

## Madrasa first grader raped by teacher

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested a madrasa teacher on charge of raping a first-grader in Jashore's Manirampur upazila on Sunday.

The arrestee Imran Hossain, 40, is an assistant teacher of the madrasa and a resident of Amdanga village in Abhaynagar upazila, said Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Manirampur Police Station.

After the end of the class on Sunday, Imran sent all students to play on the madrasa field except for the victim and raped her in the classroom, the OC said.

Hearing screams, her classmates rushed to the classroom and rescued the girl.

As the news spread, locals went to the madrasa around 7:00pm and beat the alleged rapist before handing him over to police, the OC added.

The girl's uncle filed a case against the teacher, the OC said, adding that the child was taken into safe custody for medical tests and to record her statement.

Meanwhile, a teenager, who was allegedly raped in May this year and later got pregnant, filed a case yesterday against two people on charge of raping her in Manirampur upazila.

The sixth-grader filed the case with the Women and Children Repression Tribunal-2.

The tribunal ordered the Police Bureau of Investigation to investigate the case and submit a report before the Tribunal within seven days.

The accused are Piyas Mallik from Kuchlia village and Badhan Biswas from Labugati village of Manirampur upazila.

According to the case statement, the two kidnaped the girl from in front of her house on May 25 and took her to a nearby area to rape her.

They also threatened to kill her if she shared the matter with anyone.

Family members of the girl recently noticed certain physical change in her body.

### SEVENTH GRADER ALLEGEDLY RAPED

The father of a teenager filed a case against a 60-year-old man for raping his daughter in Mymensingh's Fulbaria upazila.

The case was lodged with Fulbaria Police Station yesterday, said Firoz Talukder, officer-in-charge of the police station.

According to the case statement, accused Abul Hossain, a neighbour of the victim's family, raped the seventh-grader on May 26 while she was home alone.

The accused also threatened the girl not to disclose the matter.

As the girl recently fell sick, her mother took her to a doctor who announced her pregnancy, said the OC quoting the case.

The accused recently fled the area, the OC said, adding that they were carrying out drives to arrest him.

## 2 AL leaders

FROM PAGE 1

Bandarban Sadar hospital where he was declared dead, the OC said.

Earlier in May, two AL and Juba League leaders were killed and another former commissioner was abducted in Bandarban.

Meanwhile in Satkhira, Nazrul Islam was shot on in Hamzapara area on the Satkhira-Boikari road when he was returning to his home on his motorcycle from Kadamtola local market.

Quoting local witnesses, Nazrul's younger brother Rabiul Islam said killers, also on a motorcycle, shot Nazrul twice on his back. Nazrul tried to escape the area by speeding up and fell on the road.

Locals informed police, after which his body was recovered and sent to Satkhira Sadar Hospital for autopsy, said Md Eelut Mish, additional superintendent of police in Satkhira.

Those responsible for the murder are yet to be known, he added.

Mansur Ahmed, president of Satkhira AL, and Md Nazrul Islam, its general secretary, have condemned the murder and demanded exemplary punishment of the criminals.



With large umbrellas unfurled to shelter themselves from rain, vendors occupy a big portion of a street near the capital's New Market yesterday. The makeshift shops, which sell shoes, sandals, wallets and many other items, narrow down the road, causing traffic jam in the area. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Mob madness goes on

FROM PAGE 1

but were looking for the people involved.

Mob attacks on people labelling victims "child kidnappers" continue unabated despite several directives from the government and its agencies.

Incidents have increased even after the Police Headquarters and the bridges authorities issued several warnings against the spreading of rumours about the Padma bridge authorities needing to sacrifice people at the construction site.

In the last six months, 36 people were killed by mobs. In the last five days, eight, including two women, were killed. At least 30 others were injured.

Shockingly, many of the victims were intellectually challenged.

The government yesterday again issued a strong note of warning. Perpetrators of such barbaric acts would be exposed to stern punitive actions, it said, adding that a vested quarter was spreading the rumour to hurt the innocent, reports BSS.

The government asked people to notify law enforcers, by dialling 999, if they saw someone's activities to be suspicious.

The Police Headquarters on Sunday issued another warning in this regard. The incidents of mob attacks became more frequent after July 18 when a young man carrying a child's severed head in a bag was caught and beaten dead by locals in Netrakona.

In Rajshahi yesterday, police rescued five field officers of NGO Ad-din Welfare Centre, in Charchat upazila after locals attacked them labelling them "child kidnappers". The officers had gone to Rautha village to rent office space.

According to police, the rescued were Kaium Mollah, 42, of Lalbagh in Dhaka, Rezaul Karim Ripon, 40, Kalam Mollah, 30, Hafizur Rahman, 45, Abul Hossain, 33 of Moksedpur in Gopalganj.

In Chattogram, three youths were injured after a mob beat them up on suspicion of being child kidnappers in Banshkhalia upazila. The three had gone there to buy cattle for the upcoming Eid.

Joni, 31, Shohel, 32, and Hridoy Haran, 19, were being treated at the upazila health complex, said Rezaul Karim Mazumdar, OC of Banshkhalia.

In Madaripur's Dhurai union, a mob beat up an intellectually challenged woman labelling her "child kidnapper". She was roaming in a kitchen market. When locals asked for her identity she could not respond.

The mob then tied her to a tree and beat her up.

She was kept at a local police outpost where she got first aid.

In Dhamrai of Savar, people beat a man dead, accusing him of being a child kidnapper early yesterday.

Police said the man was actually killed over an affair he was having with a married woman and that her husband was involved in the killing.

When the man went to the woman's house around 1:00am, her family members, raised alarm, yelled "child kidnapper", and beat him dead, said Depok Saha, officer-in-charge of Dhamrai Police Station.

Six people including the couple were arrested.

In Chattogram, parents harassed an official of the directorate of primary education at Uttar Kattali Munshipara Primary School in Pahartali of

Chattogram city yesterday labeling him a "child kidnapper".

Moinur Rahman, OC of Pahartali Police Station, said there was a rumour spreading since morning that a child would be kidnapped from the school and Tapos Pal, an inspector of the directorate, visited the school later in the day.

Seeing the unknown person, parents accused him of being a child kidnapper, the OC said.

Police and school staffers rescued him and calmed the parents.

Tapos could not be reached for comments.

### PHQ ALERTS ALL UNITS

The Police Headquarters has instructed superintendents of all districts to strengthen surveillance at educational institutions, monitor social media, raise awareness, and stop spreading of rumours of child abduction.

In the order issued late Sunday, the PHQ also asked public notices to be issued in print and electronic media.

It ordered increased patrolling and surveillance at educational institutions, raising awareness among teachers, school staffers, parents and students, and installing CCTV cameras covering all areas of the institutions.

The Police Headquarters also ordered holding of meetings with public representatives, and members of the administration and civil society and community police to raise awareness. It ordered that leaflets and posters be distributed and announcements made over loudspeakers.

The Police Headquarters asked for compliance reports within three working days.

Meanwhile, the cyber security

team of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit posted on Facebook several photos of people who allegedly took part in recent mob attacks. It sought information leading to their arrest.

### TASLIMA MURDER

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Bachchu Miah, Shahin, and Bappi, on four-day remand each after they were produced before it in the case filed in connection with the mob attack on Taslima Begum Renu in the capital's North Badda on Saturday.

The trio had been arrested Sunday night. Three more were held yesterday.

Zafar Hossain was arrested yesterday morning following scrutiny of amateur video clips of that brutal attack. Zafar made a confessional statement before the court and was sent to jail.

The other arrestees are Kamal Hossain and Abul Kalam Azad, according to Badda police.

Taslina Begum Renu, 40, a single-mother, was brutally beaten to death by a mob in front of North Badda Government Primary School. It was later learnt that Renu went there to get information regarding admission of her daughter to the school.

### RALLY AGAINST RUMOUR

Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila administration yesterday took the initiative to hold anti-rumour rallies at different educational institutions.

Local police, public representatives, and government officials spoke against the spread of rumours at the rallies.

In the capital, students and teachers of Government Titumir College held a rally in front of their Mohakhali campus protesting the deaths in mob attacks.

## Minni's family gripped by sense of insecurity

FROM PAGE 1

of fear.

The two did not utter a single word to these correspondents yesterday.

"Many of our relatives and neighbours have stopped visiting us as they fear they will also be in trouble. They have even stopped calling us," Jinat said.

Since Rifat and Minni got married, the couple used to spend most of their time in the house with Minni's siblings, she said.

"Their marriage took place with consent from both the families. The two [Rifat and Minni] used to love each other. But now law enforcers, all of a sudden, are pointing an accusing finger at Minni."

After 25-year-old Rifat, an internet services provider, was stabbed indiscriminately, a footage of the incident went viral, creating an outrage. The footage shows Minni trying in vain to save her husband from the attackers, some of whom were wielding sharp weapons.

Around a week after the murder, a prime accused, Sabbir Hossain Nayan, also known as Nayan Bond, was killed in a so-called gunfight with police in Barguna on July 2.

Police have so far arrested 16 suspects over the killing.

Initially, Minni was named as a witness in the case, but she was made an accused later. The law enforcers claimed their investigation has found her involvement in the murder.

Minni, a student of Barguna Government College, was arrested on July 16 following 13 hours long questioning at Barguna Police Lines.

Police claimed she admitted her links with the attack on her husband, whom she had married just months ago.

On July 19, a Barguna court recorded Minni's statement in the case. Senior Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Sirajul Islam Gazi recorded the statement under section 164 of the CrPC on the second day of her five-day remand, said Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of (inquiry) of Barguna Police Station.

But her father Mozammel Hossain claimed his daughter gave the statement under duress.

Police have rejected the allegation. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, he gave these correspondents copies of some medical documents claiming that his daughter had long been consulting two psychiatrists.

She visited the doctors on two dates in May 2018 and in March this year, according to the documents that show she was also prescribed some medicines.

"I've given these documents to our lawyer," he said.

Minni's father then alleged that they were receiving threats from unknown callers. "They asked me to meet at different places, but I did not."

Asked about the callers, he said, "You know them very well. I have already mentioned their names a number of times before."

He would not elaborate on the matter.

On July 16, Mozammel alleged that local MP Dharendra Debnath Shambhu and his son were pulling strings behind the scene.

The Daily Star called the lawmaker and his son several times on their cell phones yesterday, but they did not receive.

Earlier, Shambhu had told The Daily Star that they were not involved in any kind of crimes and claimed that all the allegations against them were false. "These are propaganda against us."

Meanwhile, replying to a query, Jinat said her daughter sometimes seemed upset in the past. "Minni once told her

uncle that Nayan used to disturb her. Later, she got married to Rifat."

Yesterday, Minni's lawyer, Barguna District Bar Association General Secretary Mahbubul Bari Aslam, submitted two appeals to the Senior Judicial Magistrate Court in Barguna. One of the appeals was to ensure her treatment and the other to cancel her confessional statement in the case.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Shirajul Islam Gazi rejected both.

The court said the jail authorities would take necessary actions.

Minni's lawyer said they needed Minni's signature on the papers for her treatment.

"We would submit a bail petition today before the court. We hope that the petition will be heard today," he said.

Rishan Farazi, another accused named in the FIR, gave his confessional statement before the Barguna court yesterday, said inspector Humayun.

He said the court then sent him to jail.

"During interrogation, Rishan admitted his involvement in the murder. He wanted to give the confessional statement himself. He also said that Minni too had a hand in the murder."

## 403 infected with dengue in 24 hours

FROM PAGE 1

53, was declared dead at the capital's Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital around 11:00pm, said Prof Dr Uttam Kumar Barua, director of the hospital.

However, the DGHS did not include the death in its statistics saying that it would wait for confirmation of the cause of death by the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

"We have heard about the civil surgeon's death, but we will be sure about the cause of his death only after the IEDCR conducts necessary tests," said Dr Aysha Akther, assistant director at the DGHS control room.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Debapada Ray, director of health at the Sylhet division DGHS office, said an administrative official of the civil surgeon's office informed him over the phone on Sunday that Shahadat felt sick at his Habiganj office.

Debapada then instructed the official to immediately take him to the 250-bed hospital in Habiganj.

Doctors at that hospital said his symptoms indicated that he was infected with dengue.

Shahadat told the doctors that his wife and daughter were also suffering from dengue fever in Dhaka and he should be shifted there.

Around 5:00pm on Sunday, Debapada talked to the civil surgeon who complained of high fever and severe pain in his body. He was sent to Dhaka for better treatment.

He reached his Dhaka home around 10:00pm. But his condition deteriorated within around an hour and he asked his son to take him to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, Debapada told The Daily Star, quoting the civil surgeon's son.

### HC ISSUES SUMMONS FOR OFFICIALS

The High Court yesterday summoned the chief health officers of the Dhaka north and south city corporations to appear before it to inform about the steps taken by the corporations to prevent any outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and chikungunya, and to destroy the

breeding grounds of Aedes mosquitoes in the capital.

The court ordered the officials to appear before it at 11:00am on Thursday to apprise it of the steps taken for eradicating Aedes mosquitoes.

The HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Md Shohrawardi came up with the order during holding hearing on a suomoto (voluntary) rule.

The bench had issued the rule on July 14 asking the city corporations to submit separate reports yesterday about the steps taken by them.

Assistant Attorney General Saira Firoz submitted two compliance reports from Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) before the HC bench, saying that steps have been taken to create public awareness for prevention of Aedes mosquitoes.

After examining the reports, the HC expressed unhappiness saying that there were no details on the steps taken in the last seven days for eradication of Aedes mosquitoes.

The court said it took notice of media reports that dengue and chikungunya patients were getting admitted to hospitals which indicated that the cases were increasing and the respondents' action to eliminate Aedes mosquitoes was inadequate.

"We are therefore not satisfied with the averments given on behalf of the respondents [DNCC and DSCC]," the HC bench said.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the inadequate measures, the HC said no court in any other country needed to issue a rule on the authorities to take measures to eliminate the mosquito menace.

The court said the city corporations themselves would have to be aware of the menace before making the people aware of it.

The corporations have burdened the people with the responsibility to rid themselves of the mosquito menace, but what is their responsibilities, the court questioned.

### MOBILE COURTS TO BE OPERATED

The DSCC mayor yesterday said they would operate mobile courts against the owners of under-construction buildings if any breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes were found there.

## Tk 10,000cr

FROM PAGE 1

The port has the capacity to house 48,000 TELUs (Twenty Equivalent Unit) of containers, of which 7,000 has been occupied by the unclaimed containers for the past few years.

Officials concerned identified the 5,277 consignments of undelivered goods worth Tk 9,989 crore after analysing the server data earlier this month, sources said.

The undelivered goods in the 7,000 containers also mean its respective shipping agents are incurring losses as they no longer get rent for the containers from the importers, sources said.

Shahed Sarwar, deputy managing director of K-Line Bangladesh Limited, a shipping agent, said apart from the loss in rent, the agents also had to bear the cost of dumping perishable goods and pay electricity bills to the port authority for the refrigerated containers.

Asked why the deliveries were not taken, customs officials and importers cited a number of reasons, including a fall in the prices of goods in the local market, failure to submit original documents in support of the shipment, failure to get clearance permit reports and importers' refusal to pay fines for anomalies.

Around 1,000 importers have not taken delivery of their goods. The Daily Star, however, could not reach them for comments.

According to data collected from the National Board of Revenue and CCH, more than a hundred types of goods including cosmetics, chemicals, plastics, automobiles, electronic goods, leather goods, construction materials, tiles and ceramics are among the unreleased goods.

The customs law states that importers have to take delivery of goods within 30 days of those reaching the port; defaulting on the timeline results in the customs authority starting the procedures to auction the goods.

An auction for the goods, however, has not taken place in the past five years.

### NO ACTION, NO AUCTION

Failure to hold a timely auction for the goods has also resulted in the loss of further revenues.

Akbar Hossain, the CCH additional commissioner, said, "We are working to know the present condition of those goods and the reason behind delay in the auction process."

Sixteen revenue officials had been assigned to take inventory of goods and issue letters of an auction to the importers once the inventory is completed.

According to customs officials, the auction process was delayed due to shortage of manpower and equipment. Some importers or auctioneers also go to court which leads to further delay.

The CPA, shipping agents and different business bodies sent separate letters to the Customs and NBR several times, requesting to take necessary measures for holding auctions of undelivered consignments regularly, sources said.

Shahed Sarwar, also a director of Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association (BSAA), said, "We can neither use those containers nor send those back to the owner companies abroad."

Complicating matters is the limited number of bidders who take part in the auctions. They often collude to offer a lower price than the reserved value fixed by the authority.

As per the rule, the goods in question would be auctioned off at a reserved value of around Tk 17,000 crore. The reserved value would be set according to the total value of the goods and the total duties that are levied on it.

Of the auction value, 60 percent would go to customs, of which 20 percent would go to the port as rent of space.

Apart from that, the shipping agents get back the containers to rent them again.

The auction department, however, often fails to sell goods at reserved value on the first auction and then it needs to hold another auction.

Because of the delay, many perishable goods spoil. For instance, in the last two years, 239 containers of imported goods worth Tk 50 crore had been disposed of since the goods perished by the time.

Port users said if the auctions could have been arranged in due time, such wastage and incidents of goods going missing could be averted.

Altaf Hossain Bachchu, general secretary of the Chattogram Customs Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) Agents Association, said, "The unreleased consignments should be put up for auction regularly to save those goods from being wasted."

Termining the auction procedure lengthy, Bachchu said the process should be made simpler.

In terms of a solution, customs took an initiative to launch an e-tender programme to speed up the auction procedure in 2015, but it is yet to be implemented.

If this was implemented, it would make the auction easier and attract participation of more bidders which might help reduce the number of undelivered containers, opined customs officials.

According to the data from customs auction department, the customs authorities through auctions sold imported goods worth Tk 43 crore in fiscal 2016-17, Tk 48 crore in 2017-18, and Tk 42 crore in 2018-19.



Dr Shahadat Hossain

Assistant Attorney

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Our staff correspondents in Dhaka and Moulvibazar correspondent contributed to this report.