



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 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 country-wide 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, mass-awareness 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."

Khadiza's survival

FROM PAGE 16 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 secretary of the Sust unit Chhatra League.

Top Neo JMB financier

FROM PAGE 1 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.

He said they traced Nazmul while investigating a case filed after a few

Haunted by Trump

FROM PAGE 16 display that has become an attraction and is stopping traffic in a Connecticut town.

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."

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 locals.

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.

As her exam ended, Farhana went to

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 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 year, they got married at Surma Valley

Rest House in Sylhet. Farhana, however, said her husband was now not admitting that they were married.

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 Police 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 investigation.

Air strikes on funeral kill

FROM PAGE 16

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

More than 6,700 people -- most of 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-

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 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 and hunger crises.

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 character, 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 as the one against England has so far

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 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

FROM PAGE 16

free time after my HSC exams. I thought of using this vacation to earn some money. And this job helps me support my own expenses."

Alongside their work, these girls still have to find time to do their household chores and studies.

Bristi Mankin said their office grants them leave before exams if anyone needs them.

The girls also have the same share of 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 now and then.

called me a puppet of the company ... I had nothing to do with the delay," said Lihina.

The biggest problem these girls face is the lack of toilet facilities in Hatirjheel area.

"If we call the office then they send us a car so that we can go to the office and use the facilities there," said Bobita.

The tin-built small ticket counters become really hot around noon and they have no fans or other cooling systems inside.

"It is unbearably around noon," said Bobita.

Hatirjheel were set up under their own management.

Asked about sanitation and temperature issues, HR Bus Service Manager Zahangir Alam said, "The high officials of Hatirjheel project authorities promised 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 needed for the girls, which is why the female students are all given morning slots.