

City

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid speaks at a press conference at the Krishibid Institution at the capital's Farmgate yesterday about the steps taken by the ministry to ensure security of female students across the country. PHOTO: PID

Female student hacked, robbed in Laxmipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A group of criminals hacked a female student and snatched away her mobile phone and money in Laxmipur municipality area on Friday night.

The victim, Farhana Akhter, 22, is from Adabaria village of Pabna's Bhangura upazila. The 22-year-old used to work at a Save the Children project in Laxmipur, said police and

Recently, she came to the district from Pabna to sit for her examinations at Laxmipur Government College under an Open University programme. She used to stay at the home of one Sabita Rani, whom she had met while working under the project, in Sakharipara area.

the local bus station to catch a bus to go to her home. But she had to return as she did not get any ticket.

When she reached Sakharipara area married. around 10:00pm, some criminals hacked her with a sharp weapon, took her cell phone and money, and fled.

Hearing her screams, locals came forward and took her to the Laxmipur Sadar Hospital.

She was hacked in the stomach and the chest, but she was out of danger, said Anwar Hossain, resident medical officer at the hospital.

Talking to reporters at the hospital, Farhana said that while working at Laxmipur she had developed a relationship with an official of Laxmipur district health and family welfare department. On December 27 last As her exam ended, Farhana went to year, they got married at Surma Valley tion.

Rest House in Sylhet.

Farhana, however, said her husband was now not admitting that they were

She alleged that her husband hired goons to carry out the attack to snatch the mobile phone which had evidence of the marriage.

The man, however, has refuted all the allegations. "She is not my wife. She always tries to blackmail me."

Laxmipur Deputy Commissioner Zillur Rahman Chowdhury, Assistant Superintendent of Poilce Shahnewaz and Officer-in-Charge of Laxmipur Sadar Police station Abdullah-Al-Mamun Bhuiyan visited injured Farhana at the hospital.

Later, they told reporters that legal action would be taken after investiga-

Air strikes on funeral kill

And in March this year, Saudi-led air strikes on a market killed at least 119 people, including 106 civilians, of

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which 24 were children, in the northern rebel-held province of Hajja. Emergency workers yesterday pulled out at least 20 charred remains and body parts from the gutted build-

ing in southern Sanaa as others scoured the wreckage for survivors, an AFP photographer at the scene said.

Some of the wounded had their legs torn off and were being treated on the spot by volunteers, he said.

In a statement to AFP, the Saudi-led coalition said it had no operations at the location and "other causes" for the incident must be considered.

The coalition "has in the past avoided such gatherings and (they) have never

been a subject of targeting", it said. The insurgent-controlled news site

sabanews.net said coalition planes hit after hundreds had gathered to mourn the death of the father of rebel interior minister Jalal al-Rowaishan and denounced a "massacre".

The Huthis did not say if Rowaishan

was present in the building at the time of the attack, nor did they indicate if other senior figures were attending the funeral. Almasirah said Sanaa mayor Abdel

Qader Hilal was among those killed.

The Iran-backed Huthis swept into Sanaa in September 2014 and advanced across much of Yemen, forcing the internationally recognised government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi to flee.

them civilians -- have been killed in Yemen since the coalition intervened in support of Hadi, according to the United Nations.

Fighting has flared since UN- and hunger crises.

brokered peace talks between the government and insurgents collapsed in August.

People had come from all over Sanaa to attend the funeral, said Mulatif al-Mojani, who witnessed the air strikes.

The coalition has come under mounting international criticism in recent months over the civilian death toll in its aerial campaign.

A UN report in August said coalition air strikes are suspected of causing around half of all civilian deaths in Yemen.

The so-called supreme political council set up by the Huthis and their allies -- supporters of ousted president Ali Abdullah Saleh -- vowed to "use all More than 6,700 people -- most of means to respond to this crime" and urged Yemenis to protest outside UN offices in Sanaa today.

> In addition to the mounting death toll, Yemenis are facing twin health

Five boys FROM PAGE 2

Quoting family sources, Abdur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Purbahdala Police Station, said they all went out for school around 10:00am or October 1 and had not returned.

Quoting a local and a neighbour of Belal, the OC also said the boys got on a Mymensingh bound train from Shyamganj Railway Station around 2:30pm that day.

Only Belal had a mobile phone among them and his family members attempted many times to reach him. The phone was on on the day they went missing but had been switched off since, said police.

The boys were not involved in any sort of criminal activities in the area, the OC said citing preliminary investigation information.

Taslim Jahan Arzu, a cousin of Nayan said, "We are worried about the boys. No one demanded ransom, so it might not be an incident of abduction. "We had looked for the boys at rela-

tives' homes and possible places they might have gone until October 5 and then the police was informed, she said.

Five general diaries were lodged with the police station on October 6.

Through mobile phone tracking, their location was traced in Dhaka and a police team is already looking for the boys, the OC said.

Police stations across the country have been informed about the missing boys, the OC said.

No terror

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supreme sacrifice, she said. "We want people to live in peace, we want the triumph of humanity ... that's our desire.'

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon, General Secretary of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad Taposh Kumar Paul, President of Mohanagar Sarbojonin Puja Committee DM Chatterjee and General Secretary Shyamal Kumar Paul spoke on the occasion.

PM's Political Affairs Adviser HT Imam and local parliament member Haji Mohammad Selim were present.

The premier later visited Ramakrishna Mission Temple and Math on Ramakrishna Mission Road and exchanged greetings with devo-

Obama speeding immigrants citizenship process for votes

Accuses Trump

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump on Friday accused the Obama administration of speeding up the naturalization of immigrants "so they can vote in the election" -presumably for his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton. The Republican presidential candi-

date made the remarks during a meeting in his Trump Tower offices in New York with five members of the National Border Patrol Council, a union representing police officers guarding the border with Mexico. The 18,000-member union has

endorsed Trump for the presidency.

A union official, Art Del Cueto, told the candidate that the processing of undocumented immigrants with criminal records had been slowed because immigration officers were so busy handling citizenship applications.

When Trump asked why they were doing so, Del Cueto replied: "They want to hurry up and fast-track them

FEMALE STUDENTS' SECURITY

Nahid calls for social movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday urged all to join a social movement in order to ensure security for female students.

He made this appeal during a press briefing to announce a two-day programme at educational institutions across the country for raising awareness in this regard. The education minister announced

the programme in the wake of countrywide recent violent attacks on female students -- Khadiza Begum Nargis, a student of Sylhet Government Women's College, being the latest victim of such attack. She is now undergoing treatment in a critical state at a hospital in the capital. During the briefing, held at

Krishibid Institution auditorium in the capital, the minister said the first day of the programme will be held on October 18, when students will form human chains on all educational institution premises for 15 minutes. On the second day of the

programme, on October 20, massawareness meetings will be held in all the institutions, he added. "Teachers and students will join hands in the human chains to pay respect to the female students who were killed [by the attackers] and to pray for the recovery of those who have been injured. The trial of those human-looking beasts [the offenders] will also be sought at that same time."

Local people from all walks of life will attend the mass-awareness meetings on October 20, when they will chalk out future programmes for raising social awareness for the security of female students in their neighbourhoods, said Nahid. "These programmes will initiate a social movement."

A committee will be formed following the meeting so the programmes are continued on a regular basis. Besides, the committee will help in ensuring protection of female students, issue warnings to deter potentially menacing individuals and, if required, hand over the offenders to law enforcers, the minister said. The committee, when unable to

issue a warning to a menacing individual or an offender at his address, will hold his parents responsible for any consequences, he added. "This type of violence cannot happen in any civilized society," Nahid said, referring to incidents of violence against female students including

Khadiza Begum Nargis of Sylhet Government Women's College in Sylhet, Suraiya Akter Risha of Willes Little Flower School in Dhaka and Sohagi Jahan Tonu of Comilla Victoria College in Comilla. Such heinous attacks on girls made people worried, saddened and furious, the education minister said. "Those

committing these brutal acts are enemies of the society, miscreants and hideous individuals. They are beasts under the guise of human beings. We demand those, who are already arrested and those who aren't yet, are brought to book and punished. This

example that no one will get away with committing crimes such as this." The law will take its own course, but a strong voice has to be raised through a social movement to eradicate all sorts of violence against women, he said.

will give people hope and also set an

Asked about the delay in the Tonu murder trial, the education minister said he also thought the progress was slow and he looked forward to seeing swift trial in the case.

Khadiza's survival

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down a very narrow path. After 96 hours [of the surgery], we can say that there are better chances of her survival," Sattar said. It might take up to several months to

have a "better idea" of her recovery. Since she has made it to five days after being hurt, her brain should recover, given her young age, added the surgeon. "If she recovers, only time would say

whether she would have a normal life or some physical incapacity." Khadiza is still unconscious. If she

gains consciousness, doctors might take her off the ventilator, he said.

The patient was placed on ventilation to relieve the pressure on the brain.

Khadiza Begum Nargis, a student of Sylhet Government Women's College, was brutally hacked by Badrul Alam, a fourth-year student of economics at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust), on October 3. Badrul is the senior assistant secre-

tary of the Sust unit Chhatra League.

He attacked Khadiza inside MC College where she had gone to sit an examination. Some students along with locals

caught and beat up Badrul before handing him over to police. **FATHER JOINS PROTEST** Speaking at a protest rally in Sylhet city yesterday afternoon, Khadiza's father

Mashuk Miah said: "I hope no father in the world would ever have to go through such pain." The rally was held at Tematha Point

under the banner of Shachetan Nagorik Shomaj of Sylhet Sadar upazila.

Mashuk returned home from Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

Two human chains were formed in front of the Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar by Jouno Hoyrani Nirmulkoron Network and Luminous Sylhet.

Speakers at the programmes demanded exemplary punishment for all forms of violence against women.

Our correspondent in Sylhet contributed to this report.

Top Neo JMB financier

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fourth floor, and jumped off and badly injured himself, according to Rab.

He was caught and admitted to Savar's Enam Medical College Hospital under Rab's custody. He died there later. Enamur Rahman, chairman of the

hospital and also the local lawmaker, confirmed report that Nazmul had died at the hospital. Mufti also said they recovered Tk 30

lakh, a firearm, ammunition, a mobile jammer, sharp weapons, and a huge number of "Jihadi books" from Nazmul's flat.

investigating a case filed after a few six months ago, said Mufti.

female militants were arrested in Rab officials did not specifically say

which subversive activities were financed by him. They claimed that Nazmul was known in "Neo JMB" as Ainul.

"Neo JMB", as law enforcers call it, is an offshoot of the banned militant

outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). Nazmul's driving licence and pass-

port, which were also seized during yesterday raid, say his name was Abdur Rahman.

He rented the flat identifying him-He said they traced Nazmul while self as a medical representative some

Haunted by Trump

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display that has become an attraction and is stopping traffic in a Connecticut

With a little more than a month to go before the US elections on November 8, history professor Matt Warshauer of West Hartford is using his annual Halloween extravaganza to make a political statement.

Warshauer built an 8-foot-high (2.4-meter-high) cardboard version of Republican presidential candidate Trump's proposed US-Mexican border wall, complete with models of armed guards, in front of his house.

"It's a crazy presidential election where it seems politics are out of control," said Warshauer, who teaches at Central Connecticut State University. "I am making a statement about both parties, the Republican and the Democratic party, but my primary concern is Donald Trump as a president." Warshauer erected the display on

Saturday but said on Tuesday that he

while another reads, "We are not criminals," a reference to Trump's proposals to curb illegal immigration. US presidential campaigns have

saying, "We were all immigrants,"

often accented the activities leading up to and on Halloween on October 31, with sales of rubber masks of the candidates or holiday parades featuring election-themed floats. And this year is no exception. Warshauer, who has built

Halloween displays for more than a decade, includes an annual political message, not just for the presidential contests that fall every four years.

Last year, a model of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, thatched huts and a replica of a downed helicopter marked the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Earlier exhibits included one with a cardboard coliseum and Roman soldiers and another with a Civil Wartheme.

"I hope people take it in the spirit of Halloween, that I am having a little fun and making a political statement," Warshauer said of this year's offering.

Do-or-die for Tigers

FROM PAGE 1 Mortaza's men will not only have to improve their fielding, which was sloppy in the first game where their butter-fingered fielders dropped four catches, but also have to show mental toughness to overcome the shock of that self-destructive defeat if they are to

stay alive in the series. The Tigers did show a lot of charac-

ter, winning the home series 2-1

against South Africa after losing the

first game. They also sealed a dramatic

2-1 series win against Afghanistan last

month. But the reaction from the

Tigers after a demoralizing defeat such

challenges at work that their male

colleagues face. They do not get lunch

breaks at proper times and they have to

face bad behaviours of customers every

scolded me for the delay of the bus and

"The other day one customer

support my own expenses."

hold chores and studies.

needs them.

now and then.

been not inspiring. They lost badly against New Zealand the next game after that heart-stopping one-run defeat against India during the World T20 -- where the body language of the Tigers gave plenty of reason to believe that they had not recovered from that mental breakdown.

They have got only a day to recover and the team management opted for a completely closed-door meditation at the Radisson Blu yesterday and made sure the players stayed away from the persevering press corp. Not even the captain showed up to feed the reporters any information about today's as the one against England has so far game. Bangladesh manager Khaled

Mahmud only made a brief appearance in the lobby and said that the Tigers were ready to bounce back in the second game.

Although it was all quiet on the Bangladeshi front regarding fitness issues and the combination of the team, there were talks doing the rounds regarding a possible change considering the number of left-handed batsmen in the England team and the

fragility in Bangladesh's lower-order. In that event Nasir Hossain, a wily right-arm off-spinner who is also a very useful batsman down the order, might make it into the playing eleven in place of left-arm spinner Mosharaf Hossain.

Girls break a social barrier

free time after my HSC exams. I had nothing to do with the delay," said management. thought of using this vacation to earn Lihina. some money. And this job helps me The biggest problem these girls face is the lack of toilet facilities in Alongside their work, these girls still

Hatirjheel area. have to find time to do their houseus a car so that we can go to the office Bristi Mankin said their office grants and use the facilities there," said them leave before exams if anyone

The girls also have the same share of become really hot around noon and they have no fans or other cooling systems inside. "It is unbearably around noon,"

The tin-built small ticket counters

said Bobita. HR Transportation has eight buses needed for the girls, which is why the that run from 7:00am to 11:00pm every day. The ticket counters at slots.

called me a puppet of the company ... I Hatirjheel were set up under their own Asked about sanitation and temper-

ature issues, HR Bus Service Manager Zahangir Alam said, "The high officials of Hatirjheel project authorities prom-"If we call the office then they send ised to set up public toilets in Hatirjheel area soon which will solve the problem." He also said the project authorities

will also set up permanent ticket counters with all facilities required and their own counters have been set up on a temporary basis. Zahangir, however, pointed out that

they were aware of the extra security female students are all given morning

so they can go ahead and vote in the election" on November 8.

had been planning it for months.

One of the skeletons holds a sign