

# 5-year-old girl 'raped'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar**

A youth allegedly raped the five-year-old daughter of an expatriate Bangladeshi at Dulahazara in Chakaria upazila in Cox's Bazar district on Monday.

The seriously injured victim has been admitted into Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital while the alleged rapist has been on the run since the incident.

Police and Dulahazara union chairman Nurul Amin confirmed the incident.

The victim's father works in Oman while his family lives in ward no 4 of Ulubunia in Dulahazara union. The rapist Rahim Uddin, 20, is a son of their neighbour Akter Ahmed.

The girl's mother was working outside their house on Monday noon when Rahim Uddin lured the girl and trapped her in a room of her own house and raped her.

Rahim Uddin fled the scene when the girl lost consciousness.

The child was rushed to Chakaria upazila health complex from where she was sent to Cox's Bazar District Sadar Hospital when her condition deteriorated.

Altaz Ahmed, grandfather of the victim, said the gravely injured girl is being treated at the hospital's One Stop Crisis Centre.

The hospital's resident medical officer Shaheen Md Abdur Rahman Chowdhury said the girl was in critical condition when brought to the hospital and needed stitches. A psychologist is also seeing her at the moment.

The Officer-In-Charge of Chakaria Police Station Bakhtiar Uddin said he has been made aware of the incident and police have already twice raided the area to catch the alleged rapist but has not yet been able to.

Police will arrest the man even if the victim's family does not file a case, he said.

**US-BANGLA CRASH**

## Survivor Kabir's leg amputated

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

US-Bangla plane crash survivor Kabir Hossain's right leg was amputated on Monday night at a hospital in Singapore he was flown to on Sunday.

The leg was severely infected and the doctors of Singapore General Hospital had to amputate it from the knee down, Samanta Lal Sen, national coordinator of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital's (DMCH) burn unit, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Hours after Kabir was brought back to Dhaka from a hospital in Kathmandu on March 19, his condition gradually deteriorated. He was kept on life support at the DMCH burn unit until Friday night.

On March 24, Samanta Lal, also chief of a 14-member board formed for the plane crash survivors, told reporters at DMCH that amputation may be necessary as the board found his right leg severely infected.

At least 50 people were killed in the March 12 crash at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Nepal. Of the dead, 27 are Bangladeshis and 22 are Nepalese.

**WAR CRIMES**

## Verdict in 4 Moulvibazar men's case any day

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The verdict in the case filed against four Moulvibazar men for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971 will be delivered any day as the International Crimes Tribunal-1 has completed trial proceedings yesterday.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam placed the verdict in waiting after completion of closing arguments by the prosecution and the defence, said Prosecutor Sheikh Moshfeq Kabir.

The accused -- Akmal Ali Talukder, 76; Abdun Nur Talukder alias Lal Miah, 62; Anis Miah, 76; and Abdul Musabbir Miah, 64; all from Rajnagar upazila of Moulvibazar -- face two charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. Akmal is now in jail while the other three are on the run.

Prosecutor Syed Haider Ali sought capital punishment for all the accused while defence counsels -- Abdus Sobhan Tarafder and Abul Hasan -- sought acquittal of their clients.

The tribunal framed two charges against them on May 7 last year after the prosecution pressed charges on May 31 in 2016.

Prosecution produced 13 witnesses including the investigation officer of the case Hari Debnath, but the defence declined to produce any witness.



**With the traffic stopped at a red light in the city's Matsya Bhaban area, a student of Dhaka College jumps down onto the street from the window of his college bus yesterday. His fellow students are enjoying the manoeuvre, oblivious to the danger of an accident. Inset, the bus crosses Shahbagh area.**

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## The mystery train

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The circumstances surrounding the North Korean leader's apparent trip to Beijing are murky, including which side initiated talks and what was discussed. Neither China nor North Korea have confirmed the trip, but an official with deep knowledge of North Korea told CNN that there was a strong possibility that Kim was in the Chinese capital.

A green armored train was spotted at a train station in the Chinese capital Monday, accompanied by a large security presence, leading to speculation that Kim was in the city.

Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in are due to meet next month, and a proposed meeting with Trump is due to take place by May. Aidan Foster-Carter, an honorary senior research fellow at Leeds University, said it would have been almost unthinkable for Kim to meet with Moon and Trump having never met Xi Jinping, given the importance of the Sino-Korean alliance.

**KEY ALLIANCE**

Since North and South Korea reopened diplomatic ties in February, Pyongyang has been pushing for a Korean solution to the ongoing crisis on the peninsula, which analysts say is a way of driving a wedge between Seoul and Washington.

But recent moves have also left China, North Korea's most important ally, somewhat marginalized.

The two countries have been allies since the Korean War, when Mao Zedong sent troops to support Kim's grandfather Kim Il Sung, and still maintain a mutual defense treaty, under which they pledge to "immediately render military and other assistance by all means at its disposal" in the event of war or foreign attack.

Since Kim Jong Un took power in 2011 however, the relationship has become increasingly strained. Kim purged several key officials with close ties to Beijing, including his uncle, Jang Song Thaek.

He also angered China by pursuing missile and nuclear testing against Beijing's stated goal of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

"The North Korean Chinese relationship has not been very good in recent years, particularly over China's acceptance of international sanctions

and degree of implementing them," said James Hoare, an associate fellow at Chatham House and former UK diplomat in North Korea. "These will be subjects the North Koreans are keen to talk about."

Foster-Carter agreed, adding Pyongyang may be hoping China will ease up on sanctions following the summits with South Korea and the US.

Tong Zhao, a North Korea expert at the Carnegie Tsinghua Center for Global Policy in Beijing, said Pyongyang "wants to have some insurance against this upcoming summit meeting with President Trump."

"They know the meeting is very important but also very risky, there are a lot of uncertainties," he said. "If the meeting fails the US could declare that diplomacy has failed and shift to a more coercive approach or even a military strike."

"A stable and positive relationship with China would prevent the US from launching a military strike," Zhao said.

## Saudi coalition threatens Iran over missiles

**AFP, Riyadh**

A military coalition led by Saudi Arabia on Monday threatened retaliation against arch-foe Iran, accusing the Shia power of being behind a barrage of Yemeni rebel missile attacks on the kingdom.

Saudi forces said they intercepted seven missiles on Sunday, including over the capital Riyadh, in a deadly escalation that coincided with the third anniversary of the coalition's intervention in Yemen.

Displaying wreckage at a news conference in Riyadh of what it said were fragments of those ballistic missiles, the coalition claimed forensic analysis showed they were supplied to Huthi rebels by their ally Iran.

"The missiles launched against Saudi territory were smuggled from Iran," coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki told reporters.

He "reserve the right to respond against Iran at the right time and right place", he added.

## 6 hurt

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burns, Yakub around 25 percent, his wife around 90 percent, Yeasmin around 41 percent and her daughter around 90 percent.

The blast happened on the ground floor of the six-storey building in Pallabi-12, said Dadon Fakir, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station.

A family member of the house owner told The Daily Star that the water tank had been empty for a long time. The homeowner requested tenant Hasan, a plumber, to clean the tank so that it could be used.

Residents of the building said Hasan, who lives in a rooftop room, went to clean the tank around 9:30am.

Hasan lifted the iron lid of the tank and lit a match to see inside. Then the explosion happened, creating a fireball.

Yakub and his wife were standing beside the tank when Hasan lit the match. Ruhi was playing on the staircase on the ground floor. Her mother Yeasmin, who lives in a flat on that floor, was injured as she came out to save her daughter. Parvez was in his flat on the ground floor at that time.

Mujibur Rahman, officer of Mirpur fire service station, said the fire was extinguished before firefighters reached the spot.

After visiting the spot, Mujibur said gas had accumulated inside the tank as there was little water inside and the tank was covered.

He said they thought that the explosion happened as fire from the lit match came into contact with the gas.

He also suggested that such tanks be kept open for two to three hours before cleaning those to disperse the accumulated gas.

## UN secretary gen

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the general who was quoted in the Dhaka Tribune.

Some 700,000 Rohingyas have been driven into neighbouring Bangladesh since last August by a major army crackdown that the United Nations has likened to ethnic cleansing.

Myanmar authorities say the operation is aimed at rooting out extremists.

Myanmar's de-facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace prize laureate, has lost her democratic credentials on the world stage for failing to speak out in favour of the Rohingyas.

Guterres said it was "critical that conditions are put in place to ensure that the Rohingyas are able to return home voluntarily, in safety and in dignity."

The UN Security Council is hoping to travel to Myanmar to get a first-hand look at the refugee crisis, but has not yet been given the green light for the trip by Myanmar authorities.

Guterres has for months been weighing the appointment of a special envoy for Myanmar that would keep the plight of the Rohingyas in the international spotlight.

Meanwhile, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said they seized nearly nine million methamphetamine pills in less than three months as a massive influx of Rohingya refugees brings increased smuggling from Myanmar.

Increased raids on fishing boats on the Naf river, which divides the neighbours, have reaped the massive haul of 'yaba' pills which are snapped up by Bangladesh youth.

## Jubo League

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Saikat, son of Rustom Ali of Dakshin Shilmandi village, was general secretary of Shilmandi union Jubo League under Narsingdi Sadar upazila. He was involved in junk cloth (joot) trading and local politics.

The victim's family members claim he might have been killed by his business rivals. Saikat's friend Sujon, 32, is also missing.

His elder brother Khurshed Alam Prince said Saikat left home by car on Monday after lunch and no one was able to contact or find him since.

Sub-Inspector of Shibpur Police Station, Md Mizanur Rahman, said police recovered the dead body and sent it to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The SI said victim's body was found with hands and feet tied up and marks of injuries in different parts.

## Confinement over hospital bill: court orders investigation

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur**

A Dinajpur court yesterday ordered the Birganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) to investigate the illegal confinement of a female patient in a clinic for her failure to clear medical bills.

The incident took place on March 23.

The suo moto came after Assistant Judge Kishore Dutta noticed a report published in The Daily Star with the headline "Clinic holds patient over bill" in its March 25 issue.

The court said that the report came to its notice and it took a judicial notice of the inhuman confining of a patient named Mukta Begum due to her inability to pay the medical bill of Modern Clinic and Diagnostic Centre in the upazila.

This is a violation of constitutional protection of rights to life and liberty under article 31, it said.

The constitutional protection of citizens will remain a far-fetched dream if the weaker section of the society is subjected to such reprehensible tribulation.

The clinic has violated the dignities of the citizens and the court cannot remain a silent spectator to such flagrant infringement of legal rights of citizens, the statement noted.

The court has also ordered Officer-in-Charge of Birganj Police Station Akkas Ali to send a report on the legal steps taken by police regarding the incident.

Mukta Begum was eight months pregnant when she and her husband came to the clinic on Wednesday for a checkup. But, a doctor insisted on an immediate C-section. The doctor performed the C-section later that day. Due to deteriorating health, the newborn girl was sent to another hospital in Dinajpur where she died.

When Abdul Wahab, Mukta's husband, went to the clinic to bring his wife back home, the clinic authorities barred him. Later, police rescued the couple and sent them home.

## Regulator under fire

**FROM PAGE 1**

Capt Wahid said he had spoken to Abid nine times the night before the ill-fated flight.

He claimed that BS211's first officer Prithula Rashid was on her first mission to Kathmandu and assigning her was a serious planning mistake made by the airlines.

He said CAAB would have to monitor such issues strictly.

Wahid also questioned the quality of pilots graduating from different flying clubs. "If things go like this, we are heading for a serious disaster in the days to come," he said.

AFM Nurul Alam, former technical chief of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, said the fatigue level of Capt Abid was high and his mental state was not sound.

He said there were allegations that private airlines sometimes stress pilots by overwhelming them with work.

"We even hear allegations from pilots that the managements put pressure on them to fly despite small issues in planes and without putting those into the logbooks."

Capt SM Helal, former president of Bangladesh Airlines Pilot Association, criticised CAAB for failing to oversee and being negligent in ensuring safety and maintenance of aircraft.

"When any pilot lands in Hong Kong, London or Singapore airport, they fear that the civil aviation authorities of those countries would issue a warning for their shortcomings," Capt Helal said, adding, "But in the last 29 years, no CAAB inspector checked my records or logbooks after landing in Dhaka."

Helal said private airlines do not fear CAAB as they "manage" CAAB officials with undue benefits. "If they [CAAB officials] are in my pocket, then why will I bother to go by CAAB regulations?"

The ex-pilot slammed Air Traffic Control officials for their lack of skills in communicating with pilots in English.

Zannaty Eva, a former pilot of United Airlines, shared how she narrowly escaped a disaster while landing a training aircraft at Sylhet Osmani International Airport in 2014. She said the poor communication skills of the

## Don't let anti-liberation forces

About the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case, she said although a fund came for orphans in 1991, it was embezzled without giving a single penny to them.

The PM said a court meted out punishment to the BNP chief and the government had nothing to do with that. "Had we had any intention to arrest her [Khaleda], we could have done it when the fire-terrorism was unleashed."

Hasina said they want to work not for their personal gains, but for making the country's people wealthy and improving their lifestyle. "We want to work so that no one remains homeless and hungry and nobody dies without treatment."

The premier said the government has a plan to launch Bangabandhu-II and Bangabandhu-III satellites into the orbit in future. "We are launching a satellite now. The longevity of Bangabandhu-I satellite will be 15 years."

Senior AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Syed Ashraf Islam, Mosharraf Hossain and Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, National University Vice-Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Prof Sadeka Halim of Dhaka University, among others, spoke at the programme.

air traffic controller could have resulted in the loss of her own life along with the lives of the five passengers on board.

Veteran pilot Alamgir Sattar in his speech said CAAB needs to become stricter in ensuring fitness of aircraft, pilots, and crew members in line with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) rules and regulations.

He said CAAB would not be able to stop accidents if it did not stop corruption in CAAB.

Alamgir said Capt Abid could have been over confident.

Muhammad Masud Chowdhury, an expert in aviation and international communication, said CAAB should never compromise with issuing certificate of airworthiness. "Please never bow down to any pressure in issuing airworthiness certificates. If need be, resign from your post but do not compromise with the safety and security of the aircraft."

Wing Commander Ziaul Kabir, director (flight safety) of CAAB, refuted the allegations made against CAAB and said ICAO had recently certified CAAB for achieving 77.46 percent effective implementation of aviation safety standards.

The auditors looked into eight specific issues, like primary aviation legislation, organisation, personal licencing, operations, airworthiness, aircraft accident investigation, and air navigation services, he said.

He said the allegations being raised now were actually 10 to 15 years old.

US-Bangla Airlines CEO Imran Asif refuted the allegations that airlines put pressure on pilots and crew members to work violating the ICAO rules. He said his airlines went by the CAAB and ICAO books.

Samanta Lal Sen, chief national coordinator for plastic surgery and all burn projects in Bangladesh, stressed the need for forming a disaster management committee and plan ahead for such accidents.

Aviation expert Kazi Whidul Alam, former managing director of Biman MA Momen, Wing Commander (retd) Hasan Masud also spoke.

## Bangladesh

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Bangla Betar Kendra in Chittagong.

Meanwhile, Pakistan navy fired shots in different areas of the port city. And in the port area, they disarmed Bangladeshi navy men and murdered them.

Also on this day, Pakistan Observer, which remained close for two days before the declaration of independence, resumed publication.

Meanwhile, American Consul General to Dhaka Archer Blood called on Washington through a telegram about observations at Dhaka, under the subject heading "Selective genocide". He reported that they are "mute and horrified by a reign of terror by the Pakistan military" in East Pakistan. Blood pointed towards surfacing evidence suggesting that Awami League supporters and Hindus were being systematically targeted by the martial law administrators. He also reported that Prof Dev, Prof Fazlul Haque, Prof Abedin, along with many DU teachers and MPA's, have been killed.

On the other hand, in the Memorandum for Dr Henry Kissinger, Situation in Pakistan, NSC official Samuel L Hoskinson told Kissinger that events in East Pakistan had taken a turn for the worse. It also acknowledged both American recognition of the "reign of terror" conducted by West Pakistan and the need to address the new policy issues that have been created as a result of the terror.

American television broadcasting centres CBS and NBC claimed that "East Pakistan Rebellion [has been]

## Rivalry

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Md Mahfuzul Islam, headteacher of Meher Afzal School, said, "When I tried to resist the attackers, they pushed me out and locked my room. Later, I informed the matter to the others and informed police."

**RIVALRY STARTED LAST YEAR**

Family members and fellows of Mohiuddin said he was previously loyal to Hazi Iqbal but later left Iqbal's group due to ideological conflict and controversial activities of Hazi Iqbal.

Victim's paternal uncle Mohammed Ali Moinu, also the teacher of the school, told The Daily Star: "Hazi Iqbal and his brother's men stabbed me last year following a feud over a reunion programme of the school. That time, Mohiuddin was loyal to Iqbal..."

"Following the incident, Mohiuddin left Iqbal's group and took firm stance against Iqbal that led to the feud," added Mohammed Ali.