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No victim found!

3 yrs after sexual assault near TSC on Pahela Baishakh, police say they 'failed to reach' any of them



CHAITYA CHANDRA HALDER and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

After the Pahela Baishakh sexual attack, a hotline was opened and advertisements were published in different newspapers, requesting the victims to help police identify the culprits.

Three years down the line, none of the women, however, has stepped forward. The law enforcers claim they too tried to find the victims in vain.

According to police, victims in such cases seem unwilling to assist them due to the social stigma. Many fear their identities would be disclosed.

Besides, the witnesses and the complainant in the case filed over the sexual attack, despite repeated warrants, did

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PHOTO:
STAR

Students of the Fine Arts Department of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in Mymensingh giving the final touches on their papier-mâché statue of a cock made for Mangal Shobhajatra on Pahela Baishakh. The photo was taken yesterday.

Shipping dept
chief engineer
held for
'bribery'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An ACC team yesterday arrested SM Nazmul Huq, chief engineer and surveyor of the Department of Shipping, while he was allegedly taking a bribe of Tk 5 lakh for approving a ship's design.

Around nine months ago, the Anti-Corruption Commission had caught the former chief engineer of the same department for taking bribe.

Nazmul allegedly demanded Tk 15 lakh in bribe after one Imam Hasan of Syed Shipping Lines approached him for the approval of the design, said ACC Assistant Director Abdul Wadud.

On being informed by Imam, the corruption watchdog, decided to catch Nazmul red-handed, he said.

Yesterday, Imam, as planned, met Nazmul at a restaurant in Segunbagicha area and gave him Tk 5 lakh

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'Terminal' case
Stranded in KL airport
for more than a month,
Syrian begs for help

AGENCIES

A 36-year-old Syrian has been stuck in transit in the Malaysian capital for more than a month, he said, in a case that echoes the Steven Spielberg movie, "The Terminal".

Hassan al-Kontar has posted videos on YouTube describing his plight, which began when he arrived at the budget terminal of Kuala Lumpur International Airport 37 days ago.

He had planned to travel from Malaysia to Ecuador, where he hoped he would be allowed in without a visa, but was turned away from the flight to the South American country despite having a ticket.

Hassan was also barred from entering Cambodia, and neither has he been

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Attack 'very soon or not so soon at all!'

Says Trump on Syria strike; Macron says he has 'proof' regime behind chemical attack

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump was evasive yesterday over when the United States might fire missiles at Syria in retaliation for an alleged chemical weapons attack, saying they could come at any time.

Tension was mounting among top world powers over the alleged chemical attack against civilians in the Syrian town of Douma.

France's Emmanuel Macron yesterday said he had "proof" that the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had used chemical weapons, and would respond to it "at a time of our choosing."

One day after warning regime-backer Russia that "missiles will be coming" to Syria, Trump in another early morning tweet storm wrote: "Never said when an attack on Syria would take place. Could be very soon or not so soon at all!"

British Prime Minister Theresa May was due to hold an emergency cabinet meeting amid speculation she will support US action against the Syrian regime.

Germany's Angela Merkel said it was "obvious" that Syria hadn't eradicated its chemical arsenal as it had earlier claimed.

Meanwhile opponents of unilateral US action called an emergency closed-door meeting of the UN Security Council for Thursday.

The White House has said that Trump holds Assad's regime and its military backers Russia responsible for an alleged attack on Douma on Saturday,

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PM to begin
9-day visit
to KSA, UK
on Sunday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will embark on a nine-day visit to Saudi Arabia and the UK from Sunday. She will witness a grand military drill in Saudi Arabia and join the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 in London.

At a press conference yesterday, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said the PM would leave for Saudi Arabia on Sunday at the invitation of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to attend the concluding ceremony of the month-long Joint "Gulf Shield-1" exercise in Eastern Province on April 16.

He said an 18-member delegation of Bangladesh Armed Forces was also

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**Salty lakes offer clues
about life on Europa**



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The unexpected discovery of two incredibly salty lakes underneath the Canadian Arctic could help scientists understand alien life.

Located around 750 metres below the ice, experts think these "hypersaline" pools may be home to tiny creatures that have evolved in complete isolation for 120,000 years.

As the conditions under the ice are so similar to those found on Europa, one of Jupiter's moons, the Canadian lakes could serve as a useful stand-in when investigating extraterrestrial life.

The discovery was made by PhD student Anja Rutishauser while she was studying radar data collected by Nasa from Canada's Devon Ice Cap, in an effort to understand the bedrock underneath the ice.

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DIGITAL SECURITY BILL
No discussion
with stakeholders

Says JS body chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on the post, telecom and IT ministry will not sit with any stakeholders to review the proposed Digital Security Bill-2018 despite the government's assurance that all the stakeholders will be consulted before getting the bill passed in parliament.

The bill was placed in Jatiya Sangsad on April 9 amid concern from different quarters, including

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 13

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-35 12-30 4-45 6-24 7-45

JAMAT 5-10 1-15 5-00 6-28 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Bees pollinating a cannon ball flower in Dhaka University area. Although, these flowers do not have any nectar, their pollen is still attractive for bees. The large, fragrant flowers grow on the cannonball tree. Although not a native species, the trees are cultivated in tropical countries and are prized for their beautiful, sweet-smelling flowers and fruits.

PHOTO:
PRABIR DAS

ROHINGYA RETURN
Dhaka today signs MoU with UNHCR

The agency to bear expenses, provide logistics for repatriation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and the UNHCR are set to sign today a Memorandum of Understanding on the repatriation of Rohingyas, who fled violence in Rakhine and took shelter in Cox's Bazar in the months following August last year.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque and the UN refugee agency's High Commissioner Filippo Grandi are scheduled to sign the MoU in Geneva today, said a UN official in Dhaka.

"Under the deal, UNHCR will arrange the repatriation. This includes taking consent of the refugees on voluntary return, maintaining transit camps, transports and other logistics," said Bangladesh's Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Abul Kalam.

For the repatriation, the UNHCR will be providing necessary protection, support and funding until the Rohingyas are handed over to Myanmar authorities, he said.

There will be two transit camps inside Bangladesh where the returning Rohingyas will stay for a short period before they are repatriated to Rakhine.

Some 700,000 Rohingyas fled atrocities by Myanmar security forces after last August. The UN has termed the atrocities as ethnic cleansing and said the violence had

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