

He wanted to remarry me

Says rescued RU student in her statement before court; ex-husband, father-in-law, driver on five-day remand

RU CORRESPONDENT

The rescued Rajshahi University student yesterday said her ex-husband took her to a marriage registration office in the capital to forcibly remarry her after kidnapping her from the campus on Friday.

The fourth-year Bangla student said this in her statement before a Rajshahi court.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Zahidul Islam recorded her statement in the afternoon, said Investigation Officer Ismail Hossain of Motihar Police Station.

The court handed over a copy of her statement to the police as the statement revealed names of the ex-husband, Sohel Rana, and his associates, he said.

Her father, present at the court, said Sohel wanted to take her to Sylhet after marrying her again.

Police rescued the student and arrested Sohel, a Dhaka University graduate currently practicing law at the Supreme Court, after raiding a marriage registration office in Rayerbazar on Saturday.

Police also arrested Zahidul Islam, driver of the microbus

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SC legal aid body seeks undertrial prisoners' details

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee yesterday requested the inspector general of prisons to submit an updated list of undertrial prisoners who have been in jail for more than seven years across the country.

The SC committee has not given any time limit to the IG for submitting the report, Ripan Pal Sku, an official of the committee, told The Daily Star.

On November 15 last year, the SC legal aid committee sought the details of undertrial prisoners, who have been suffering in different jails for over five and 10 years across the country. The IG (prisons) then informed the SC committee about 460 such prisoners.

Later, the HC granted bail to some 20 undertrial prisoners at different times on suo moto (voluntary) rules.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents "The Unfinished Memoirs" of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to US Senator E Jeff Merkley as the latter calls on her at Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

ONE YEAR OF BCL LEADER DIAZ MURDER

Investigation 'too slow'

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

by officer-in-charge of Hathazari Police Station."

"Diaz was murdered and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has proved it. But, the police did not arrest any of the accused till date and they [the accused] have been threatening us over filing of the case," said the frustrated sister.

"We've already requested the Chittagong range deputy inspector general [of police] to speed up the investigation. We now seek the prime minister's intervention so the police can complete the investigation without any bias..."

At the CU, Diaz was known as a loyalist of AJM Nasir Uddin, the mayor of Chittagong City Corporation and secretary of Chittagong city Awami League.

The ten accused in the case, also known for being loyal to AJM Nasir, are former BCL president at CU Jamshedul Alam Chowdhury, sociology department teacher and former assistant proctor Anwar Hossain, BCL's CU unit president (suspended) Alamgir Tipu, his brother Arman Hossain,

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Diaz Irfan

Diaz was also a former joint secretary of Chittagong University unit BCL, a pro-Awami League student body.

Advocate Jubaida Sarwar Nipa, his sister, told The Daily Star, "Following a legal battle, a Chittagong court on October 23 ordered Hathazari police to treat our murder complaint as the case's First Information Report (FIR) and now the case is being investigated

Govt plans floating solar plants countrywide

UNB, Dhaka

The power division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources is planning to set up floating solar power plants across the country as part of the government's plan to generate 24,000MW of electricity by 2021.

Kaptai Lake and a canal of Teesta Water Barrage are likely to house such projects, according to power division officials.

They said the recent success of Japan, China, India, Germany, France, China and other countries has prompted the move.

Japan was the first country to install a floating solar power plant in 2006 in Chiba while China is now the leader in setting up the largest floating solar power plant of 40 MW capacity in Huainan city of its Anhui province.

The officials said so far a good

number of such plants were set up in 12 countries and the idea is gaining popularity because of its sustainability in water bodies. Also, solar projects require huge land while Bangladesh's main barrier is the land scarcity.

Mohammad Alauddin, joint secretary (renewable energy) of the power division, informed that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has already expressed a keen interest to finance such project.

He said initially the government would set up a pilot project, having 10 MW generation capacity, in the Kaptai Lake.

A feasibility study will be conducted and based on that the power division would take necessary measures. State-owned Power Development Board (PDB) would implement the proposed project.

"Kaptai Lake was chosen because of its availability of water throughout the year while power evacuation will be easier because of a ready infrastructure in the Karnaphuli Hydro power project," he said.

He said the project might cost Tk 100 crore and the ADB expressed its desire to finance it.

The irrigation canal of Teesta Barrage would be another perfect place for the plant as a 30 MW plant could be installed on it, he added.

But all will depend on the Water Development Board (WDB), which now owns and operates the project, he said. The power division would pursue the idea with the organisation through its ministry.

Teesta Barrage is located on the Teesta river at Duanai in Hatibandha upazila in Lalmonirhat. Its discharge capacity is 12,750 cusec of water.

CTG PORT RECRUITMENT
Shajahan Khan refutes allegation of nepotism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan yesterday refuted an allegation of nepotism in a recent recruitment test for the Chittagong port.

An allegation of recruiting

majority of the people for the posts of Laskar (class IV workers) from Madaripur district, which is the minister's home district, went viral after leaders and activists of Chittagong units of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Awami League raised the issue on Facebook in the last two days.

They also alleged that the Chittagong applicants were facing discrimination as only a handful of them got recruited.

Terming the allegations baseless, the minister said majority of the recruited applicants was from Chittagong. "Those who are bringing such allegations have no actual data."

The minister was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural ceremony of a newly built container yard at Patenga.

The viva voce of the Laskar posts were held in June and July while the results were published on November 16. Eighty-five persons were selected for the posts, said Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Chairman Md Khaled Iqbal.

In his speech, the minister said out of the 85, 28 were from Chittagong, who got recruited directly while 17 others from Chittagong got selected under the "dependent quota" (family members of the port workers). The rest were from different districts.

"Only six to seven persons got selected from Madaripur district," he said.

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ARSON ATTACK IN RANGPUR

Justice has to be served

Say eminent citizens; call for release of Titu Roy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday demanded immediate arrest of the culprits who torched and vandalised Hindu houses in Rangpur following a Facebook post recently.

They expressed grave disappointment over the arrest and remand of Titu Chandra Roy, the Hindu man who was accused of giving the post, and also demanded his immediate release.

Speaking at a press conference, they alleged that the local police and administration's attitude towards the minority community was unexpected and unacceptable.

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, condemning the recent communal attacks across the country.

The Nirmul Committee expressed surprise as "nobody stood beside Titu for his bail" when he was produced at the court. Therefore, the committee took the responsibility to provide him legal support and engaged seven lawyers in the case, it said.

War crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir said the Rangpur incident was a continuation of the recent attacks on minorities as it was similar to the previous ones including that on a Buddhist temple in Ramu of Cox's Bazar.

The age-old penal code and lack of security of the witnesses are the barriers to bringing justice; that is why the fundamentalists are continuing such attacks, said Shahriar, also president of the Nirmul Committee.

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A fifth-grader studies on a rickshaw, on way to Viqarunnisa Noon School and College exam centre for primary terminal examination. The much-debated two and a half hour-long exams for young children have started yesterday. The photo was taken on Bailey Road yesterday around 10:00am.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Accidental' gunfire injures tax officer at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tax officer of Dhaka Customs House was hit with a bullet during "an accidental fire" while checking the arms of a security official accompanying a European Union (EU) envoy at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

The injured officer, Rabiu Islam, took treatment at Kurmitola General Hospital in Dhaka Cantonment area.

A bullet was accidentally fired and hit Rabiu's right leg while he was checking the gun of security official Francois-Savier Dutierrez-Robriguez around 9:00am, said Saidul Islam, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Custom House.

The security official was among the three who came to Dhaka with Federica Mogherini, high representative of EU, yesterday, according to airport customs officials.

Nur-e-Azam Mia, officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station, told The Daily Star that a general diary was lodged with the station regarding the incident. It was mentioned in the GD that the "misfire" happened when the custom official was checking the arm.

The gunshot had created a panic among air passengers, he added.

ASSAULT ON RU REPORTER Journos protest BCL leader's reinstatement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

Protesting the central committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League's decision to withdraw the suspension of a leader of its Rajshahi University unit, who assaulted The Daily Star's RU correspondent four months ago, RU journalists formed a human chain in front of the university's central library yesterday.

On Friday, BCL withdrew the suspension of RU BCL information and research secretary Mahamudur Rahman Kanon.

On July 10, Kanon along with some 10 of his associates beat up Arafat Rahaman when he was taking photographs of BCL men vandalising a bus in front of the university main gate.

BCL also withdrew the suspension of Sabbir Hossain, joint general secretary of RU BCL, who was arrested for sitting a degree final exam in a local college in the name of another candidate on July 18.

Kanon and Sabbir were suspended for violating organisational discipline, on July 10 and July 21 respectively.

Arafat filed a case with Motihar Police Station accusing 8 BCL leaders including Kanon for the assault on July 10.

At the human chain, the journalists asked how BCL can take such a decision when the case is under investigation.

When asked, office secretary of central BCL committee Shahzada said the two were suspended for their mistakes. "They made a commitment of not repeating it."

RU BCL President Golam Kibria echoed him.

Around 80 journalists at the human chain also protested the defamation cases filed by RU BCL leaders against three journalists for their reports titled, "44 RU, Ruet students and teachers involved in yaba trade".



Dr. Md Momenul Huq

FRCSC (Canada), FCS (South Africa), MBBS, DA (South Africa), Consultant Cardiac Surgeon

It is an absolute pleasure to announce the arrival of Dr. Md Momenul Huq at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka. He joined us on 1st November, 2017 as a Consultant Cardiac Surgeon.

Dr. Huq is extensively trained and has worked in Cardiac Surgery (Heart Surgery) in many countries such as Cape Town, South Africa; Melbourne, Australia; Toronto and Vancouver in Canada for twenty-five long years. He also worked as a Senior Consultant Cardiac Surgeon at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia for five years. He was one of the opening surgeons of Ibrahim Cardiac Center in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2004 and continued working there intermittently.

We welcome Dr. Huq and look forward for his continued onward service in Heart Surgery in Bangladesh through Apollo Hospitals Dhaka.

There is no need to go abroad anymore

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