site which resulted in the subsidence.

Toll tops 1,100

(118 degrees Fahrenheit) over the weekend, more than 200 people have died in the last week compared to 31 in the whole of last year.

In New Delhi, forecasters said they expected the high temperatures to continue into next week.

Residents of Gurgaon -- a high-rise satellite city that is home to many of the capital's workers -- suffered power cuts of up to 10 hours a day as the electricity grid struggled to cope with the demand from millions of air conditioners.

"Nothing is working -- even after taking half a dozen baths a day, you can't beat the heat," 34-year-old shop owner Manish Singh told AFP in Gurgaon.

"We try to spend more time indoors to avoid heatstroke. It's worse than previous years -- we hardly get any electricity and the air conditioners become useless."

More than 9,700 people died between 2004 to 2013 due to heat strokes, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The NCRB shows in 2012 nearly 1,250 people died across India, while scorching temperatures killed more than 1,200 people the following year.

Brahma Prakash Yadav, director of the Indian Meteorological Department, said top temperatures in the capital would remain around 45 degrees Celsius -- the national bench-

mark for a heatwave.

"Maximum temperatures won't fall substantially. However, major relief can be expected from June 2 as there are indications of good showers," he said.

Hundreds of people -- mainly from the poorest sections of society -- die at the height of summer every year across India, while tens of thousands suffer power cuts from an overburdened electricity grid.

Forty-three were reported to have died in the eastern state of Orissa, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency. Another 13 succumbed to the heat in neighbouring West Bengal, where unions urged drivers to stay off the roads during the day.

One person was killed in neighbouring Maharashtra, where authorities said they did not expect conditions to improve until the arrival of monsoon rains in June, while PTI reported that seven more died in adjacent Gujarat.

The Hindustan Times newspaper warned that some of the hot, dry conditions could plunge the worst-affected states into drought before monsoon rains arrive.

The monsoon is forecast to hit the southern state of Kerala towards the end of this month before sweeping across the country, but it will be weeks before the rains reach the arid plains.

Rohingyas forced

FROM PAGE 1

country by groups of men armed with knives and guns.

Yasmine, a 13-year-old girl, told HRW that a dozen men came to her home in Rakhine State, home to many Rohingya, and told her she needed to leave Myanmar to join her brother in Malaysia.

"They dragged me to the boat, they had sticks and threatened to beat me," she said. "I screamed, I cried loudly. My parents were weeping, but they couldn't do anything. I went onto the boat with three men. When I got to the big boat... I cannot explain my feeling, I was so scared."

Another, 16-year old Arefa, said that six Rakhine Buddhists, armed with knives and guns, forced her to get on a boat.

"They told me I was leaving Myanmar," she said. After a six-hour journey to a larger vessel she spent two months at sea with 95 other migrants, amid dwindling food supplies and abysmal sanitary conditions, before arriving in Malaysia.

"I don't know what I'll do in Malaysia, I have no money. I miss Myanmar, but I know I cannot go back," she said.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an estimated 25,000 Southeast Asian migrants took to the seas in the first three months of 2015.

After weeks or even months at sea, they are either dumped in unfamiliar countries like Thailand, with no money, to fend for themselves, or are herded into camps in the jungles of Thailand and Malaysia where they are held captive and further mistreated.

"Survivors describe how they flee persecution in Burma only to fall into the hands of traffickers and extortionists, in many cases witnessing deaths and suffering abuse and hunger," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch in a statement.

"Interviews with officials and others make clear that these brutal networks, with the complicity of government officials in Burma, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Malaysia, profit from the desperation and misery of some of the world's most persecuted and neglected people."

Thailand is due to host an international meeting on the issue of sea-borne migrants in Bangkok tomorrow,

where the crisis will top the agenda.

Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, told CNN that the meeting also needs to address the root cause of the Rohingya's plight.

"There needs to be a concerted push on Burma to end discriminatory policies against Rohingya," he said. "People like this are essentially caged up, prisoners in their own land. Given the limitations on their basic ability to survive and support themselves, it's unsurprising that they are lured by people smugglers. [There needs to be an] effective push to end the deprivation that leads them to make these kinds of decisions."

He added that the IOM should play an important role in assessing if the migrants are victims of human trafficking.

Well done

FROM PAGE 16

committed the crime. One of the rapists met her at the shop she worked in and made conversation with her. Promising a lucrative job at a buying house, he took her phone number. They offered her a lift home that fateful night, but when she refused, she was forced into the minivan in which they brutally tortured her.

There are no apt words to describe the outrage and condemnation we feel regarding this horrible, abhorrent crime that must have left unspeakable trauma on the victim. But this time the law enforcers have shown their efficiency and diligence in catching the rapists and unravelling their diabolical, premeditated crime. We are of course appreciative of their sincere efforts and are convinced that they will be able to apprehend the other rapists. It also goes to show that it is possible for law enforcement agencies to find and apprehend such sexual offenders. But their apparent failure to arrest those pervers who sexually harassed women and a minor on Pahela Baishakh near the DU campus also comes to mind.

We cannot erase the painful memories this young Garo woman will have to bear for the rest of her life. But at least we can expect that she will get some closure from knowing that her assaulters will be given the highest form of punishment. Let this expectation be met.