

SEXUAL HARASSMENT RU student accuses teacher

STAR REPORT

A female student of Rajshahi University filed a complaint of sexual harassment against a teacher of the university.

The accused, Bishnu Kumar Adhikary, is an assistant professor of Institute of Education and Research (IER).

In her written complaint filed with the director of the institute, the student claimed that the accused teacher had been sexually harassing her for around five months.

The complaint also claimed that the teacher often made phone calls to the victim at midnight and insisted her to talk for a long time.

The statement also mentioned that the teacher often called her to his office room and kept her sitting there for hours without any reason.

Contacted, Bishnu Kumar denied the allegation and said he was a victim of conspiracy.

But he refused to disclose any detail about the conspirator(s).

Talking to The Daily Star, IER Director Prof Abul Hasan Chowdhury said he had received the complaint and would investigate the matter.

FIVE GET JAIL TERMS FOR RAPE

A Feni court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment and three others to 14 years in jail for raping a schoolgirl in 2013.

Abu Bakar Siddique was given life sentence and a fine of Tk 5 lakh while each of Jahangir Alam, Mesbah Uddin Palash, Bayezid Faysal and Riad Hossain were jailed for 14 years with a fine of Tk 1 lakh.

The district Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal's Judge Mamunur Rashid delivered the verdict.

The five abducted a class seven student from her house in Sonagazi upazila and took her to Bandarban where they raped the girl.

Meanwhile in Jashore, police arrested a youth in a case filed over raping a physically challenged girl in Abhaynagar upazila yesterday.

Alamin Moral, 25, is a neighbour of the victim.

The girl's mother lodged a case with Abhaynagar Police Station following the incident, said Moazzem Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station.

According to the case statement, the girl was roaming around nearby their house around 5:00pm when Alamin forcibly took the girl to a nearby bush and raped her.

Hearing screams, the girl's mother rushed to the spot and rescued her daughter, the statement added.

In Narayanganj, police yesterday arrested a youth for raping a third grader in Siddhirganj upazila.

The arrestee, Al-Amin, 20, is a resident of the same area, said Jashim Uddin, inspector (investigation) of Siddhirganj Police Station.

Our Rajshahi University, Benapole, Feni and Naryanagaj correspondents contributed to this report.

Hackers steal data from telcos in espionage campaign

REUTERS, Tel Aviv

Hackers broke into the systems of more than a dozen global telecom firms and stole huge amounts of data in a seven-year spying campaign, researchers from a cyber security company said, identifying links to previous Chinese cyber-espionage activities.

Investigators at US-Israeli cyber firm Cybereason said on Tuesday the attackers compromised companies in more than 30 countries and aimed to gather information on individuals in government, law-enforcement and politics.

The hackers also used tools linked to other attacks attributed to Beijing by the United States and its Western allies, said Lior Div, chief executive of Cybereason.

"For this level of sophistication it's not a criminal group. It is a government that has capabilities that can do this kind of attack," he told Reuters.

Div later presented a step-by-step breakdown of the breach at a cybersecurity conference in Tel Aviv in the same session that the heads of U.S. and British cyber intelligence units and the head of Israel's Mossad spy agency spoke.

"Right now we're still tracking them," he said. "On Saturday we debriefed more than 25 different telcos, the biggest telcos in the world."

A spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry said he was not aware of the report, but added "we would never allow anyone to engage in such activities on Chinese soil or using Chinese infrastructure."

Cybereason declined to name the companies affected or the countries they operate in, but people familiar with Chinese hacking operations said Beijing was increasingly targeting telcos in Western Europe.

Western countries have moved to call out Beijing for its actions in cyberspace, warning that Chinese hackers have compromised companies and government agencies around the world to steal valuable commercial secrets and personal data for espionage purposes.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Activists of a faction of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal chase off members of another faction in front of the BNP's Nayapaltan headquarters in the city yesterday. The former faction demanded scrapping of a provision that bars a Chhatra Dal man above 35 from contesting for an organisational post.

JCD overhaul move mired in age demo

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JCD leaders furious. On June 11, many of them locked the main gate of the BNP's central office in the capital's Nayapaltan demanding the provision be withdrawn.

Later, they went to the party's standing committee member Mirza Abbas seeking a solution. At that time, Tarique Rahman, now in London, phoned Abbas and asked him to resolve the crisis.

Tarique, however, said the decisions will not be changed, said party insider.

The situation deteriorated further when the party expelled 12 aggrieved leaders of the JCD on Saturday night on accusations of breaching the organisational code of conduct on this issue.

Yesterday, the expelled leaders and their supporters engaged in a scuffle with another JCD faction at the BNP headquarters.

Around 40 party leaders, including

Rizvi, Fazlul Haque Milon, Shaheed Uddin Chowdhury Annie, and ABM Mosharraf Hossain, were present there.

The protesters cut off the power connection to the building which was restored later.

On June 11, the election committee of Chhatra Dal declared a fresh council on July 15 to include new leadership in the ranks. It said leaders who are married would not be able to contest the council election.

The previous council was announced by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on October 14, 2014. Rajib Ahsan was the president and Akramul Hasan the general secretary. The tenure of the committee ended in October, 2016.

DISAGREEMENTS OVER AGE LIMIT

One of the recommendations from the search committee was that the maximum age of JCD leaders should not be over 29, said one of the

members of the body, wishing not to be named.

He, however, said Tarique gave Rizvi a different direction.

Tarique said candidates for JCD posts must pass SSC or equivalent examinations either in 2000 or later. It means leaders up to the age of 35 can vie for the posts.

Many JCD leaders, aged between 35 and 40, came up with various "logics" in favour of their argument to scrap the provision.

Ajmal Hossain Pilot, a former JCD vice president, said, "If a 35-year-old man can find a place in the committee, what wrong did a 37 or 38 years old did!"

Talking to The Daily Star, another former JCD leader said the age ceiling should be 30 and the organisation should be run by regular students.

"Chhatra Dal leadership has remained disconnected from regular students for the last few years. It has been reflected in the Ducus election,"

said the leader, wishing not to be named.

"But the party has decided to keep the age ceiling of 35. Will they be regular students? If they are not regular students, what is the fault of those aged 38 or 40?" he asked.

He also said the JCD was an associate organisation and it should be run independently, but interference from the BNP was putting the student body in trouble.

Contacted, Shaheed Uddin Chowdhury Annie, the party's publicity affairs secretary and a former JCD president, said, "We did not say that the central committee will be formed with the regular students."

"We are trying to bring the age limit to a tolerable level and that's why we've set the age limit [35]. It will gradually come down below 30 years."

He also said they were trying to address the grievances of some JCD leaders.

Repair risky rail bridges

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talked about surveying railway bridges and culverts, Planning Minister MA Mannan told reporters after the meeting.

"Rail communications are considered as a safe mode of transport and so all rail bridges and culverts that need repair should be assessed and their repair should be done quickly so that people don't lose their confidence in rail," a meeting source quoted the PM as saying.

As of June 2017, there were 3,143 rail bridges. Of them, 2,817 were

minor and 326 major, according to railway information book.

Contacted, Mofazzel Hossain, secretary of railways ministry, said they have report on railway bridges and culverts and after the PM's directives, they would check their condition again and take necessary steps.

OTHER DIRECTIVES

The PM also directed the authorities to prepare a master plan to widen roads to boost inter-district road connectivity. She asked them to ensure safety of the foreigners involved in different development projects.

Hasina also asked the finance secretary to raise funds so that players could continue their practices throughout the year as many players could not practise after a particular session for shortage of money.

The PM told the authorities to take steps so players get financial support after their retirement.

Hasina also directed the authorities not to turn any town into a city corporation unless those are divisional headquarters in future. Design or view of all district-level government offices will be same, but building sizes may

be different, she added.

She also asked the authorities to take necessary measures so that the view of CHT Complex on the capital's Bailey Road is not obstructed due to Officers' Club building. She came up with the instructions while approving Tk 228 crore project to build some new structures for the club.

Under the project, a 12-storey building will be constructed at a cost of Tk 138 crore and a multi-level swimming pool at a cost of Tk 30 crore.

3 Bangladeshis

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Sealdah Railway Station. Gleaning information from them, the law enforcers later arrested the two others.

Their mobile phones, seized during an operation, contained photos, videos, books and literature on extremism. The arrestees used to use those to train other operatives, STF

officials said.

Among the Bangladeshis, Shahin, son of Rafiqul Islam, had been out of contact with his family in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila since June last year.

He had good connections with suspected militant Ajimul Islam, who was killed in a "shootout" with

police on March 1, 2017, days after he allegedly stabbed two cops during a raid, said police.

In Rangpur, locals and police could not immediately say anything about Mamunur as his family moved to Gangachara upazila from Mominpur village around 25 years ago.

BSMMU does it, first by a public hospital

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Prof Zulfikar said the youth was diagnosed with Liver Cirrhosis in 2017.

Both the recipient and the donor are under post-operative care now, he added.

"They are in a very good condition till now. We would be able to provide update on their status after seven days of observation," he further said.

"It's a milestone in the healthcare sector of Bangladesh. We are very

proud of this success. It will pave the way for the patients who would require liver transplantation in an affordable cost," Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque told reporters.

Previously, four other liver transplants were performed in two private hospitals in the country. Success rate in those hospitals is 50 percent.

According to physicians, liver transplant at a private hospital in

Bangladesh costs about Tk 35 lakh to Tk 50 lakh. In India, it is between Tk 1 crore and Tk 2 crore, and in Singapore it is around Tk 2.5 crore.

"This is just the beginning. We can establish world class liver transplantation unit in the country if we can continue such surgeries," he added.

Prof Zulfikar said, "We need all kinds of necessary equipment for a full-fledged transplantation unit."

Minister Zahid assured that

the government will provide the hospital with all necessary support to run a fully-equipped transplantation unit.

Health ministry's Health Services Division Secretary Md Ashadul Islam, Medical Education & Family Welfare Division Secretary GM Saleh Uddin, BSMMU Vice Chancellor Prof Kanak Kanti Barua and members of the surgery team were present among others.

Paris eyes

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could take between 45 and 90 minutes.

Efforts will be made to ensure that "the flying autonomous vehicle is accessible to the greatest number of people," the RATP group said.

Airport manager ADP has until the end of the year to pick a site to develop for a "vertiport" -- a facility capable of hosting air taxis in the region around Paris, news agency AFP reported. Plans are afoot to have the venue ready within 18 months, but would require €10 million (\$11.4 million) in infrastructure investment, ADP executive director general Edward Arkwright estimated.

Airbus isn't the only company planning to launch air taxis -- Uber has partnered with NASA on its flying taxi program, which it calls Elevate, and is one of many companies racing to make aerial vehicles a reality. The companies have said they hope commercial trips will be available in 2023.

Yet another PCJSS man shot dead

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Later, locals found his bullet-hit body at a spot about one kilometre away from his house.

Maching Aung Marma, secretary of PCJSS Rowangchhari upazila unit, has blamed Mogh Bahini for the murder.

"The Mogh Bahini is behind the gruesome murders of our supporters. We demand immediate arrest of the criminals," he said. "Some ruling party men have been sheltering Mogh Bahini members and using them to harm locals, the PCJSS men in particular, since the December 30 elections."

On May 7, a member of PCJSS was shot dead in the same area. Another PCJSS man, Puladon Tongchangya, 40, was abducted from Rajbila union the same day and remains traceless till date.

Two days later, another PCJSS

supporter was shot dead by the Mogh Bahini at Bakichhara rubber garden in Rowangchhari, locals said.

On May 19, brother of a local Awami League leader was shot dead in Rajbila while a local leader of Jubo League was shot dead inside his home in Rajasthali upazila under neighbouring Rangamati district.

On May 25, body of former vice-president of AL Bandarban unit Chaw Thowai Mong Marma, 53, was recovered from a remote hilly zone of Kuhlalong union in Bandarban Sadar.

Chaw Thowai, also a former commissioner of ward 5 in Bandarban, was allegedly abducted from his farmhouse on the night of May 22.

Locals said the members of Mogh Bahini often came to their neighbourhoods with weapons and warned them not to support

PCJSS.

"We have been passing sleepless nights because of the threats from the criminals of Mogh Bahini," said a resident of Thoi Aung Gya Para, seeking anonymity.

The Detective Branch of police in Bandarban arrested two suspected members of Mogh Bahini in Rowangchhari upazila on June 10. Three were held earlier on May 30 in Ruma upazila.

Earlier this month, Kwe Shwe Hla, president of AL's Bandarban unit, filed a general diary with Bandarban police. He claimed that PCJSS was spreading propaganda on social media that he had been patronising Mogh Bahini.

"I have never patronised Mogh Bahini. An armed group of PCJSS is behind the killings of our party men in the district," Shew Hla said.

DIG MIZAN ISSUE

Journalist summoned by ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday asked a special correspondent of Bangla Tribune to appear before it to testify about the alleged bribing of its Director Khandaker Enamul Basir by suspended DIG of police Mizanur Rahman.

In a letter signed by ACC Director Sheikh Md Fanafillah, the graft watchdog asked journalist Dipu Sarwar to appear before it at its Segunbagicha headquarters at 10:30am today.

The online news portal on Sunday ran a report on the bribery allegation. Earlier, private television channel ATN News aired a report in which the DIG made allegation of giving Tk 40 lakh to Basir who "promised" him that he would exonerate him of all charges.

"For the sake of a fair enquiry, it is necessary to record your [Dipu] testimony," the letter read, adding that legal proceedings would be initiated if he failed to appear.

On Monday, the ACC had asked ATN News Senior Reporter Imran Hossain Sumon to appear before it today, also for giving testimony on the same matter.

The commission has also asked Mizan and Basir to appear before it on July 1.

DIG Mizan came under the ACC scanner in January last year when he was accused of forcibly marrying and torturing a woman. He was soon withdrawn from his post at Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The ACC began an enquiry into his wealth in May last year.

The commission later formed a committee to investigate the allegation of bribe.

Bulgaria busts key migrant smuggling ring: prosecutors

AFP, Sofia

Bulgarian authorities have broken up a major organised crime ring thought to have smuggled thousands of migrants from Afghanistan en route to western Europe, prosecutors said yesterday.

The gang smuggled the migrants -- predominantly boys under the age of 16 -- over the Maritsa river bordering Turkey and helped them cross illegally through the forests into Serbia, prosecutor Siyka Mileva told journalists.

While authorities have not given an exact figure of how many people were smuggled, they believe the gang was active since early 2017 and Mileva said "there were transfers every week" in groups of "30-40 people at a time".

In total, eight men have been indicted: an Iraqi man alleged to be the ringleader, one Syrian, four Afghans and two Bulgarians.

They were arrested on Monday in a series of raids in the capital Sofia and the southeastern regions of Burgas and Yambol, Mileva said.

Speaking after the raids, deputy chief prosecutor Ivan Geshev said this was "to date the biggest group for migrant trafficking through Bulgaria" with a level of organisation that made it look like "a company for migrant trafficking".

Malaysia

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with those responsible.

"It seems like there are factories that are not very concerned about safety and thus, causing the incident to recur," state news agency Bernama quoted him as saying yesterday.

"That is why we have to identify those responsible for causing the pollution and take stern action."

A total of 475 schools, kindergartens and other educational institutions will be shut for authorities to tackle the contamination, state education official Azman Adnan said in a statement late on Monday.

Residents expressed anger over the latest toxic leak.

"This is also affecting our livelihood as many people are shying away from buying food in this area," Normah Ahmad, a 63-year-old trader, told The Star newspaper.

"I hope the authorities will take this seriously."

It was not clear what had caused the latest incident. Johor chief minister Sahrudin Jamal said authorities were investigating 30 chemical factories in the area.

After the March incident, three men were arrested and charged over dumping waste.

3 'traffickers'

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"Tree homemade guns, 15 cartridges, and 20 cartridge casings were recovered from the spot. Two cases were filed in this connection," said OC Pradip, adding, "The trio had swindled huge sum from Rohingyas by alluring them with promises of immigration to Malaysia."