

Man, son 'rape'
teenage girl in
Joypurhat
OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Police on Thursday night arrested a man and his son allegedly for raping their teenage relative in Sadar upazila of Joypurhat.

The 17-year-old girl had been living at their house since her parents went abroad a couple of months ago, said Momminul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station.

Masud Rana, 46, an uncle of the girl; and his son Omar Faruk Sumon, 23, raped her for several days after confining her to a room, he said.

The girl fled the home on early Thursday and took shelter at her elder brother's house in another village, he added.

The brother filed a rape case against the duo on that night after he was informed of the incident by his sister.

Police sent the girl to a hospital for forensic tests.



Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) and Bangladesh Occupational Therapy Association jointly bring out a procession in front of Jatiya Press Club, aiming to raise awareness on World Occupational Therapy Day yesterday. According to the American Occupational Therapy Association, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants help people across the lifespan participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes.

PHOTO: STAR

'ONE BELT ONE ROAD' INITIATIVE China wants media to take it forward

UNB, Beijing

China Radio International (CRI) Vice President Hu Bangsheng yesterday said China wants to inform the world more about its One Belt One Road initiative as the country wants to move ahead taking all the countries in the region on board towards development ensuring benefits for all.

"Media can play an effective role in this regard," he said adding that CRI is working as a medium of information exchange and friendship among countries in the region.

The CRI vice president made the remarks when a 12-member Bangladesh media delegation met him at his office.

The media delegation, led by Bangladesh Betar Director (News) Hasne Ara Talukdar, is visiting China in an effort to strengthen people-to-people contact and cultural ties between the two countries.

Director of CRI Bangla Department Yu Guangyue said media can play a very strong role in strengthening cooperation. "We'll soon open our office in Dhaka. We have already got necessary approval."

About the belt and road initiative, she said many think the initiative is only related to economic relations. "But culture is an important vehicle for economic development. Here media can play its role."

The director, who also has a Bangla name, "Anandi", said this is the year of friendship and exchanges between Bangladesh and China. "This is a good opportunity to expand our friendship in all areas."

CRI Vice President Bangsheng said the CRI is willing to have more partnership with Bangladeshi private and public media outlets to help make the friendship stronger and ensure a better flow of information between the two countries.

The CRI vice president also highlighted the 76-year-long history of the radio and described how it is today taking the advantage of technology to reach to global audience.

He laid emphasis on stronger media role to help grow the relationship.

He said they are giving high importance to Bangladesh under its road and belt initiative as China wants to move ahead taking all the countries in the region.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

AKHURA-AGARTALA ROUTE Rail track construction to start in two months Says minister

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Railways Minister M Mazibul Hoque yesterday said work on the Bangladesh portion of the proposed Akhaura-Agartala railway route will begin within next two months.

He came up with the information while talking to reporters at Akhaura checkpost before leaving for Agartala to attend a Bangladesh-India Friendship programme of Rotary Club of Agartala.

Mentioning that Bangladesh and India had 12 railway routes which were closed after the India-Pakistan partition, he said there is a plan to reopen those.

IMPLEMENTING RIGHT TO INFORMATION LAWS S Asia govts urged to show commitment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the governments in South Asian countries must demonstrate their commitment to effectively implement right to information (RTI) laws, demanded experts at a programme yesterday.

The participants shared the best practices, with a particular focus on the provision of new remedies to protect fundamental rights, and on ensuring accountability of both public and private authorities, said a press release.

The regional meeting made an overall assessment of the status of implementation of the RTI legislation.

The Social Architects (TSA), Research Initiative Bangladesh (RIB) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) hosted the two-day regional expert consultation meeting on RTI at a Dhaka hotel.

Dr Golam Rahman, chief information commissioner of Bangladesh Information Commission, said legislative measures are required to ensure a speedy disposal of appeals and complaints when the designated officers do not provide information

about life and liberty matters within the statutory time limit of 48 hours.

Members and staff of information commissions, along with lawyers, journalists and civil society members from six countries -- Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka in South Asia; and Kenya and South Africa -- participated in the meeting held from October 26 to October 27.

Dr Khurshida Begum Sayeed, information commissioner, Bangladesh, said developing a culture of transparency is crucial for the successful implementation of the RTI Act.

Dr Shamsul Bari, chairman of RIB, said RTI is a strong weapon to make public authorities more transparent and accountable.

Panelists urged the governments and information commissions to put in place accessible and disabled friendly access to information, digitalisation of public records and information management.

The participants also urged the government bodies and NGOs to collaborate for spreading awareness among people about RTI laws.

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Three lives lost in two days

FROM PAGE 5

In Faridpur, a college student was killed after the motorbike he was riding with one of his friends was hit by a local bus on Thursday.

The deceased is Rajib Khan, 19, resident of Korimpur village of Faridpur Sadar upazila. He was a class-XII student of Government Yeasin College in Faridpur town.

A wish unfulfilled

FROM PAGE 5

The fire was believed to originate from accumulated gas in their house around 3:00am on Tuesday. There was also a huge explosion on the first floor of the three-storey building, where they lived.

The fire also led to the collapse of a portion of a wall and windows, said victims.

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NEWS IN brief

Four CU BCL men injured in attack by fellows

CU CORRESPONDENT

Four activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Chittagong University unit were injured in an attack allegedly carried out by their fellows last night.

The injured were identified as Mohiudin Rizzon, Lutfar Rahman, Mehdi Hasan and Shahadat Hossain. All of them are students of the forestry and environmental science institute, said police. They took primary treatment at CU medical centre.

Belal Md Jahangir, officer-in-charge of Hathazari Police Station, said a group of BCL attacked the four suddenly when they were waiting at CU railway station for a train around 9:00pm. The attackers fled instantly.

Confirming the incident, Fazly Rabbi, general secretary of the postponed BCL committee at CU, said organisational action would be taken against them after investigation. Assistant Proctor Litan Mitra said they would act upon receiving complaints.

Contractor sued for felling trees at Uttara Ganabhaban in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

An employee of the Natore deputy commissioner's office has filed a case against a contractor of the Public Works Department for illegally felling trees on the compound of historical palace Uttara Ganabhaban in Natore.

The accused is Sohel Faysal.

Contractor Sohel reportedly in collusion with some PWD officials felled 25 big old trees on the palace premises in the last two months although PWD floated a tender for cutting the branches of dead trees only, according to an investigation.

Mamtaz Ali, assistant najir of the Natore DC office, filed the case with Natore Police Station yesterday night.

Mashirul Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station, said they were looking for the accused.

House of Santal man looted, torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The houses of a Santal family were looted and burnt over a land dispute in Joypurhat Sadar upazila yesterday.

Locals said Gobinda Paul of Muzahidpur village had the dispute with three co-villagers -- Omar Ali, Afzal Hossain and Abdul Motin.

Some of the villagers arranged arbitration to settle the matter around noon on the day. At the meeting, the three got angry and hurled expletives, said villagers. Gobinda alleged that several goons hired by the three later rushed to the spot by riding motorcycles and set fire to his houses. Police said the three men were on the run; legal action will be taken against them.

Foyez Uddin Ahmed dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foyez Uddin Ahmed, a businessman in Mymensingh, died at the age of 75 from old age complications at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital yesterday.

He was the father of Aminul Islam, the Mymensingh correspondent of The Daily Star.

Foyez Uddin also left behind three other sons and five daughters. He was buried at Char Anandpur village of Mymensingh Sadar.

Anti-Corruption Commission

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