

PE teacher arrested for 'stalking'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
Police arrested a teacher of Muktagachha RK Govt High School in Mymensingh for allegedly stalking female students.
Md Ashraf Ali, 45, is the physical exercise teacher at the school. Seventeen girls of a class complained to their headmaster about being sexual harassed by the teacher, a father of two. Headmaster Md Nazrul Islam informed police of the matter, said Mohammad Ali Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Muktagachha Police Station.
Police arrested the teacher at his home at Paratungi in Muktagachha around 9:00pm yesterday, said the OC. He was being interrogated at the station.

Nazrul said the girls made the complaints on April 25 and he, along with female teachers of the school, investigated and talked to the girls.
"I informed the Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Muktagacha Suborna Sarker, the president of the school managing committee, and State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid Babu, a lawmaker of Muktagachha, about the allegations. "On their instruction, I informed the police of the matter tonight [last night]," said the headmaster.
Ashraf was suspended twice, in 2014 and 2016, for violating institutional rules, Nazrul said.

Airplane hotel

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and include an additional ottoman, just in case passengers feel the urge to pull up a seat closer to one of their companions.
"When designing the new Four Seasons Private Jet, we were inspired by the glamor and prestige of air travel in times past, when every flight was a special occasion," says Dana Kalczak, Vice President of Design at Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts.
"With a laser focus on comfort and functionality, our aim is to create an environment that encourages spontaneous social interaction between everyone on board, reinforcing the power of connection.
The new Four Seasons Private Jet also boasts an on-board Four Seasons Executive Chef who'll prepare meals "inspired by the journey itself," while interactive workshops hosted by mixology, culinary and wellness experts are to be held in the lounge area.
Renderings of the meticulously designed aircraft, dubbed the "Four Seasons Jet 2.0," were released this week.
It comes four years after the Toronto-based brand launched its first customized private jet for bespoke group excursions.
Each journey includes air travel and ground transportation, planned excursions, all meals, some drinks and accommodation in Four Seasons properties.
New itineraries aboard the new Four Seasons Jet are currently in development.
However, deep-pocketed customers can still book trips aboard its current jet, with prices beginning at around \$147,000 per person.

Mahfuz Ullah

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kidney and lung. He was flown to Thailand on April 10 for further treatment.
His body will arrive in the country today and his first namaz-e-janaza will be held after Zohr prayers at the Dormitory Jame Mosque in Green Road area, said his elder brother Mahbub Ullah.
His second namaz-e-janaza will be held after Asr prayers at the Jatiya Press Club and he will then be buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' graveyard.
Mahfuz Ullah had been politically active since his student life and had taken part in the 11-point movement. He was expelled from Dhaka College for his activism.
Born in Noakhali in 1950, Mahfuz obtained an MA degree in physics and journalism from Dhaka University. He got involved in journalism during his student days and had been associated with the popular weekly 'Bichitra' since its inception in 1972.
He also worked at the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata as a "China expert" and taught at Dhaka University's journalism department.
Mahfuz had also hosted radio and television shows and been involved with leading Bangla and English dailies in Bangladesh.
He also authored more than 50 books in Bangla and English, apart from editing a number of others.
The books edited by him include the biographies of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia, and ones on the mass uprising of 1969, insurgency in Assam, and post-independent Bangladesh.

Autopsy confirms Nusrat died of burn injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The cause of death of Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi was burn injuries, according to the autopsy report released yesterday.
The report was handed over to Shahbagh Police Station in the afternoon, Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of the station, told The Daily Star.
The cause of death was confirmed by Sohel Mahmud, associate professor and chief of forensic medicine department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).
After fighting for her life for five days, Nusrat succumbed to her injuries at DMCH in the capital on April 10.
On April 6, she was set afire at an examination centre of the Alim tests allegedly by students loyal to Principal Siraj Ud Doula of Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa, after he was arrested and subsequently suspended following a sexual harassment case filed by Nusrat.

Brazilian tribes protest against assimilation plan

REUTERS, Brasilia
Thousands of people representing the more than 300 tribes native to Brazil marched to government offices in Brasilia on Friday to protest the policies of right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro that threaten their reservation lands.
Wearing body paint and headdresses made with the colorful feathers of Amazon birds, they brandished bows and arrows and beat drums while chanting resistance songs. The march comes at the end of a three-day rally in the Brazilian capital called the Free Land Encampment.
"Our families are in danger, our children are under threat, our people are being attacked. In the name of what they call economic progress they want to kill our people," said David Karai Popygua, an ethnic Guarani Mbya from the state of Sao Paulo.
Bolsonaro, a former army captain turned politician, was elected in October with the support of Brazil's farm sector that has pushed for access to more land and fewer environmental controls. They also want him to ease gun possession laws.
One of his first measures on taking office on Jan. 1 was to dismantle the indigenous affairs agency FUNAI, handing reservation demarcation decisions to the Agriculture Ministry that is controlled by farming interests.
"It is an embarrassment for our country to have a government that does not understand the struggle of indigenous peoples and has no knowledge at all of the indigenous population," said Daran, a Tupi Guarani chieftain.
Brazil has more than 850,000 indigenous people that make up less than 1 percent of its population. They live on reservations that make up about 13 percent of the country's territory.

Lankan man tried to stop the suicide bomber at church

AFP, Batticaloa
Ramesh Raju has become a hero to the shell-shocked congregation of the Zion evangelical church in Batticaloa after he died stopping a suicide bomber who was bent on killing hundreds of people.
Nearly a week after the bombing, the road leading to Raju's house in the eastern city is flanked by posters and photographs of the 40-year-old father of two who blocked the attacker at the church door.
A stream of well-wishers queue to express condolences to his widow, a Sunday school teacher.
Raju was one of 29 people, including 14 children, that media reports say died in the blast at Zion, one of three churches and three hotels targeted by Jihadist bombers. But about 600 people who were inside at the time escaped the human bomb. The dead from the other two churches make up the majority of the 253 overall death toll.
"When he felt suspicious about the bomber he could have run away to safety but I think he chose to scuffle with him in order to stop him from entering the church," his father Velusami Raju told AFP.
"I feel very proud that he saved so many lives, especially so many children," he added.
The east coast city is thought to have become a target as the National Thowtheeth Jama'ath (NTJ) blamed for the attacks came from the region.
Zion church was packed at the time and there were dozens of children fresh from Sunday school. Raju had volunteered to help manage the crowds, according to witnesses.

Opposition leader held in Venezuela

AFP, Caracas
Venezuelan opposition lawmaker Gilber Caro has been arrested by intelligence agents "violating his parliamentary immunity," the opposition-controlled legislature said on Friday.
Caro was previously detained in January 2017, accused of plotting an armed revolt against President Nicolas Maduro, before he was released in June last year.
"The dictatorship has again arbitrarily detained the deputy @gilbercaro violating his parliamentary immunity," said the National Assembly, the only branch of Venezuela's government not controlled by Maduro, on its Twitter account.
It said it was "holding the usurper regime responsible for his life and integrity."
Caro is from the same party as opposition leader Juan Guaido, the National Assembly speaker who launched a challenge to Maduro's authority in January by declaring himself acting president, a move backed by more than 50 countries including the United States.
"We're trying to find out where he is. Gilber has been kidnapped," Guaido told journalists.
Caro, 45, was arrested in a restaurant in the Las Mercedes neighborhood of the capital Caracas, fellow deputy Adriana Pichardo said in a news conference.
"We have no idea what this arrest is for, we think it could be another set-up, an attempt to implicate him in another macabre plot."
Pichardo said the agents "destroyed cameras to leave no evidence of any kind" at the restaurant.
Caro was one of four people -- alongside two opposition councilors and a retired general -- arrested over two years ago for what the government then termed "a terrorist plan of destabilization."
Those arrests came just days after parliament had passed a motion declaring that Maduro had effectively "abandoned his post" by failing to tackle the country's economic crisis.
This year the National Assembly and Guaido branded Maduro a usurper over his controversial re-election last year in polls widely criticized as rigged.
Crisis-wracked Venezuela has suffered five years of recession marked by shortages of basic necessities such as food and medicines.
Manysalaries and savings have been rendered worthless by hyperinflation the International Monetary Fund says will reach a staggering 10 million percent this year.
Some 2.7 million people have fled the country since 2015, according to the United Nations.

14-yr-old girl hacked by stalker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
A stalker hacked and injured an eighth grader on her way home from school in Kulaura's Ghaterbazar area yesterday afternoon for refusing to get into a relationship with him.
The 14-year-old victim was rushed to Kulaura Upazila Health Complex before being shifted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.
Dr Zakir Hosain, resident medical officer at the health complex, said part of the victim's right ear was cut off and there was a two-inch deep gash on her head.
The attacker is Jewel Ahmed, 19, an unemployed youth from Sadipur village in the same upazila.
Quoting witnesses, police said Jewel was waiting in Ghaterbazar area around 3:00pm when the girl reached there after taking a school exam.
Jewel asked her to get into a relationship with him, but she refused to comply.
Angered by her refusal, he hacked the schoolgirl with a cleaver in presence of some local people. At one stage, the girl lost consciousness.
Locals caught Jewel and handed him over to police after giving him a good beating. Police recovered the cleaver from the spot.
Talking to The Daily Star, the victim's mother said Jewel had been stalking her daughter for months. To avoid any trouble, they transferred her to another school from the high school near their home early this year.
At that time, the mother also filed a general diary with Kulaura Police Station in this regard.
The schoolgirl's uncle said Jewel on different occasions had pressed her niece to get into a relationship. They complained to Jewel's family about the matter, but in vain.
Kulaura OC Eardous Hasan said Jewel admitted to them that he hacked the schoolgirl for refusing to get into a relationship.

Rome 'under attack' from criminals: mayor

AFP, Rome
Rome's mayor vowed Friday to defend the Italian capital from criminals following a fire at an illegal landfill, the latest blow to an already beleaguered city.
"Rome is under attack. Under attack from criminals that continue to act against citizens," Virginia Raggi said in a Facebook post hours after firefighters managed to bring the blaze in the eastern suburb of Collatina under control.
"We will not stand by and watch," Raggi said.
"I have declared war several times on the mafia and I'm not afraid: Rome will not remain under the control of these criminals".

BNP expels

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BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir made the announcement to reporters after the meeting.
BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman took part in the meeting via skype.
In a surprise move, Zahid, the BNP lawmaker from Thakurgaon-3, took oath as an MP on Thursday, going against the party's decision of him not joining parliament.
"Our party decision was to not join parliament. But Zahid did it violating our decision. And thus, we, in principle, expelled him from the party and revoked his primary membership," Fakhru said.
The BNP leader also reiterated the allegation that there was government pressure on his party to take part in parliament.
The meeting also decided to write to the Speaker of parliament and the Election Commission to revoke Zahid's parliamentary membership and as a last resort, to go to the court, two standing committee members said.
The same measures will be taken if any other BNP lawmaker-elect takes the oath, they said.
The party will try its best so that the others do not take oath, and Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, a BNP standing committee member, has been asked to keep close contact with them.
On Friday, Fakhru said his party was not worried over Zahid's oath-taking as he did it "under pressure from the government."
Hours after Fakhru's comments, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a media briefing on Friday, said there was no pressure from the government in this regard.
Zahid is the first among the six BNP-MPs elect to have taken oath. Party insiders say Zahid's decision has put the BNP in an awkward position as it rejected the December 30 polls results alleging widespread irregularities.
Some party leaders said Zahid's move might encourage others to take oath too.

Development

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In terms of accountability, he said as present public representatives didn't show accountability towards the countrymen, this caused bureaucrats to lack accountability over their responsibilities.
Moreover, bankers have no accountability as well, Dr Ahmed added.
Bangladesh's visible development turned out to be an "illusion", said economist Prof Anu Muhammad.
"We are seeing GDP [gross domestic product] growth. However, by completely hiding its social and environmental costs, and sometimes 'cooking' and manipulating statistics, the picture we are getting is not the real one," he said.
Pointing out the problems with the development, he said access to education and health had been severely hampered. People heard about growth but were deprived of fresh air and pure drinking water, and had no safety on roads.
"When people live in such insecurity, the development narrative becomes nothing but a cruel joke," he said.
The greatest crisis is that the voices of economists, social scientists and above all the citizens is absent at present, he added.
Abul Hasan Chowdhury, ex-state minister for foreign affairs, said if development and progress were not made from the grassroots level then GDP growth alone would not help in making the country progress.
M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said a free and fair election was the prerequisite to establishing a democracy in the country.
"It is the starting point," he said.
Alleging that the last parliamentary election was questionable, Hafizuddin said the heart-breaking aspect of it was that "not much protest took place" against the election anomalies afterwards.
Waging mass movement was necessary to overcome the situation, he said.
Abdul Awal Minto, former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said corrupt individuals were running and "swallowing" the country but none was there to protest such misdeeds.
It is time for the countrymen to come forward and wage movement for defending their own rights, he added.
Barrister Mainul Hossain, former adviser to a caretaker government, said keeping people in fear and insecurity was contradictory to the country's spirit of independence.
Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said "looters" and not the countrymen benefited from the current development. So, there was no chance such development could be sustained, he said.



With all the nails on his fingers pulled out, Azim Uddin lies on a gurney at Sapahar Hospital in Naogaon yesterday. Members of the Indian Border Security Force allegedly tortured him. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Brutality unbound

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at 5:00am yesterday, and admitted him to Sapahar Upazila Health Complex.
"We sent a note of strong protest for the inhumane torture," Lt Col Tuhin Mohammad Masud, director of 16 BGB Battalion, said, adding that they proposed a battalion commander-level flag meeting over the issue on Sunday.
The man was taken to the health complex at 11:00am, said Dr Arifuzzman.
"It was horrible to see the patient. The T-shirt and lungi he was wearing was stained with blood. Other than the wounded fingertips, he bore several 24 to 48 hours old injuries and bruises on his hands, legs and thighs," the doctor said.
The patient would take a long time to recover, he added.
At the hospital, the torture victim talked to journalists, police and doctors.
According to Azim, he and three others went to India on April 25 without any travel documents for smuggling in cattle as they usually get Tk 8,000 from cattle traders for bringing each pair of cattle.
When they were coming back to Bangladesh on the same night, BSF challenged them. Three of his companions escaped safely to Bangladesh, but he was caught.
BSF took him to the Rangamati camp tortured him for three days. At one point, the BSF men pulled off his fingernails, during which he fainted several times, he said.
Habibur Rahman, commander of BGB Adatola Border outpost, filed a case with Sapahar Police Station, accusing Azim of illegal entry into India.
Officer-in-charge of the police station, Shamsul Alam Shah, said BSF handed Azim over to BGB without signing any written document about his conditions.
"Azim was arrested in connection with the case, and he is undergoing treatment at the hospital in police custody," the OC said.

3 killed in 'gunfights'

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where duty doctors pronounced them dead, added OC Humayun.
The bodies were kept in the medical college morgue for autopsies.
Police also recovered two firearms, eight bullets, two sharp weapons and three posters of PBCP from the spot, added the OC.
Liton was accused in two cases, including a murder case, filed with Raiganj and Bagha police stations in Sirajganj while Afsar was accused in a murder case filed with Tarash Police Station, the OC also said.
Meanwhile, a suspected drug trader was killed in a "shootout" with police in Raysree village of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila yesterday.
Mujibur Rahman Jitu, 26, was a resident of Biraimabad area in the upazila, said Alamgir Hossen, OC of Moulvibazar Police Station, adding that he was accused in 12 drug-related cases and one case filed under Explosive Substances Act.
Tipped off that a consignment of yaba pills would be smuggled through the village, a patrol team of Detective Branch (DB) of Police took position in the area, said Rashedul Islam, additional superintendent of police in Moulvibazar.
When a gang of alleged drug traders was crossing the area with sacks full of yaba around noon, the DB team intercepted them.
The gang members opened fire on police, forcing them to fire back that triggered a "gunfight".
After an hour-long battle, when the drug traders fled the scene, police recovered injured Jitu and took him to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.
Three policemen, including a sub-inspector, were also injured during the "gunfight", said OC Alamgir, adding that the team also recovered firearms and 300 yaba pills from the spot.
The OC said Jitu had earlier been arrested in a drug case, but was released on bail.
Polash Roy, residential medical officer at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, told this correspondent that three cops were under treatment in the hospital.
No family members or relatives of Jitu agreed to comment in this regard. Our Bogura and Moulvibazar correspondents contributed to this report.

Only 13pc

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said Promita, a programme head of GIZ.
Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, chairman of the Supreme Court Judicial Reform Committee, said the audit unveiled the actual situation.
"Under our constitution, we are all bound to ensure rule of law and fundamental rights of the people."
Michael Schultheiss, chargé d'affaires of the German embassy; and Judith Herbertson, head of the department for international development of the UK, also spoke at the programme.