

3 bus staffers held over rape attempt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab arrested three staff members of a bus from Ashulia while allegedly trying to rape a girl after abducting her on Saturday evening.

The 20-year-old girl was also rescued. Rab-1 disclosed the matter at a press briefing yesterday.

Rab seized the Baipail-Abdullahpur-Mohakhali bound bus of "Ashulia Classic" and arrested its driver Khalil Mia, 33, his helper Rakib Hossain, 29, and supervisor Mehedi Hasan Babu, 22.

Lt Col Sarwar-Bin-Quasem, commanding officer of Rab-1, said the girl was standing at Baipail bus stand to go to Nabinagar. As she came to Dhaka two months back, she did not know the route well, he said.

"When she boarded the bus, her brother told the supervisor to drop her off at Nabinagar. They took her to Abdullahpur instead. Reaching there, they said the bus would not go

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



WHEN PROTECTION GEAR IS FRAGILE... A broken motorbike helmet lies on a road in the capital. As the number of bikes hitting the roads rises, so are accidents involving them. Using helmets made of flimsy materials can elevate a biker or pillion's exposure to accident.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

PRABIR DAS

CONSPIRACY AGAINST GOVT Hizb-ut Tahrir chief acquitted, two jailed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Chief coordinator of banned Islamist organisation Hizb-ut Tahrir Mohiuddin Ahmed and its three members were acquitted yesterday in a case filed on charges of conspiring against the government, as the prosecution failed to prove the charges brought against them.

However, two other members of the outfit -- Saidur Rahman alias Rajib and Tauhidul Alam alias Chanchal -- were sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment for conspiring against the government.

Judge Majibur Rahman of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka acquitted the four, as allegations brought against them were not proved.

The tribunal recorded statements of seven prosecution witnesses, including the complainant of the case.

Mohiuddin, a former teacher at Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University, and two other acquitted -- MA Yusuf Ali Khan and Kazi Morshedul Haque alias Plabon -- were present at the courtroom during the judgment.

Acquitted Tanvir Ahmed and the convicted duo Rajib and Chanchal remained absent, as they went into hiding after getting bail from the High Court.

The tribunal also fined Rajib and Chanchal Tk 5,000 each, in default of which they will have to serve three more months in jail.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender, the court said while delivering the judgement.

In his judgement, the judge said Mohiuddin and three others were not FIR-named accused and the investigation officer of the case did not mention why their names were included in the charge sheet.

Moreover, police did not seize any evidence from the acquitted accused, while leaflets were recovered

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

UN urged to recognise 1971 killings as genocide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called upon the United Nations (UN) to officially recognise the mass killings by the Pakistani occupation army during the Liberation War in 1971 as genocide.

"It is surprising that it [the genocide] was so much focused on 1971, and so quickly had become a forgotten genocide," said Mofidul Haque, director of Centre for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka.

"After the brutal killing of the Father of the Nation in 1975, we've fallen into a trap. There was a long era of denial and distortion

of history. The issue of genocide became a kind of forgotten one," he said.

He was addressing a seminar titled "1971 Genocide in Bangladesh" organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its auditorium in Dhaka.

Referring to International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, Mofidul said UN has been observing it on December 9 since 2015.

"It shows actually how long the international community has taken to recognise

the gravity of genocide," he said.

UN adopted the genocide convention on December 9, 1948. After that, there was almost 50 years of silence. There were no initiatives taken by the international community. But things began to change since the 1990s, he added.

Criticising the international community for their inaction in preventing genocide, eminent jurist Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam said, "We had 195 prisoners who committed war crimes but we could not try them. No one tried them."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Railway launching app next month to streamline services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) is going to launch a mobile app next month enabling passengers to avail services fast and with convenience, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon said yesterday.

In the preliminary stage, all inter-city trains will come under the service, the minister told reporters after holding a meeting with officials concerned at Rail Bhaban in the capital. State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak was also present.

Officials said once the app is operational, a passenger will be able to book and buy train tickets and pay using their phones, as well as locate nearby railway station, trains and local

transport service.

To avail the services, a passenger has to download the app and register -- providing name, address, mobile number and NID card number or birth registration certificate, they said.

Currently one can avail several services -- including booking of tickets -- online and via SMS. Once the app is launched, people can avail all services from one platform, they said.

Passengers, however, will still be able to buy tickets from stations, officials assured.

Railways Ministry and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division joined hands to launch "One-Stop Digital Railway Passenger Service System" last month, and a nine

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



WHO TO BLAME? A bus drops off passengers in the middle of the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover, essentially leaving them stranded on a stretch of road where there is neither a footpath, nor a place to move away from any speeding vehicle. Despite the outcry for road safety, such irresponsible practices continue to put lives at risk, and transport operators and commuters are both to blame.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Healthy, Cheap, Wondrous BRINJAL

Eat Healthy



Whether it's deep fried or mashed or cooked as a curry, the brinjal or eggplant is the trusted sidekick to any dish. It transforms a dish to a whole new level. It is a crowd favourite in its many forms such as bharta where the brinjal is roasted over the fire and the skin is peeled and condiments such as chilli flakes, chopped onions and mustard seed oil are added, and beguni where the brinjal is fried in a batter.

Brinjals contain certain nutrients that help in preventing various types of diseases. Anthocyanins, the pigment in brinjals that gives the vegetable its luscious purple colour, is said to be good for heart health. This powerful antioxidant protects brain cell membranes from radical damage as well. It also assists in the transport of nutrients into the cell. Anthocyanins and chlorogenic acid present in a brinjal function as antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds. Chlorogenic acid has been shown to decrease low-density lipid (LDL) levels and also acts as an antiviral and antimicrobial agent in the body. The brinjal has a compound called polyphenols, which has anti-cancer effects. Brinjal is very low in calorie and high in fibre, helping to maintain weight and satiety as well as controlling diabetes effectively. Besides, women are advised to eat brinjals during pregnancy as it protects the unborn child from possible birth defects. Moreover, brinjals contain B-complex group vitamins such as B1, B3, B5 and B6, which help with fat, protein and carbohydrate metabolism. These vitamins also help to build strong bones and prevent osteoporosis, a medical condition in which the bones become brittle and fragile. The presence of bioflavonoids aid in regulating high blood pressure and relieve stress, while the presence of Vitamin K helps to eliminate bad

cholesterol that are capable of blocking blood clots. Surely enough, this is a vegetable that one should include in one's shopping list more often. Md Oliyer Rahman, a brinjal farmer from Shahbazpur, Jessore, shares his experience of growing brinjals that he raises the sapling for two and a half months till he shifts it to an irrigated land. After two months of the plantation period, the farmers can extract the brinjal from the plant. It is generally advised to pluck the vegetable in an interval of 7-10 days total. Oliyer along with many farmers of the area, provide vegetables for Shwapno under the Shuddho project. Under this initiative, shares Oliyer, farmers get to know safe agricultural practices such as how much fertiliser or pesticides should be used and what is the interval period between pesticide application and harvesting, known as Pre-Harvest interval (PHI). Consumed in its different delicious forms, brinjals bring forth immense nutritional benefits through its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory compounds, thus helping us lead a healthier life. Fortunately, enough, this nutrition-packed vegetable is available all throughout the year and thus, one can continue to consume it any time, in required amounts, to obtain the boons it offers.



An initiative of:



The Daily Star

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DHAKA TODAY

PROCESSION

Black Night of Genocide: Alo-r Michhil (Procession of light)

Organiser: Ekattorer Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee

Venue: Central Shaheed Minar

Time: 8pm

DISCUSSION

Programme marking Genocide Day

Organiser: Bangla Academy

Venue: Rabindra Chattar, Bangla Academy

Time: 4pm

RUN

Dark Night 5km Run

Organiser: RamnaRunners

Venue: Ramna Park

Time: 7:45pm

ART COMPETITION

Children's art competition on Genocide

Organiser: Sector Commanders Forum

Venue: Shikha Chirantan, Suhrawardy Udyan

Time: 3pm

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Mukti Sangram Cultural Festival

Organiser: Jahangirnagar University

Venue: TSC, JU

Time: 10am

FAIR

Baishakh & Lifestyle Exhibition

Organiser: Page3

Venue: Raowa Club

Time: 10am

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

5th Bangladesh Clinical Psychology Conference

Organiser: Bangladesh Clinical Psychology Society

Venue: Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building, Dhaka University

Time: 9am

Non-MPO teachers suspend movement

Education minister to facilitate meeting with PM, they say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and employees of non-MPO educational institutions yesterday suspended their movement for one month, with the assurance of education minister to help them realise their demands.

Hundreds of teachers and employees, under the banner of "Non-MPO Educational Institution Teachers and Employees Federation", had been continuing their sit-in-programme near Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka to realise their demand for enlistment in the monthly pay order (MPO) since March 20.

"We suspended our movement for one month at around 5:30pm, as Education Minister Dipu Moni visited us and took responsibility of taking necessary steps to make an appointment with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which was our main demand," said Golam Mahmudunnabi, president of the Non-MPO Educational Institution Teachers and Employees Federation.

He said they hope their problem will be solved when they meet the PM, and the education minister has taken full responsibility to facilitate it.

"We will resume our movement if we fail to meet the PM within the time frame," said Mahmudunnabi.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1