



Air heavy with dust lowering visibility on the Second Buriganga Bridge exposes the extent of pollution in the area. This is a result of battered road conditions, dry weather, and lack of maintenance. The photo was taken at Kadamtali Chowrasta in Keraniganj yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Not an isolated incident'

LDA, Nari Samhati demand exemplary punishment for Noakhali rape accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left Democratic Alliance (LDA), a coalition of eight left-leaning political parties, yesterday demanded exemplary punishment, under a speedy trial, for all culprits involved with the Noakhali gang-rape.

Speaking at a press briefing at Mukti Bhaban in Dhaka, the alliance leaders also demanded that the authorities concerned provide adequate security and treatment to the victim and her

family members.

LDA organised the briefing after an alliance team visited the victim at Noakhali General Hospital and went to her house in Subarnachar upazila on Friday.

Early December 31, hours after the 11th parliamentary election, the mother of four was gang-raped allegedly by 10 to 12 Awami League men.

Quoting the victim's neighbours, the coalition, in a written statement,

said the rape accused were locally known as "miscreants" for their involvement in various crimes.

LDA said a sense of insecurity was prevailing among locals as the accused are involved with the ruling party. They [accused], through their cohorts, have also threatened the victim and her family, it added.

"The rape in Noakhali isn't an isolated incident. It is a direct reflection of bankruptcy of the country's social and

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One-stop emergency centre opens at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday launched its new One-stop Emergency Centre, to provide patients with medical tests and emergency services under one roof.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Zahid Maleque inaugurated the centre at around 2:30pm. He said the government is planning to establish such centres in every districts.

The newly launched centre is located in a five-storey building, also known as the "new building", with an operation theatre on the second floor and post-anesthesia care unit on the first floor.

The emergency centre has 15 beds, including four in the Intensive

Care Unit (ICU), six in High-Dependency Unit (HDU) and five observation beds, along with all diagnostic test equipment including CT scan, ECG, nebulisation, cardiac monitor, digital X-ray, ultrasonography, and a mini pathology laboratory.

There is also a five-bed casualty observation ward and three-bed minor OT to treat patients of neurosurgery and head injuries.

"Around 1,200-1,500 patients come to emergency unit every day. It was difficult for two medical officers and four emergency doctors to provide treatment to such a huge number of patients properly," said Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin, director of DMCH.

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HOLEY ARTISAN CASE
Two more witnesses testify before court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two more prosecution witnesses yesterday testified before a Dhaka court in connection with a case filed over the terrorist attack in the capital's Holey Artisan Bakery in July 2016.

Judge Majibur Rahman of Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka recorded the statements of Lazalus Soren and Md Ashrafuzzaman, two staff members of the cafe.

The duo was also cross-examined by the defense counsel.

In his statement, Soren said he was an electrician of Holey Artisan, and was outside on the day. After getting a call from his wife at around 9pm, he went to the cafe.

He found the main gate of the restaurant locked, and a police van in front. After a while, a grenade went off with a loud bang that injured him seriously. Around

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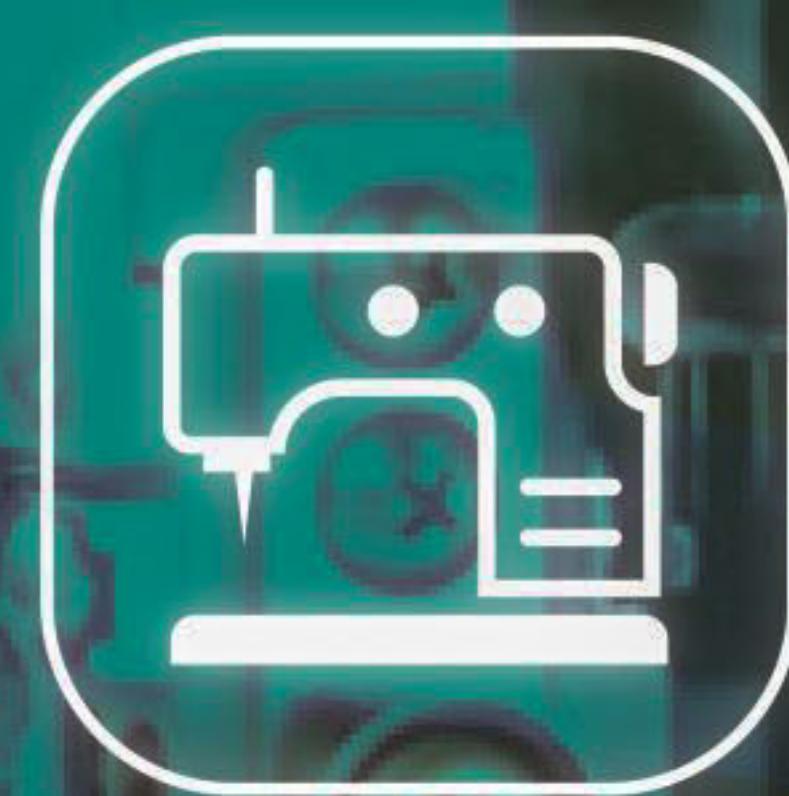
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