

Escalating

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“If war criminals can be changed by a special tribunal, why not rapists?” he questioned.

Reading out a keynote paper, Asadullah Sarker, senior research fellow of RDC, said, “Perpetrators belonging to the ruling party, long legal procedures, and financial limitations of victims’ families are the prime causes behind justice not being served.”

“Among the cases that see trial, only three percent of the victims receive justice,” he said, referring to ActionAid data published on January 17 this year.

He urged the government to ensure exemplary punishment for rapists and generate awareness among public officials.

Nazmul Haque Pradhan, president of a faction of JSD, said that a social movement is needed to stop rapes.

He urged the prime minister not to shelter any rapist.



A mobile court of the Department of Environment (DoE) destroys an illegal brick kiln in Narayanganj's Dashergaon area under Bandar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Two lighter vessels capsized at Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two lighter vessels carrying total 2,900 tonnes of grains capsized in bay yesterday in two separate incidents. Both vessels were on their way to Narayanganj from Chattogram.

A crew member of one of the vessels remained missing at the time of filing this report.

A vessel, MV Khajababa Faridpuri, set off for Narayanganj in the morning, after loading 1,700 tonnes of wheat from a mother vessel at Chattogram port's outer anchorage.

While crossing Bhasanchar area near Sandwip, the vessel ran aground to a shoal around 11:30am because of shallow water, and tilted on one side, said Md Selim, deputy director (DD) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA). The vessel sank when high tide started, said the DD, adding that one crew member went missing while others were rescued with the help of Bangladesh Navy, Coast Guard, and staff members of other lighter vessels passing by.

Another vessel, MV N Islam, carrying 1,200 tonnes of corn, was hit by another lighter vessel around 2:30pm while crossing the same area.

A crack developed in the hull of the vessel, and it started to sink. The ship master drove it towards Bhasanchar coast and managed to run aground, but later the ship capsized as water entered into it, said the DD.

All 13 crewmen were rescued, he added.

A BIWTA vessel set off from Chandpur to mark the spots by anchoring floating buoys to avert further accidents, said Selim.

Four 'JMB operatives' held in Mymensingh

They came together through Facebook, claims Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-14) has arrested four suspected members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), including a college student and a woman, from Biddyaganj Railway Station in Mymensingh sadar upazila.

The arrestees are Siam Al Mahmud, 19, Nasreen Akter alias Joaira, 21, Md Shaheen Islam alias Mahbub Islam, 22 and Md Shakhawat Karim, 36. Rab also recovered seven jihadi books from their possession while making the arrests from Biddyaganj Railway Station on Wednesday night.

At a press briefing yesterday at its office, Rab Commanding Officer Lt

Col Md Afteker Uddin said Siam, a student of Mymensingh Krishi Biswabidyalaya College in Mymensingh, fled home three months ago and his mother Anjuman Ara lodged a general diary with Rab in November last year in this regard.

Rab claimed that Siam got to know Joaira through Facebook, and allegedly inspired her to join jihad. Joaira also left home recently, to marry one of her co-activists.

Shaheen also joined the group through Facebook. After dropping out of school in 10th grade, Shaheen used to help his father in agriculture in Chuadanga.

Shakhawat Karim, from Chattogram's Sitakunda, was

acquainted with Shaheen and Siam through Facebook and used to share views on jihad.

Shakhawat, who lives in Shahjadpur in Dhaka, left the country in 2016 for work in Bahrain, but had contacts with Shaheen and Siam. He returned home in 2018.

They were in touch with one another through different Facebook IDs for some three years and were planning to travel to another country for training purposes, said Rab's commanding officer.

However, The Daily Star could not verify the claims.

They were being interrogated as of filing this report. More details would be available after interrogation, Rab sources added.

CASES OVER LLLEGAL WEALTH ACC to freeze property

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) from now on will freeze or attach moveable and immoveable properties in the cases filed over amassing illegal wealth.

“None will be given the opportunity to utilise illegal wealth. ACC will take steps to bring illegal wealth under government custody,” said ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood at a special meeting on “Management of illegal wealth” with officials yesterday.

Iqbal asked officials to make a list of cases filed over amassing illegal wealth since 2004, according to ACC sources.

The chairman also asked ACC officials to freeze or attach moveable and immoveable properties in connection with those cases.

The ACC is mulling a policy to check corruption over the management of frozen or attached properties.

“We'll have to examine the accountability of the custodians of these properties,” he said, urging to take legal steps for freezing properties of the accused who have already died.

Shopkeeper beaten to death in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A shopkeeper at a local market was beaten to death by a gang of criminals over a previous enmity at Changawan area of Savar on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Osman Goni Pramanik, son of Azizur Rahman Pramanik of Paika village under Shadullahpur Upazila in Gaibandha. He used to run a grocery store with mobile balance top-up services at in Savar's Changawan area.

Police arrested three men -- Rubel, Shohel, and Ripon -- immediately after the incident on suspicion of their involvement in the murder.

Police and family sources said two weeks ago, a conflict arose between Osman and

Rubel over money for mobile balance top-up.

On Wednesday around 11pm, Rubel went to the shop with Shohel and Ripon and started hitting Osman with a hammer after tying his hands and legs. Two of the men fled, leaving Osman dead on the spot.

Sensing that something had happened, locals rushed to the scene and found Shohel inside the shop where Osman's body was lying. They beat up Shohel and handed him over to police.

Later, based on information from Shohel, police arrested Rubel and Ripon.

Fazikul Islam, sub-inspector at Ashulia Police Station, said they recovered the body and sent it to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College for autopsy.

Govt accelerating

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ethics as the fundamental objective of education, adding, “There will be no need to operate massive anti-corruption drives if everyone possesses these values.”

“Government wants to eliminate corruption. And we are accelerating anti-corruption drive in education sector too,” she added.

Presided over by Sohorab Hossain, secretary of Secondary and Higher Education Division of Education Ministry, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, vice chancellor of National University, spoke at the event.

Prof Rashid highlighted Bangladesh's achievement in the education sector in the last 47 years.

The literacy rate, 72.9 percent, is the second highest among South Asian countries, after Sri Lanka.

Speaking as special guest, Zakir Hossen, state minister for Primary and Mass Education (PME), said Bangladesh is one of the countries which provides education at the cheapest cost.

Another special guest, Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, deputy minister for education, said that the education ministry and the ministry of PME will work together to reach the goals in education sector.

Md Alamgir, secretary of vocational and technical education division of education ministry; Akram-Al-Hossain, secretary of the ministry of PME; and Beatrice Kaldun, head and representative of Unesco Dhaka office, among others, spoke at the event.

The ODA commitment was established by the UN in 1970, obligating developed countries to spent 0.7 percent of their GNI for overseas development.

We've always risen

FROM PAGE 3

the current government as it has “taken a position against people and democracy”.

He asked BNP leaders and activists to get organised to free their chairperson Khaleda

Zia from jail.

Earlier in the morning, BNP leaders and activists, led by Fakhrul, offered prayers at Koko's grave at Banani Graveyard in the capital.

EC plans voter

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Over 10 million Bangladeshis live in 157 countries, but many of them have failed to enrol in the voter list, and they do not have NIDs, he said.

He said technical and non-technical teams of experts will visit the countries to conduct a feasibility study, according to a press release of Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

The CEC's remarks were delivered through a presentation he gave at the opening of a two-day international conference on “Making Our Elections Inclusive and Accessible”, organised by Election Commission of India, marking National Voters' Day celebrations.

Besides Bangladesh, top election commission officials from Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, and Russia are participating in the event. Representatives from several international organisations are also taking part.

Chief Election Commissioner of India Sunil Arora delivered the keynote address at the opening session.

In his first foreign visit after presiding over Bangladesh's 11th parliamentary election on Dec 30, CEC Huda said the polls have been inclusive of all registered political parties. The election has been free, fair and peaceful with 25,000 local and 160 international observers freely watching the voting process, he said.

Huda said the Election Commission has focused on young voters, encouraging their enrolment through SMS, TVC, radio, posters and leaflets. Voters' awareness programme has also been included in the primary and secondary level curricula.

Khulna canals

FROM PAGE 5

with the city corporation to free those.”

NO COMMITTEE FORMED IN 10YRS

In the last ten years, no committee has been formed to recover the canals.

On July 5, 2009, the then KCC mayor formed a 15-member committee with ward councillor Shahid Iqbal Bithar as its convener. The list of canal grabbers was prepared then.

But only a few days after the start of the drive, criminals gunned down Bithar on July 11, 2009, what locals claim, due to the drive.

Another committee was formed on January 5, 2011, which existed only on papers.

ABT man confesses

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others go into the flat and hack the duo to death,” he said in his statement. The plan was orchestrated by ABT operation commander Maj (sacked) Syed Ziaul Haq and several others are involved in the double murder, Asadullah confessed.

After recording the statement, the magistrate ordered to send Asadullah to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

On January 15, CTTC arrested Asadullah at a house in Gazipur's Tongi. He was later remanded in two phases.

Other ABT members -- Saimun alias Shahrier, Arafat Siam and Sheikh Abdullah Jayed -- had earlier been arrested in connection with the killings, and gave confessional statements.

USAID staffer Xulhaz and his friend Khandoker Mahbub Rabbby Tonoy were hacked to death inside Xulhaz's flat on April 25, 2016.

According to CTTC officials, Asadullah, a former Shibir activist, got involved in militancy in 2015 and came to Dhaka in January the following year. At a hideout in Uttar Badda, he took training on how to use machetes and guns. During an anti-militancy drive at the hideout on February 19, 2016, Asadullah had stabbed police inspector Bahauddin and fled away with the cop's firearm. Bahauddin identified Asadullah as his attacker seeing his photograph after his arrest, sources said.

CTTC officials claimed Asadullah had a close connection with Maj (sacked) Zia who gave him organisational directives using a secure messaging app as recently as January 6 this year. Zia has been on the run.

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Abbu

Mr. Azizur Rahman Choudhury of Dhanmondi Road 7/A passed away peacefully at home (Inna lillahi wainnailahirajun) surrounded by his children and grandchildren in Lakewood, California on Saturday 29, Dec 2018. He was 91 years old. He was the son of late Abdur Rakib Choudhury and late Sofia Khatun of Gangkul, Moulvibazar, Sylhet and was the husband of late Nurani Choudhury of Bongaon, Nobigonj, Sylhet. He retired as Senior Assistant Commissioner at Dhaka Court. Before moving to the US, he had a busy retired life as Secretary General of Dhanmondi Residential Area Walkers' Welfare Club, as Election Commissioner at Jalalabad Association. An avid walker, he was also involved with Rate Payers' Association of Dhanmondi.

Mr. Choudhury is survived by one son, two daughters, four grandchildren and one great grand-child. Please keep him in your prayers.

— His family

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