

Man beaten up, handed over to police for raping girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mob beat up a man and handed him over to police allegedly for raping a teenager in Chittagong city's Lalkhan Bazar area yesterday.

Harun-ur-Rashid, 40, a vegetable vendor, lured the 13-year-old to his house at Moti Jharna, said police.

Harun, also a neighbour of the girl, doped and raped her there around 2:00pm, said Khulshi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Nasir Uddin.

As the girl remained missing for an hour, her mother started looking for her, said Kohinur, another neighbour of the girl.

During the search, the girl came out from Harun's house and disclosed the matter to locals, she added.

"The girl's father is a rickshaw-van puller and mother a housewife," she said.

The teenager was taken to the One Stop Crisis Centre at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Legal actions will be taken against Harun, said the OC.

BGB-BSF conference starts today in New Delhi

Border killing tops Dhaka's agenda

STAR REPORT

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will flag the issues of killing, abduction or detention of innocent Bangladeshi citizens at the border at a biannual conference with India's Border Security Force (BSF) that starts today in New Delhi.

Besides, illegal entry to Bangladesh and smuggling of firearms, explosives and drugs into the country will also be given priority, said BGB officials.

BSF is expected to take up the issues of preventing attacks on its personnel, joint efforts to prevent trans-border crimes, action against Indian insurgent groups and issues related to border infrastructure, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

A 14-member delegation led by BGB Director General Maj Gen Shafeenul Islam and a 20-member BSF team led by its Director General KK Sharma will participate in the six-day summit at the BSF headquarters, said a BGB press release.

Expansion of crime-free zones in border areas, effective implementation of a comprehensive border management plan, coordinated patrolling, identifying vulnerable areas at the border, organising combined "milon mela" at agreed places and visit of medical professionals, among other

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Sylhet will be like Bangalore, says ICT minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Mustafa Jabbar said Sylhet will be transformed into a "digital city" like Bangalore.

At a seminar, jointly organised by Sylhet High Tech Park authorities and Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), to draw investors to the park, the minister made this remark.

He said Sylhet High Tech Park is designed without harming the environment and the infrastructure is now visible -- getting ready to boost the ICT business.

The minister said the investors in Sylhet should come forward. The government is ready to support the investors of the industry, he added.

Mustafa Jabbar also said the government's plan to establish 12 high tech parks in the country is in progress, which would create two million jobs.

The seminar was presided over by Imran Ahmed, MP of Sylhet-4 constituency and president of parliamentary committee for ICT.

Nojibur Rahman, secretary to the Prime Minister's Office; Hosne Ara Begum, managing director of Bangladesh High Tech Park, and Khandaker Separ Ahmed, president of SCCI, among others, were present.



Defying an instruction, a lorry and an auto-rickshaw are parked in front of a public toilet in Tejgaon truck stand area in Dhaka. Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has put up a sign, inset, that prohibits parking of any vehicle which may block the toilet from public view. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Freedom fighter seeks justice for daughter's murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Father of Mukti Khatun, 22, who was burnt to death allegedly by his rivals in Pabna, demanded justice for his daughter's murder yesterday.

Mozammel Haque, a freedom fighter, also demanded immediate arrest of the two key fugitive accused.

He said the accused and their family members are still threatening them with death. "As a freedom fighter, I want justice and seek safety and security for my family," he said.

On August 19, a group of people allegedly led by Abdus Salam, president of ward-1 unit Awami League of Nagdemra union, attacked Mozammel's house in Santhia upazila. Failing to get him, the attackers set fire on Mukti after pouring petrol on her.

Mukti, a student at Government Edward College in Pabna, suffered 60 percent burns. She died from her injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital

on Tuesday.

Police have so far arrested 24 persons out of the 32 accused mentioned in the case filed by Mukti's family on August 20. But the two top accused -- Salam and Jaled Ali -- are still on the run.

Abdul Mazid, officer-in-charge of Santhia Police Station, said they are trying to arrest the duo.

Mozammel was speaking at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Bangladesh Muktijuddho Gobeshona Kendra (BMGK) organised the event expressing solidarity with the demands.

Mozammel claimed that Salam was a Jamaat man. After Awami League came to power in 2008, Salam and many other BNP-Jamaat men joined the ruling party. "There is a political rivalry between us as he is a 'hybrid' Awami League man."

Besides, Jaled, son of a local war criminal, wanted to take revenge against the freedom fighter as his father got killed by freedom fighters during the 1971 Liberation War, Mozammel claimed.

The families of the key accused and Mozammel had clashed several times in the past and also filed counter cases, according to locals.

Mukti's brother Nasir Uddin, present at the press conference, said they have been living in fear since the incident and are yet to go back to their house as they are getting threats from the relatives of the accused.

He also claimed that Salam's nephew is an expatriate, threatened him on Facebook.

Shahjahan Mridha, general secretary of BMGK, demanded exemplary punishment for the perpetrators. "A freedom fighter is being hunted for killing in an independent country. His daughter was burnt to death. What does this indicate?" he said.

"We have no other expectations, just don't disrespect the freedom fighters," he added.

NEWS IN brief

Transport worker held over rape allegation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A transport worker was arrested in Savar yesterday over an allegation of raping a speech impaired fifteen-year-old girl, police said.

The arrestee was identified as Khairul Islam, 42, a neighbour of the victim.

Khairul was arrested after the girl's family brought a rape allegation against him, police said, adding that the girl was sent to the One-stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Two schoolboys drown in canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Two schoolboys drowned in a canal adjacent to the river Bongshi in Ashulia area yesterday

Mohammad Miah, 13, a seventh grader; and Masud, 7, a second grader, with eight other boys were bathing in Dhogartuli canal, said fire service officials.

The two did not know how to swim, said Abdul Hamid, senior station officer at DEPZ Fire Station.

Divers from fire service recovered the bodies that were handed over to their families, he added.

Three arrested with 7,000 yaba pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) arrested three people with 7,000 yaba pills in Chittagong city yesterday.

Aslam, 43, Din Islam, 30, and Nazrul Islam, 21, were in a bus coming from Cox's Bazar, said Shamim Ahmed, deputy director of DNC (Chittagong Zone).

DNC officials stopped the bus in Bridge Ghat area and found the contraband drug taped to their bodies, he said.

A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station.

Gulshan Society gets new committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sakhawat

Shukla

The election for the 2018-20 executive committee was held at Gulshan Shooting Federation on Saturday.

"Bhalobashar Gulshan Panel" led by Sakhawat and Shukla won the majority positions.

The newly elected secretary general pledged to turn Gulshan into a green, clean, safe, and culturally aware community.

The other members of the committee are Maheen Khan, Prof Dr MA Hashem, Abdullah Al Jahir, Mujibor Rahman Mridha, MA Majed, Advocate Hosne Ara Ahsan, Niaz Rahim, NKA Mobin FCA, Shayaan Seraj, Eva Rahman and Sumala Subhat Chowdhury.

'Whenever it rains, we worry someone is going to die'

4 accidents in a day on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Three road signs in red warn drivers that Kadipur area on the Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi national highway is prone to accidents.

Following several accidents, the roads and highways department built two zebra marked speed breakers on that point under Rajshahi's Godagari upazila last month, although speed breakers are illegal on the highways.

But it appears those are not helping the cause.

"Whenever it rains, we worry that someone is going to die," said Ahsan Habib, a local.

Amid torrential rain yesterday, four accidents took place on the highway, causing damages of a wide variety.

One of the accidents took place at the Kadipur point, when a truck hit an electric pole and disrupted power supply to the area.

"It was 10:00am and it was raining," Habib said. An empty Chapainawabganj-bound truck was moving at high speed and barely saw the speed breaker, he said.

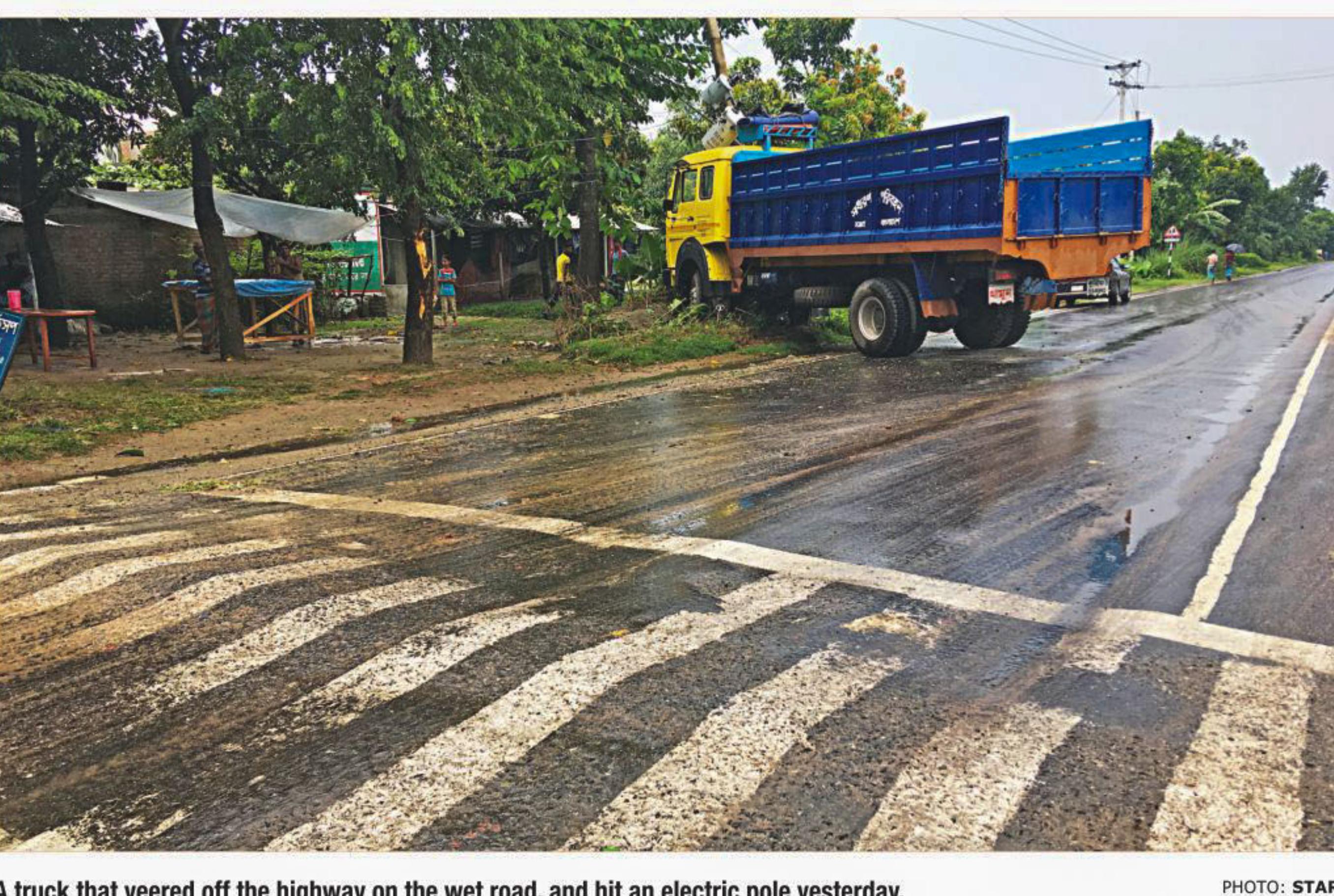
"The truck tried to stop yards ahead of the speed breaker, but it skidded and bumped when it hit the speed breaker," he said.

Losing control, the truck hit an electric pole and broke it, snapping electricity supply to hundreds of local people at the upazila, said Jahangir Alam, officer-in-charge of Godagari police station.

"The truck is still occupying half of the highway. We couldn't move it fearing further damage as the truck is still holding the broken pole," the OC said.

Electricity was eventually restored in the area at around 7:00pm, nine hours after the outage.

Barely a kilometre from Kadipur, another truck veered off the highway during the downpour at 9:00am yesterday, said the police.



A truck that veered off the highway on the wet road, and hit an electric pole yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Later in the day at 2:45pm, two speeding trucks collided head-on at Alimganj point, snapping road communications on the same highway for an hour.

However, no casualties were reported in either of the accidents.

Meanwhile, this correspondent saw some transport workers rescuing a bus that veered off the highway at Godagari's Baliahata area at 7:00pm. Police however said the incident was yet to be reported.

The entire 4.5 km Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway is considered risky, especially since the highway was

repaired in June. A total of six warning signs are there saying the road is prone to accidents.

Transport workers blame faulty repair of the highway, while roads and highways department says reckless driving is the main reason of accidents.

Md Azimuddin Liton, who often drives heavy trucks to Sona Mosque land port using the highway, pointed at faulty roads.

"During rain, all highways get slippery. But this highway has another phenomenon. There is only bitumen on the highway, and no stones, so it has no traction to

hold vehicles during rain. During rain it feels like we're driving on an oil-covered road," he said.

Suniti Chakma, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department in Rajshahi, refuted allegations of bad roads and said "Finding a nicely constructed road, drivers ply their vehicles in full throttle. And inevitably, accidents happen."

Liton said if it was only the drivers' fault, accidents would not have occurred on every rainy day. "Same drivers are plying vehicles at other highways without any accident," he said.

Rohingya crisis a global issue: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for more diplomatic efforts from Bangladesh government's part to reach a solution into safe, secured and dignified repatriation of Rohingya refugees.

They said multidimensional factors such as economic reasons were instrumental behind the unfolding of the refugee crisis, which no longer remains bilateral, but has become a global issue.

The criminology department of Dhaka University arranged the two-day international conference titled "Rohingya: Politics, Ethnic Cleansing and Uncertainty" at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building of the university.

Over 720,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since August 25 last year, escaping a brutal military campaign in Rakhine State, which has been described by the UN and the US as ethnic cleansing having hallmarks of genocide.

Addressing as a panelist at the concluding session, noted economist Prof Abul Barkat said the Rakhine State is a naturally resourceful region, which draws global economic interests.

Mentioning reasons behind the Rohingya crisis, he said, "There can be other causes. But for me the prime cause is a very special type of economic transition taking place in Myanmar."

As Myanmar is a member

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