

Teenage girl raped in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people allegedly raped a 16-year-old girl after picking her up from a rickshaw in the capital's Kodomtoli early yesterday.

Police arrested two people -- Sajib, 27, and Hefaz Uddin, 40, owner of a rickshaw garage -- in connection with the incident.

The two were produced before a Dhaka court with a five-day remand prayer. The court granted them a two-day remand.

The girl, from Ishwarganj of Mymensingh, was admitted to the One-stop Crisis Centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police, quoting the victim, said she was going to her stepsister's house in Magbazar from Mymensingh. She got off a bus at Gulistan around 2:00am.

As it was midnight, she asked a rickshaw puller to take her somewhere where she could spend the night, said Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Kodomtoli Police Station.

He said the rickshaw puller, who lives in Kodomtoli, took her there around 3:00am.

At one stage, Sajib and Hefaz picked her up from the rickshaw forcibly.

The OC added that on information from the rickshaw puller, police started a drive in the area and rescued the girl from a rickshaw garage owned by Hefaz.

Police also arrested Sajib and Hefaz from there.

The police official said during primary interrogation, the suspects confessed to the crime.

Talking to reporters at the DMCH, the girl said two more people were in the garage.

But they fled before police reached the spot, she said.

The girl filed a case against Sajib and Hefaz with Kodomtoli Police Station.

Inspector (operations) of the police station Saiful Islam, also investigation officer of the case, said the girl came to the capital in search of job.

Radicalism

FROM PAGE 1

Rupnagar, law enforcers have been hunting Jebunnahar Shila.

She is being considered a key militant suspect.

"My mother is in shock. We all are anxious," said her elder brother Shahidul Haq.

When the family arranged Shila's marriage in 2005, Jahid was an army captain. Shila, fourth among five siblings, completed her MA from Comilla Victoria College about a couple of years after she was married, he added.

Jahid's in-laws think he began to change gradually after going to Canada for a six-month training in 2014.

"Jahid and Shila's contacts with us became rare and he became very religious after coming back from Canada," Shahidul said.

When Jahid went into early retirement from the army in July last year, he told his in-laws that it was difficult to concentrate on religion while in service. "We were upset at his decision and tried to talk him out of it. But he was determined," said Shahidul.

Detectives say Shila was also radicalised along with her husband and she may have become a militant.

"In recent months, Jahid and Shila frequently changed their home addresses to evade detection by law enforcers," said an official of counterterrorism unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

"Our investigation strongly suggests that Shila was also involved in militancy. In previous cases, we saw that the husband involved in militancy tried to radicalise wife," said the officer.

Jahid's in-laws were relieved when he started working at Lakehead Grammar School in Dhaka in December last year.

But he quit his job as general manager (admin) of the school on March 7, said Mowmita Islam, vice principal of the school.

"He resigned by sending us an email saying he had some business to do and wanted to go abroad," she said.

"He was hired on recommendation from the top management of the school."

For top posts, like the one Jahid held, the school usually hires persons with references and doesn't publish vacancy announcements, she said. "We heard that he had very good references and a spotless career profile."

Army officials recommending him for the position said good things about him, she said. A month after he had left the school, the accounts section tried to contact him but found his phone unreachable.

"We never met his wife. He never mentioned anything about his family, except once when one of his two daughters fell sick and he had to take a day off."

Teenager makes fortune

FROM PAGE 20

means citizens are unable to use standard baby-naming websites that many people use in the UK.

Beau - a pupil at £38,000-a-year Cheltenham Ladies' College - said that has resulted in some parents accidentally picking daft names for their kids like Rolex, Cinderella, Rambo and Gandalf.

Her unique website allows expectant parents to pick culturally-appropriate English names for their children - at just 60p a go.

The young Brit said 221,000 people have used Specialname since it launched six months ago - already earning Beau a cool £48,000.

Beau said: "When I went to China I kept being asked to name babies for my parent's friends.

"They explained an English name is vital because you can't use a Chinese name on email or a university application to the UK. Your English name stays with you for life.

"But I also heard lots of examples where people had chosen culturally inappropriate English names they'd heard from films or read online and

realised there was an opportunity to help Chinese people get it right from the start."

Specialname relies on the Chinese tradition of creating unique name for children.

The site invites parents to select from a list of 12 personality traits - including sensitive, honest, creative and clever - to match their aspirations for their child.

Three shortlisted names are then presented, along with their meaning and a famous namesake such as Grace Kelly or Catherine Middleton.

Parents can share the options with friends and family via messaging app We-Chat - the Chinese equivalent to WhatsApp - so they can help make the final choice.

The naming service costs 60p for three names and take just three minutes to complete. After making their choice, users are sent a naming certificate to keep forever.

Parents are also encouraged to post their baby picture on the website's gallery. The site has grown organically, now averaging 27,000 visitors and earning £16,000 in sales per month.

Not rampant

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He alleged thugs forced around 20 cattle-laden trucks to unload cattle in Hazaribagh and go to different markets.

Hasem Ali, another trader from Harinakunda, said he paid Tk 250 to some youths in Gabtoli on Wednesday. Otherwise, they would have forced traders to unload cattle there.

"The youths also snatched our banner which was hung from the truck. The banner carried the name of Dhupkhola cattle market," he added.

The trader had to pay Tk 100 more to some youths at Dholaikhal on the way to Dhupkhola.

Shamsur Rahman, a trader from Faridpur, said their trowler was chased by another one carrying about eight people near Kamolaghat of Munshiganj on Wednesday.

"Around 20 traders and 60 bulls were

on board. We somehow managed to scare the youths away," he said.

However, some other trowlers were forced to anchor and unload cattle at Kamolghat, added Shamsur.

Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they have already given instructions to the authorities concerned not to intercept any cattle-laden truck on highways.

If anyone intercepts a truck and forces traders to go to a particular cattle market, the incident should be reported to the officer-in-charge of the police station concerned or the assistant commissioner of police of that particular zone, or the police control room, he told The Daily Star.

The official said law enforcers will take action if they receive any complaint in this regard.

Reinstate the recognition

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Chowdhury.

The deputy commanders of the guerrilla force formally surrendered their arms to Bangabandhu at Dhaka National Stadium on January 30 the following year, he added.

An HC bench of Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman delivered yesterday's verdict after the hearing on the writ petition filed on January 19 last year by Pankaj Bhattacharya, a deputy commander of the guerrilla force.

Subrata said the court passed its judgment on the grounds that the guerrilla fighters had fought in the war and worked as well to drum up international support for liberation of the then East Pakistan from West Pakistan.

The liberation war affairs ministry issued a gazette in July 2013 proclaiming members of the guerrilla force, including Comrade Moni Singh and NAP President Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, freedom fighters. The two were advisers to the government-in-exile in 1971.

The government, as recommended by Jatiyo Muktijoddha Council, cancelled their recognition in 2014, which was illegal, Subrata said, adding that the HC order would have a retrospective effect from the day the gazette

notification had been issued.

Referring to the HC observations, the lawyer said the government had not issued any show-cause notice to the guerrilla force members before the cancellation of their recognition, which was a serious violation of the principles of natural justice.

The government-in-exile and the government led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had recognised the guerrilla fighters as freedom fighters, the lawyer said. The names of the members had been published in government notifications too, he added.

Deputy Attorney General ASM Nazmul Haque told The Daily Star that an appeal would be moved before the Appellate Division, challenging the HC verdict if the authorities instructed his office to do so.

The liberation war affairs ministry cancelled its 2013 notification since the members of the guerrilla force had been given recognition under the banners of organisations like NAP, Communist Party and Chhatra Union.

Freedom fighters receive recognition following their individual application submitted under the Muktijoddha Command Council Act, 2002, the DAG added.

The scented Sultanchampa

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for identification. It is from him that I first heard the name *Sultanchampa*. He also informed that the tree that is known as konnal or punnag in our rural areas is actually *Sultanchampa*.

I was not particularly drawn to the beauty of the flower but I found mature fruits strewn under the tree around my locality. During my school days, I found the fruits being sold in our village market as well. That is why I was a little confused to see the tree of a gigantic size. From then on, I was on the lookout for *Sultanchampa*.

A few years went by for quite a few reasons before I could finally manage to photograph the flowers. One of the main reasons is that the tree is rare in Dhaka. Braving many odds, I collected two saplings and planted them in Ramna Park in 2012. Sadly enough, neither of the trees survived even for a few months. The next year, I changed plans and planted them inside Ramna Nursery. But they could not grow well there due to a lack of care.

Sultanchampa were plenty in our coastal belt but their number is on the decline. I treasure the memory of seeing *Sultanchampa* blossom on my way to Sonapur from Ramgati Bazar in Noakhali on a rainy day. The air was filled with the fragrance of the flower. I did not have a camera with me. With a heavy heart, I returned home painting the pictures of the flowers on the canvas of my mind. It took quite a while for me to get over this sense of loss.

I made a fresh attempt in 2015 but in vain. The trees did not flower in due time. Locals consoled me with a word of prediction that the trees would flower anytime soon. Frustrated, I got back again with a sense of agony. I was left with the last option to take a picture of the flower at the Botanical Garden. I was informed by an authentic source that a tree behind the Orchid House has got a few flowers. I rushed there with my nature lover friend Sahana Chowdhury, who got excited on hearing about *Sultanchampa*. I kept photographing the flowers like crazy for quite a while.

Sultanchampa (*Calophyllum inophyllum*) is an evergreen tall tree. They can grow up to 12 meters. The leaves are dazzling green with roundish tree tops. Depending on the location, they flower from end of summer until winter. But mostly rainy season is their prime flowering time. The white flowers are of two kinds.

The tree has immense wood value. Different parts of the tree are of herbal use. A scented yellow oil which is known in the market as *Dimo/Penei* oil is produced from the seeds. This oil works wonder in any kind of infection. One kind of gum is produced commercially from the tree, which is known as *Takamaka Gum*. The bark juice is wonderful for bowels. The flowers are effective in the treatment of skin diseases. The tree in our country is basically used for colour, timber and oil.

HC questions legality of JSC exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the government's holding Junior School Certificate (JSC) examination.

It issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks why its decision to hold JSC exams should not be declared illegal.

An HC bench of Justice Quamrul Islam Siddique and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil came up with the rule after hearing a writ petition that challenged the legality of the decision to hold JSC exams.

Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond submitted the writ petition on July 27, saying the government was empowered under the Intermediate and Secondary Education Ordinance 1961 only to hold secondary and higher secondary certificate examinations.

The government is not allowed to hold JSC exams, he said, adding that school teachers were engaged in coaching business due to the introduction of the exam.

The petitioner also prayed to the HC to cancel the government notice issued on June 15, 2010 on holding JSC exams.

EU extends its sanctions against Russian and Ukrainian figures

AFP, Brussels

The EU has rolled over asset freeze and travel ban sanctions against nearly 150 people in Ukraine and Russia for supporting pro-Moscow rebels, European Union sources said yesterday.

Ambassadors from the 28 EU member states approved extending the sanctions -- which target 146 individuals and 37 entities including companies and militia groups -- by six months to March 15, the sources said.

"They were adopted without discussion," one of the sources told AFP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss it on the record, with no changes made to the names on the blacklist.

The EU has imposed a series of punitive measures since Moscow annexed Crimea and the Ukraine crisis morphed into a bloody war in the east in 2014.

The first sanctions comprised the asset freeze and travel bans targeting individuals, some of them close associates of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin regularly blasts the sanctions as both ineffective and counter-productive to implementing the Minsk peace accords he agreed with France, Germany and Ukraine in the Belarus capital in late 2014.

In July, the EU extended for another six months to January 2017 much more damaging economic sanctions targeting whole sectors of the Russian economy, charging that Russia was not living up to its Minsk commitments.

Pak can't pick terror groups to go after: US

PTI, Washington

In a blunt message, the US yesterday told Pakistan it cannot "pick and choose" the terrorist groups it goes after and has to target militants who seek to harm its neighbours by taking refuge on its territory.

The US also rejected 2008 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's remarks that America and India have joined hands against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and the recent US-India defence logistics agreement is anti-Muslim.

"...I would dismiss it (Saeed's comments) outright," deputy spokesperson Mark Toner said in his daily press briefing.

"...we made it very clear that Pakistan can't pick and choose which terrorist groups it goes after and it has to go after those groups that seek to do harm to its neighbours and may seek refuge on Pakistani soil," he said.

Sixteen more

FROM PAGE 2

Gopalganj, Rokeya Begum of Sylhet, Kanon Gomej of Barisal, Minara Bagum of Moulavibazar, Sandhya Gosh of Habiganj, Afia Begum of Comilla, Shafali Begum and Bimola Rani Sarker of Natorte and Amicha Begum of Lalmonirhat.

U-16 champ's

FROM PAGE 20

The trouble allegedly arose when Talukder learned of the girls' unavailability for this year's School Level Summer Football competition starting on September 16. The girls will be unavailable as they have to travel back to Dhaka on September 16 to join the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) training camp and attend a reception in the team's honour on September 17.

The teacher also reportedly threatened the nine players with TCs.

Sabuj was reportedly sharing the day's earlier events involving Talukder at his shop with Mohammad Mofizuddin, an assistant teacher of Kalsindur and, as the primary school coach, the driving force behind the school's football success.

Mofizuddin, a witness to the alleged assault, said: "When Sabuj was sharing the incident with me sitting on a bench, Jobed along with school clerk Moinul Hasan Rusel appeared at the scene and Jobed charged Sabuj about why he was sharing the matter."

According to Mofizuddin, Talukder kicked Sabuj down from the bench in front of a tailor shop. "Jobed kicked Sabuj repeatedly after he fell down," said Mofizuddin. It was learnt that people from neighbouring shops rushed to rescue Sabuj from Talukder's wrath.

Rusel reportedly also threatened even more harm to Sabuj if he spread news of the incident.

"At a meeting of the school teachers, we along with our girls went to the school at noon and the teachers pressed the girls to play for the Summer Football competition," Sabuj said.

"But we communicated our inability and chose to play for the federation and that we will have to leave for Dhaka on September 16 to be at a reception and join the BFF camp," his daughter Taslima informed.

"During the conversation, Jobed sir became very angry with us and asked the guardians to take the girls to sign a bond saying that their daughters are not eligible to study in the school."

"Four of the team members are

scheduled to sit for their examinations this year and the situation will hamper our education life seriously," said Mahmuda Akhtar, Taslima's teammate who was present at the school meeting with her father Nabi Hossain. "If we are issued transfer certificates, our education life will get ruined."

Md Jalal Uddin, principal of Kalsindur High School and College, said on Wednesday that he heard about the physical assault on Taslima's father and called an emergency meeting for Thursday.

The principal, who denied that Talukder had misbehaved with the girls and their parents or that he threatened them with TCs, however did say that the incident in Kalsindur Baza took place.

Talukder was suspended temporarily for the alleged assault and served with a show-cause notice asking him to reply within 48 hours during the school governing body's meeting -- presided over by governing body president Priyotosh Chandra Biswas Babul -- yesterday afternoon.

A three-member probe body headed by assistant headmaster Ratan Miah was also formed at the meeting to look into the incident.

Meanwhile, Sabuj Miah lodged a complaint with Dhobaura Police Station yesterday afternoon against Talukder.

Officer-in-charge of Dhobaura Police Station confirmed receipt of the complaint and related that, upon learning of the incident at the bazar a police team led by sub-inspector Mahmudul Hasan rushed to the spot but the accused fled the scene. Police drives are on to arrest the Talukder soon but he is yet to be arrested at the time this report was filed.

The aftermath of their rousing success has not been very sweet, as on Tuesday their journey back home was also mired in controversy as the BFF chose to send the U-16 team back on local buses without a chaperone and some of the girls were alleged to have been victims of eve-teasing during the journey.

87 convicts

FROM PAGE 20

Of them, 22 are convicts.

"It's embarrassing for us," Abdul Hannan Khan, coordinator of the agency, told journalists at the agency's Dhanmondi office while disclosing the findings of investigation in a war crimes case.

He said they have found evidence against three Netrakona men of their alleged involvement in crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971. But two of the three accused are on the run.

Sanaul Huq, co-coordinator of the agency, said they wrote to the authorities concerned several times for taking steps to nab the fugitives.

There are two committees to monitor the issue; still 87 accused and convicts are absconding, he said.

Though the police department has much success in arresting fugitives in other cases, there is no "visible success" in arresting the fugitives in war crimes cases, Sanaul said, adding that, "We feel embarrassed when victims and witnesses of the cases raise questions of the fugitives ... they are also frustrated."

He added that they believe most of the fugitives are still living in Bangladesh while some of them already left the country. They would again write to the government and different law enforcement agencies soon for taking special measures to arrest them.

Two war crimes tribunals have so far convicted 50 people for their wartime crimes. Of them, 22 are fugitives.

It started with Rahmani's

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Prokashani and critically injured Shuddhoswar's Ahmedur Rashid Tutul and two others on October 31 last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mazharul Islam recorded the statement after he was produced before the court yesterday. The court ordered sending him to jail.

Sabur alias Samad alias Sujon alias Raju alias Saad, 23, was on six-day remand following his arrest by detectives in Tongi area on September 3.

In his deposition, Sabur said that while studying in Faridabad Madrasa in the capital's Gendaria in late 2013, he became acquainted with one Ishtiaq.

It was Ishtiaq who gave him Rahmani's sermons. Later, Sabur took part in a three-hour discussion on "jihad" at a house in Mirpur, court sources said.

"They [militants] opened an ID on Protectedtext.com and gave me the ID name and password. I used to chat with others from the ID," he said in his statement.

Sabur along with Sabbir and Masfi stayed for three months in the city's Rasulpur area. There, Selim, one of the six Ansarullah Bangla Team men with bounties declared on their heads on May 19, gave them training on using pistol and machete.

"Before Esha prayer one day, Selim said he has to go now as a work has to

be done ... Two to three hours later, he said the work has been done. Later I came to know that Avijit was murdered," he said in his deposition.

Regarding the attacks on the publishers, Sabur said Sharif, who topped the bounty list, used to train militants at a flat on the third floor of a building near Tongi College Gate. Sharif was killed in police "shootout" on June 19.

At one stage, Sabur also started to train the militants.

After a month-long training there, they got divided into two groups. One group comprising Sifat, Akash and Taiyab killed Dipan in Aziz Super Market at Shabbagh.

Another group that included Shariful, Shihab, Sabbir, Tahsin, Babar and Yeahiya went to kill Tutul. Sharif returned to Tongi residence after the "failed" operation.

Detectives on June 15 this year arrested Sumon Hossain Patwari alias Shihab alias Sakib alias Saiful, 20, and Moinul Hasan Shamim alias Sifat on August 23.

Mashruque Rahman Khaled, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (South Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "As Sabur gave important information about Avijit murder, we will appeal to the court for his fresh remand in the case."