

TANGAIL GANG-RAPE Bus driver confesses involvement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Main accused of Tangail bus gang-rape Habibur Rahman Nayan, the driver of the vehicle, confessed to the crime in a court here yesterday.

Hamidul Islam, additional chief judicial magistrate, recorded Nayan's statement under the section 164, said Khan Hasan Mostofa, inspector (investigation) of Dhanbari Police Station, who is also the investigation officer of the case.

Another accused Rezaul Karim Jewel, conductor of the bus, on Monday gave his confessional statement before the same magistrate's court.

Two days before, Abdul Khalek Bhutto, helper of the bus, also confessed before Luna Ferdousi, senior judicial magistrate in Tangail, that he was involved in the rape incident.

The three on the day were produced before the senior judicial magistrate's court that placed Nayan and Jewel on a three-day remand.

The victim's husband filed a case against the three and six transport leaders with Dhanbari Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on Friday night.

The accused transport leaders, who allegedly tried to protect the "rapists", have gone into hiding.

"We are conducting drives at different places to arrest them," said Mojibor Rahman, officer-in-charge of Dhanbari police.

The victim, a garment worker, aged around 23, was returning to her Gazipur house from a relative's house in Dhanbari on a bus of Binimoy Paribahan early Friday. She was the only passenger in the bus that had the three staff.

Around 6:00am, when the bus was on Tangail-Mymensingh road in Madhupur upazila, the trio closed the gate and windows. They also tied her hands and legs and gagged her. The bus staff then raped her by turns before pushing her out of the bus in a desolate place by the road.

Iceland PM

FROM PAGE 1

Gunnlaugsson had earlier called on President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson to dissolve parliament, but that was refused.

Grimsson said he wanted to speak to political parties first.

"I do not think it is normal that the prime minister alone... should be given the authority to dissolve the parliament without the majority of the parliament being satisfied with that decision," the president told reporters.

Some observers describe his rejection of the prime minister's request as highly unusual.

After refusing to resign on Monday, the prime minister appeared to come under increasing pressure from within this governing coalition too.

He took to Facebook yesterday to outline his position.

"I told the leader of the Independence Party that if the party's parliamentarians think they cannot support the government in completing joint tasks, I would dissolve parliament and call a general election," he wrote.

The so-called Panama Papers leaked from Mossack Fonseca show that Gunnlaugsson and his wife bought Wintris in 2007.

He did not declare an interest in the company when entering parliament in 2009. He sold his 50% of Wintris to his wife, Anna Sigurlaug Palsdottir, for \$1 (70p), eight months later.

Gunnlaugsson says no rules were broken and his wife did not benefit financially.

The offshore company was used to invest millions of dollars of inherited money, according to a document signed by Mrs Palsdottir in 2015.

Court records show that Wintris had significant investments in the bonds of three major Icelandic banks that collapsed during the financial crisis which began in 2008.

Some of Icelanders' anger is believed to stem from the perceived conflict of interest.

The prime minister was involved in negotiations about the banks' future and had characterised foreign creditors who wanted their money back as "vultures", while Wintris itself was a creditor.

Gunnlaugsson kept his wife's interest in the outcome a secret.

Is the media at fault?

FROM PAGE 16

irregularities in last two phases have triggered fear of more violence in the remaining elections to around 3,000 more UPs. The fairness of the elections to these is also uncertain.

The way the elections were held has triggered a huge outcry. For all the incidents that occurred during the election and for its failure to ensure free and fair elections, the EC has been facing blistering criticisms from the media, the civil society, political parties, election experts, and a cross-section of the people.

Under such a situation, the EC on Monday launched the counterattack on media, terming the discussion about the EC as "misleading."

The allegation is, however, wholesale in nature. The EC did not specify any report or talk show that in its opinion is misleading. It could not rebut any of the news reports or contents of talk shows. The way the election was held has made it difficult for the EC to defend the polls.

So, it has opted for the usual path of blaming the media to divert people's attention. In the past, whenever organisations and top officials failed to deliver on their mandates and their failures were exposed by the media, those organisations and officials blamed the media and tried to make it the whipping boy. They could not succeed in their efforts as people were aware of the real situation.

This time too, people are aware of the nature of the UP elections. So, blaming the media will never yield any benefit for the EC.

Instead of blaming the media, the EC should take media reports on irregularities into cognisance and take necessary steps to correct them. There have been instances in the past when the EC and the CEC in particular, took media criticism seriously and took corrective measures. This helped the situation significantly.

The EC should keep it in mind that media is not their opponent. The media will keep doing its own jobs no matter whether the EC likes it or not. The media is committed to serving the people. And the EC is a people's institution. So, people have the right to know how the EC is functioning.

In its statement Monday, the EC described some of the measures it had taken during the two phases-elections. Postponing elections to 102 polling stations in two phases, releasing three upazila nirbahi officers and four officers in charge of police from election duties and transferring them were among the measures. But the actions were too weak to affect the large scale deterioration of the situation.

It has, however, pledged that it would take necessary measures to ensure free and fair elections to the remaining UPs.

But based on its performance in the last two years, the EC's promise appears as mere rhetoric.

Incidents of large scale violence and irregularities including capturing polling stations took place in the three phases-elections to the upazila parishes in early 2014, three city corporations-Dhaka and Chittagong in April and municipality polls in December 2015. The police and local administration in many areas in those polls seemed to be helpless in front of violent ruling party men.

But after the close of voting, the EC every time claimed the elections were "peaceful except for some sporadic incidents." The EC's continued defence of flawed elections diminishes people's hopes for fair elections and electoral system.

If the EC now wants to restore people's confidence, it will not be wanting of authority.

The constitution permits it to take any measures necessary for the sake of free and fair elections.

It can cancel an election at any stage if it finds the election was faulty and also can cancel candidature on grounds of gross electoral anomalies.

The government is also constitutionally obliged to provide all assistance to the EC in this regard.

If the EC feels shaky and helpless in spite of such a strong mandate and authority to hold free and fair polls and blame the media for its failure to perform, people's hope for good elections will remain a distant dream. And the present leadership in the EC will be held responsible for their failure to ensure people's voting rights.

160 doctors

FROM PAGE 1

wrongdoings of the BSMMU authorities. Asked if the patients would be deprived of medical services, he said the BSMMU authorities would consider new recruits if there was any shortage.

According to legal documents, the BSMMU advertised in a newspaper on October 18, 2005, seeking to recruit medical officers. It did not mention any definite number of vacant posts.

Iqbal Arslan, the then secretary general of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad, a pro-Awami League doctors' association, filed a writ petition with the High Court against the recruitment advertisement.

The petition alleged that the BSMMU had been involved in irregularities in recruitment since 2001 and many appointments were made on the basis of political considerations.

The then BSMMU vice-chancellor MA Hadi floated the advertisement for recruiting 200 medical officers, for which the posts had not been created by the appropriate authority, the university syndicate, Arslan said, adding that this had rendered the appointments illegal.

"So many medical officers were not required," he told this correspondent.

ABM Safullah, assistant professor of gastrology, one of the 160 losing their jobs, said the High Court on February 27, 2006, in an interim order allowed the appointments of 200 medical officers.

Accordingly, 200 medical officers were appointed on March 1, 2006, and their jobs were regularised on March 18, 2008.

Some 40 doctors, however, had left for other jobs.

On December 14, 2010, the High Court through its verdict declared illegal the recruitments through the advertisement.

When the BSMMU and the aggrieved physicians challenged the verdict with the Appellate Division, the apex court stayed the High Court order on December 20 the same year.

After six years, the Appellate Division on February 22 this year upheld the High Court order.

"I have been totally undone by not getting paid in March," said Tanzina Ivy Chowdhury, a medical officer who had gotten a civil service job through 24th BCS but had opted for the BSMMU instead considering the scope for higher education.

Ivy, who is doing her MS in gynaecology at the BSMMU, said she and her family were fully dependent on the salary, and her losing the job makes future of everything, including her studies, uncertain.

Prof Iqbal Arslan, who had filed the writ, told this correspondent the full judgment of the Appellate Division was yet to be published, and the BSMMU not paying the doctors was inappropriate.

Asked why the doctors have to be victims of the irregularities the BSMMU authorities had indulged in, he said the judgment of the Appellate Division could clarify what is to happen to the doctors.

"We have to wait before making any comments," Arslan said.

47 Indian cops

FROM PAGE 16

At the time of the killings, militants were fighting in the region to try to create a Sikh homeland called Khalistan.

The Supreme Court, acting on a lawyer's petition, ordered the CBI to investigate the case. The CBI charged 57 police in 1995 but 10 of them died during the eventual trial that took years to conclude in India's notoriously slow legal system. The remaining 47 were found guilty on Friday.

SC hearing today

FROM PAGE 16

a three-member SC bench headed by the chief justice started hearing the appeals. The other two members of the bench were Justice Foez and Justice Haider.

The same bench resumed the hearing yesterday morning and adjourned the proceedings until today.

The chief justice then constituted the larger five-member bench for dealing with the appeals.

SM Shahjahan appeared as a counsel for the accused, while Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, AM Aminuddin, SM Abdul Mobin and Sarwar Ahmed represented the plaintiff.

Deputy Attorney General Khondker Diliruzzaman was present on behalf of the state.

BACKGROUND According to the case documents, Shazneen Tasnim Rahman was brutally murdered at her house in the capital's Gulshan area on April 23, 1998.

The following day, her father Latifur Rahman filed a murder case with Gulshan Police Station under section 302 of Penal Code.

On September 4 the same year, the CID filed a case under Women and Children Repression [Prevention] Act for rape and murder.

After investigations, police submitted a charge sheet in the first case to the Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court-1 in Dhaka and another charge sheet in the second case to the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression.

The courts framed charges in both the cases.

The accused are Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan, who was a contractor for renovating Latifur Rahman's house, and his accomplice Badal, domestic help Shahidul Islam Shahid, housemaids Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin who are sisters, and carpenter Shaniram Mandal.

The accused challenged the indictment orders in both the cases before the High Court.

On July 6, 1999, the HC bench of Justice Mohammad Abdul Karim and Justice ABM Khairul Haque (who later became chief justice) ruled that the murder case against the accused pending with the Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court would be stayed because the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression had already indicted the accused for killing.

The bench also gave the go-ahead to continue the case at the tribunal for murder and rape.

In its verdict, the HC bench said rape and murder are two distinct and separate offences. It is to be mentioned that the autopsy report of Shazneen clearly stated that she was raped before murder.

The accused challenged the HC verdict before the Appellate Division.

On November 11, 1999, a four-member Appellate Division bench, comprising the then Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal, Justice Latifur Rahman (who later became CJ), Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury (who later became CJ), rejected their appeal.

In its verdict, the SC said the HC rightly stayed all further proceedings of the case at the sessions judge's court and gave the go-ahead to proceed with the case at the tribunal.

It is such a case where murder was not committed during rape. "It is a clear case of rape and then murder. These are two distinct and separate offences. So the question of double jeopardy does not arise," the apex court observed.

After getting the SC's approval, the tribunal went on with proceedings in

the case.

After five years of court proceedings, Judge Kazi Rahmat Ullah of Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression in Dhaka gave the verdict in the case on September 2, 2003.

The court gave death penalty to all the six accused on the charges of rape, planning the murder and abetting the offences.

The convicts then appealed to the HC against the tribunal verdict.

On July 10, 2006, the HC confirmed the death penalty of Shahid, Badal, Minu, Parvin and Sajjad. It, however, acquitted Shaniram Mandal.

Later, four of the five accused -- Sajjad, Badal, Minu and Parvin -- filed separate leave-to-appeal petitions seeking permission for filing regular appeals against the HC verdict.

On April 26, 2009, the Appellate Division accepted their leave-to-appeal prayers.

Later, the four lodged appeals with the SC. Shahid also filed an appeal with the apex court through the jail authorities.

Around seven years after the filing of the appeals, the Appellate Division started hearing those together on March 29.

Facebook

FROM PAGE 16

software called screen readers to make computers usable. They turn the contents of the screen into speech output or braille. But they can only read text and can't "read" pictures.

Using artificial intelligence (AI), Facebook's servers can now decode and describe images uploaded to the site and provide them in a form that can be read out by a screen reader.

Facebook says it has now trained its software to recognise about 80 familiar objects and activities. It adds the descriptions as alternative text, or alt text, on each photo. The more images it scans, the more sophisticated the software will become.

Some of the objects the new technology can recognise are: car, boat, aeroplane, bicycle, train, road, motorcycle, bus, outdoor, mountain, tree, snow, sky, ocean, water, beach, wave, sun and grass.

The man behind the development is Matt King, a Facebook engineer who lost his sight as a result of retinitis pigmentosa - a condition which destroys the light sensitive cells in the retina.

"On Facebook, a lot of what happens is extremely visual," King says. "And, as somebody who's blind, you can really feel like you're left out of the conversation, like you're on the outside."

The technology that King and his team have developed uses Facebook's in-house object-recognition software to decipher what an image contains. It has been trained to recognise items such as food and vehicles.

Suicide bomber kills at least 6 in eastern Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

A suicide bomber on a motorcycle killed at least six civilians and wounded 22 yesterday when he detonated near a clinic and a school during a police chase in eastern Afghanistan, officials said.

The incident occurred in Parwan province, northwest of capital Kabul, provincial police chief for Parwan Mohammad Zaman Mamozai told AFP.

Philippines moves

FROM PAGE 16

"DIRTY MONEY"

Junket operator Kim Wong, who said he was an interpreter for two Chinese nationals linked to the stolen funds, said he received money that was for debt repayment. He pledged to return 450 million pesos (about \$9.7 million) of the funds within the month after turning over \$5.46 million of what he characterised as "dirty money" to the Council in the past week.

When asked if gambling profits out of the stolen funds will be returned, lawyers for Bloomberry, Midas Hotel & Casino and two junket operators said they will ask their clients.

Bloomberry is willing to return the 108.7 million pesos it had frozen and confiscated from the 19 people who gambled the \$30 million that its Solaire Resort & Casino received, compliance officer Tan told the Senate hearing.

DEPICTED AS VICTIMS

"The casinos seem to be washing their hands of this mess," said Benito Lim, a political science professor at the Ateneo de Manila University. "They're depicting themselves as victims. But the government must plug the law's loopholes by including casinos in the coverage of the Anti-Money Laundering Act."

Philrem Service Corp, a local remittance company that has said it either wired or handed over bundles of stolen cash to the casinos and their junket operators in February, denied it had pocketed as much as \$18 million of the stolen funds.

"We delivered everything, no money is with us," Michael Bautista, treasurer of Philrem told the Senate hearing.

Meanwhile, Philippine Daily Inquirer reports that Rizal Commercial Banking Corp's (RCBC) former branch manager Maia Santos-Deguito has claimed she was just a "pawn in a high-stakes chess game played by giants in international banking and high finance."

She described herself that way when she returned yesterday at the ongoing Senate blue ribbon committee's investigation into the alleged \$81 million stolen funds from the Bangladesh's central bank.

"Recently, other resource persons have laid practically all the blame on me for the alleged money-laundering as if I had the resources at my mid-management level to put all the pieces in place for a crime involving almost P4 billion," Deguito said, reading from a prepared statement.

"Truly, a crime of this magnitude could be possible only with the partici-

pation of people from the highest wealthy businessmen whose far-reaching powers and influence span several countries."

It was Deguito, former RCBC branch manager on Jupiter Street, Makati City, who facilitated the opening of five bank accounts allegedly used to receive and withdraw the said stolen funds.

If there was a conspiracy, Deguito said, she had no knowledge of it.

And if she had mistakes, she said, it was that she believed and trusted the RCBC President Lorenzo Tan, followed him and relied on the fact that he "could not have been unaware of a transaction that has been labelled the biggest bank heist in the history of the world."

"I am but a pawn in a highest-stakes chess game played by giants in international banking and high finance," she said.

"If this committee is looking for the 'grandmaster,' it is not me. The line runs much higher and involves persons with much more clout and authority than a simple bank manager with modest capabilities has," Deguito added.

Per capita

FROM PAGE 1

percent by the end of this fiscal year in June.

The Gross National Income (GNI) was Tk 18,314,994 million (\$2,343 million) this fiscal year when the population was 159.9 million.

This will be seen as a giant leap for the country towards becoming a middle-income nation after being bracketed with low-income nations for decades.

Bangladesh was elevated from the low income status to lower middle income nation last year, meeting the World Bank's requirements comfortably.

The development came against the backdrop of the country achieving higher per capita income amid a stable economic growth.

The WB used 2014 data to determine this year's ranking.

On July 1 each year, the WB revises the income classification of the world's economies based on the GNI per capita of the previous year.

Bangladesh's per capita income was \$1,080 in 2014, higher than the Washington-based lender's set threshold of \$1,045.

IS in deadly gas attack on Syria army: state media

AFP, Beirut

The Islamic State group has mounted a deadly gas attack against Syrian troops at a besieged eastern airbase, state news agency SANA said, the latest report of the jihadists' use of chemical weapons.

SANA did not say precisely how many soldiers had been killed in the attack on the government-controlled airbase outside the divided eastern city of Deir Ezzor.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER No.259 OF 2015
IN THE MATTER OF:
An Application under Section-233 of the Companies Act, 1994.
AND
THE MATTER OF:
Md. Mahabubul Haque (Sherin), Son of Late Md. Shariful Haque alias Shafiqul Haq, Chairman, Thikana Enterprise (Pvt.) Ltd. represented by its lawful attorney vide power of Attorney No.02 dated 12.01.2015 Mr. Abdus Salam S/O: Md. Inshad Ali and Mahmuda Begum, Permanent Address: Village-Hatiya Sursiyar par, Dhampur, P.O-Baloyia Bazar, P.S-Dhira, District- Sunamgonj. Presently residing at: West Hajipara, Sunamgonj. ----- Petitioner
VERSUS-
Thikana Enterprise (Pvt.) Ltd, Thikana Tower (ground floor), Naya Sarak, Sylhet, Dhaka Office : 14, Kakrail (2nd floor), Dhaka-1000 and Others. ----- Respondents
Notice is hereby given that an application under Section-233 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the Petitioner. Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Syed Refat Ahmed has been pleased to admit the said application on 05.11.2015. That by Order dated 4.03.2016 the Hon'ble Company Judge condoned the delay in the publication of notice in the daily newspapers and fixed 12.04.2016 for further Order. Any person interested to oppose the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on or before the date fixed for further Order. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary cost.
Advocate A.K.M. Badrudduza
Room No.1207, (11th Floor) Baitul Hossain, 27, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি
শফিক মিজান রহমান এন্ড কোং
চার্টার্ড একাউন্ট্যান্টস
ও
রিসিভার
ইন্টার্ন কমার্সিয়াল কমপ্লেক্স
সুট # ১২০৫ (১৩ তলা), ৭৩ কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০।
দেউলিয়া বিষয়ক মোকদ্দমা নং-০১/২০০১

পাওন্দারের নাম ও ঠিকানা
বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (ভূতপূর্ব বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ব্যাংক) খুলনা শাখা, খুলনা।

দেওয়ানের নাম ও ঠিকানা
মেসার্স সরদার ফিন প্রোভিডেন্স (প্রাই) লিমিটেড কামিনিবাসিয়া, বটবুনিয়া, দাকাপ খুলনা।

দেয়ার পরিমাণ : ১,২৯,২৯,০১৩.০০ টাকা (৩১-১২-২০০০ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত)।
নিলামের তারিখ : ২৪-০৪-২০১৬ ইং
নিলামের সময় : ১১:০০ ঘটিকায়
নিলামের স্থান : উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপকের কার্যালয়, খুলনা জোনাল অফিস, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (ভূতপূর্ব বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ব্যাংক), ২৫-২৬, কে ডি এ, বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, বান এ সুর রোড, খুলনা।

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, উল্লেখিত তারিখ, সময় ও স্থানে নিলামকৃত বিক্রয় সম্পন্ন হইবে।
আগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।
সর্বোচ্চ নিলাম ডাককারীকে রিসিভার কর্তৃক ক্রেতা সাব্যস্ত হওয়ার সাথে সাথেই নিলামের শতকরা ১০% টাকা পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট-এর মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদান করিতে হইবে এবং বাকী টাকা নিলামের ডাক গ্রহণ করার ১৫ (পনের) দিনের মধ্যে পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে।

নিলামকৃত সম্পত্তির তফসিল
তফসিল-ক
১। জেএল নং-১৩, মৌজা-কামিনিবাসিয়া, খতিয়ান নং-১২১, ১২২, ১৭২ (আরএস), ৩৯৯, ৪০০, ৫৩ (এসএ), দাগ নং সিএস-৭৭৫, ৬৩১, ৭৭৬, ৬৩২, থানা-দাকাপ, জেলা-খুলনা, জমির পরিমাণ-১৯.৭৯ একর। তদুপস্থিত নির্মিত ইমারতাদি ও নির্মিতব্য ইমারতসহ প্রতিস্থাপিত যন্ত্রপাতি, বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জামাদি ইত্যাদি।
২। খতিয়ান নং-১৭৪৭ (সিএস), ১৮০৪ (এসএ), ৮৩৬৯ পৃথক এবং ২৭২২ (সিএস), ২৮৭০, (এসএ), দাগ নং-৪৫৭০ (সিএস), ৫৫৯৪ (এসএ), ৪৫৮৮ (সিএস), ৫৫৭৭ (এসএ) এবং ৪৬৮৪ (সিএস), ৫৭৩৯ (এসএ), মৌজা-বানিয়াখামার, জেলা-খুলনা। জমির পরিমাণ-৩৯.০০ শতাংশ তদুপস্থিত নির্মিত ও নির্মিতব্য ইমারতাদি।
৩। খতিয়ান নং-১৭৩৩ (সিএস), ১৭৮৪ (এসএ), ৪৩৯২ পৃথক এবং দাগ নং-৪৭০১ (সিএস), ৫৭৪৭ (এসএ), মৌজা-বানিয়াখামার, জেলা-খুলনা। জমির পরিমাণ ৪ ১/২ শতাংশ তদুপস্থিত নির্মিত ও নির্মিতব্য ইমারতাদি।

(৬' x ৪)