5-yr-old rape victim fears males

Medical board to sit today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although her condition is improving, a five-year-old Dinajpur girl brutally tortured and raped 13 days ago becomes fearful if any male comes near, her maternal grandmother told The Daily Star while caring for her at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's (DMCH) One-stop Crisis Centre yesterday noon.

A nine-member medical board will sit today to discuss on better treatment, said DMCH Deputy Director Khwaja Abdul Gofur. "It will take time for her to be completely cured. But we hope to bring normalcy in her soon," he added.

Her mother noticed she was missing on the evening of October 18. She was playing near her home in Jamirhat village Parbatipur upazila. Villagers found her the next morning lying bloodied and unconscious on a field with several bite and scratch marks and cigarettes burns on her body. She was first rushed to a local hospital and later moved to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. As her condition worsened, she was taken to DMCH.

Bilkis Begum, coordinator of OCC at DMCH, confirmed finding evidence of rape and injuries from sharp weapons. SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Guests hold the copies of a book on slain publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan launched at a discussion organised by Dipan Smriti Sangsad in the TSC auditorium at Dhaka University yesterday, marking his first death anniversary.

Culture of impunity prevails: Prof Serajul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A culture of impunity and lack of accountability in the state is leading to recurrence of criminal activities, including targeted killings, noted academic Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury told a discussion marking publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan's first death anniversary yesterday.

MURDER Dipan Smriti Sangsad held the discussion at Dhaka University. The publisher of Jagriti Prakashani was brutally hacked to death by suspected militants at his office on October 31 last year.

Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman, noted educationist Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Dipan's father Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque of DU, slain writer Avijit Roy's father Prof Ajoy Roy, the Sangsad President and economist Abul Barkat, DU Vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Bangladesh Economic Association President Prof Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury, cultural personality Mamunur Rashid, Shaheedjaya Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Gonojagoron Mancha faction Spokesperson Imran H Sarker, and Dipan's colleagues Golam Mortaja and Khan Mahbub also spoke.

A commemorative book on Dipan was launched.

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Minister's initiative alleviates three students' woes

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Thanks to steps taken by State Minister for Labour and Employment Md Mujibul Haque, three students from financially insolvent families are now free of worries plaguing them just a week ago over paying admission fees and expenses at public medical colleges.

Confirming recent newspaper reports by contacting the students and their families through ministry and college officials and locals authorities, he directed providing each Tk 3 lakh from Bangladesh Labour Welfare Fund.

Talking to The Daily Star at his secretariat office, he said Tk one lakh would be disbursed for each annually.

Irin Akhter Rina's father is a day labourer in Nilphamari's Syedpur upazila, Abdul Alim's vegetable vendor in Chapainawabganj's sadar upazila and Rasel Mahmud's hawker in Jamalpur's Bakshiganj upazila.

They passed admission exams at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College, Bogra; Rangpur Medical College and Shere-Bangla Medical College, Barisal respectively.

"Every labourer must know that they are not excluded. The government is with them during any difficulty," he said referring to the fund which now contains Tk 184 crore. Persons eligible include those maimed (Tk 3 lakh) and

dying in service (Tk 2 lakh), ones injured (Tk 1 lakh) and whose children secured golden A+ (Tk 25,000). Funds can be availed by filling up a form from the ministry website and taking recommendations from authorities

concerned, said Majibul. Terming the initiative outstanding, Rasel thinks his monthly educational expenses would be covered.





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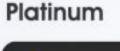


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