

## Madrasa principal held for 'raping' six children

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Instilling fear that they would rot in hell if they didn't do what he asked them to do, a madrasa principal raped and attempted to rape 11 students over three years at Fatullah in Narayanganj, Rab said yesterday.

"It is foroz [mandatory] to obey the hujur [sir], otherwise it will be a sin and you may go to hell," Rab said quoting arrested principal Mostafizur Rahman.

He also threatened to harm the victims' families.

Rab-11's Commanding Officer Lt Col Kazi Shomser Uddin at a press conference yesterday said, "During primary interrogation, Mostafizur confessed to raping six students and attempting to rape another five."

Rab detained Mostafizur, 35, at the Darul Huda Women Madrasa and Orphanage on Saturday after receiving complaints from two victims.

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## Vietnam seizes 125 kilos of rhino horn hidden in plaster

AFP, Hanoi

Fifty-five pieces of rhino horn were found encased in plaster at an airport in the Vietnamese capital, authorities said yesterday, as the country tries to crack down on sophisticated wildlife smuggling routes.

The communist state is both a consumption hub and popular transit point for the multibillion dollar trade in animal parts.

## Sub-par Tigers

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seven-wicket win in the second ODI at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Bangladesh were unable to put up any sort of fight in defence of a small total as Sri Lanka chased the target of 239 runs with 37 balls to spare. Opener Avishka Fernando provided a flying start to the home side, top-scoring with 82 off 75 balls.

The experienced Angelo Matthews remained unbeaten on 52 and Kusal Mendis was not out on 41 as Sri Lanka sealed the series in style.

Prior to the series, Bangladesh interim coach Khaled Mahmud was confident about the batting department and stated concern over the bowling but as things have gone in Sri Lanka so far, it is the batting that has emerged as the biggest headache.

Much like the first ODI, the Tigers' top order fell like a house of cards with Mushfiqur Rahim being the only exception. The dependable batsman smashed a fighting, unbeaten 110-ball 98, which featured six fours and a six.

It was all courtesy of Mushfiqur -- who became the third Bangladesh batsman after Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan to reach 6,000 ODI runs -- that Bangladesh managed to post a respectable 238 for eight.

Mushfiqur would definitely feel unfortunate for not being able to score his eighth ODI hundred as the batsman opted to take a single in the fifth ball of the last over of the innings.

But it was yet another batting failure from the Tigers after electing to bat. Skipper Tamim Iqbal continued his string of poor scores and along with the likes of Soumya Sarkar, Mohammad Mithun and Mahmudullah Riyad, failed to provide any sort of resistance.

At one point the Tigers were struggling on 117 for six in the 32nd over but, much like the first ODI when he also scored a half-century, Mushfiqur took the responsibility for the helpless batting department.

He, along with Mehedi Hasan Miraz, added 84 runs for the seventh wicket before the latter was dismissed for 43 off 49 balls.

For the sixth consecutive innings, Tamim was bowled when the left-hander played on to his stumps going for a drive off left-arm seamer Isuru Udana to be dismissed for 19, while Soumya was dismissed in ugly fashion, missing a full toss from Nuwan Pradeep and being trapped leg-before for 11.

Mithun was unable to utilise the opportunity at number three and handed a simple catch at short mid-wicket on 12 off the bowling of Akila Dananjaya. The experienced Mahmudullah then failed to shoulder the responsibility and was bowled for six trying to cut a turning Dananjaya delivery.

It was not just with the bat that the Tigers were toothless. Taking the field to defend the sub-par total, at no point were the bowlers able to put pressure on the Lankan batters.

Much like the batting and bowling, the Tigers' fielding was also below par yesterday as dropped catches and fielding misses remained a feature of their effort on the field, with Mosaddek Hossain dropping a chance offered by Fernando off the bowling of Taijul Islam when the batsman was on 78 in the 20th over.



The remains of homesteads in Digapara char in Bogura's Sariakandi upazila after the flood water receded there. Around 2,000 people from nearby flooded areas have taken shelter here.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## Crops on 5.32 lakh

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Addressing the briefing, State Minister for the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry Enamur Rahman said the government allocated Tk 4.71 crore, 27,350 tonnes of rice, 1.13 lakh packets of dry food, 8,500 tents, and 3,900 bundles of corrugated iron sheets as relief materials for the affected people.

Furthermore, Tk 1.17 crore was allocated for repairing houses, Tk 24 lakh for procuring cattle fodder and Tk 18 lakh for buying child food, he said.

"There is no scarcity of relief materials. Even though flood continues for three months, the government has the capacity to provide the affected people with relief."

Replying to a query, the state minister said there was no possibility of prolonged flood.

He also presented a document that said 75 people died due to the

flood in 14 districts from July 11 to 25. Sixty-seven drowned and eight died in boat capsizes. Of the victims, 56 were children, 13 men, and six women.

At the briefing, Bangladesh Water Development Board Executive Engineer Arifuzzaman Bhuiyan said water of all major rivers was dropping and water of the rivers would come below the danger level in the next two days.

There is no possibility of massive flood in the country within the next two weeks, he said.

Speaking at the briefing, Bangladesh Meteorological Department Director Shamsuddin Ahmed said rainfall decreased in Bangladesh as well as the upstream areas in India and Nepal. So, water level of all major rivers in Bangladesh will continue to fall.

Our correspondents reported on the flood situation at different

districts yesterday.

In Lalmonirhat, different waterborne diseases have broken out in the flood-affected areas.

"We returned home from a flood shelter on Saturday as water receded. Just after returning home, two members of our family had diarrhoea," said Mahir Uddin, 66, of Khuniagachh in Sadar upazila.

In Kurigram, many flood victims have been passing their days in misery at flood shelters for around two weeks.

"I took shelter here around 15 days ago. Since then, we are getting food once or twice a day. We are facing crisis of drinking water and toilet facilities," said Jahanara Begum, 30, of Tapu Bhelakopa village under Kurigram municipality, who took shelter on an embankment.

Our correspondents in Pabna, Sirajganj and Gaibandha reported that flood situation was improving there.

## Lofty promises

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spread to different districts as well.

Jahangir Fakir, father of one of the two victims Diya Khanom Mim, yesterday said, "My daughter will never return, but I want safe roads so that no parents have to endure the pain like us."

### EMPTY PROMISES

Terming the agitation an "eye opener", different government bodies, police, and transport leaders made many promises and took some hasty steps.

Disappointed by the failure of road transport ministry to ensure road safety, the Prime Minister's Office on August 16 last year issued 17 directives which included ordering buses to pick up and drop off passengers only at designated spots and to keep the doors of running buses shut at all times.

The PMO also ordered keeping photos of drivers and helpers along with their names, drivers' licences and phone numbers at two noticeable places inside the vehicles, continuing the activities of police's traffic week until further instructions and introducing a remote-controlled electronic signalling system in the capital.

Drivers of passenger vehicles, especially of the long-haul buses, were asked to fasten their seat belts and the authorities were asked to introduce seat belts for the passengers as well.

But most buses still pick up and drop off passengers in the middle of the roads; very few, if any, vehicles have the documents and photos of drivers and helpers displayed; electronic signalling system has not been introduced; seat belts for bus passengers are not there.

Police and BRTA carried out several drives against jaywalking, but failed to make any difference.

According to a BRTA report submitted to the High Court last week, there are 4.79 lakh vehicles without fitness certificates across the country. Of them 2.61 lakh are registered in Dhaka division.

### ACT YET TO TAKE EFFECT

The cabinet in March 2017 approved in principle the draft Road Transport Act, but the document collected dust at the law ministry for over a year as transport leaders opposed some of its provisions.

Amid widespread protests, the cabinet hastily gave the final approval to the draft law and in September the Jatiya Sangsad passed the Road Transport Act. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said discipline on roads would be restored once the act was put into force.

However, the government did not issue a gazette notification mentioning when the law would take effect.

## Eight charged

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Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court in Dhaka.

The accused are Syed Md Ziaul Huq alias Major Zia (sacked army major), 42, Akram Hossain, Sabbirul Haque Chowdhury, 26, Md Zunaid Ahmad alias Maulana Zuned alias Zunaid, 26, Mozammel Husain alias Saimon, 25, Md Arifat Rahman, 24, Md Sheikh Abdullah, 27, and Asadullah, 25.

The murders were carried out on instructions of Maj (sacked) Zia, according to the charge sheet.

Of the accused, Zia, Akram, Sabbirul and Zunaid have been shown absconding while the four others were shown arrested in the case.

All the arrestees are the members of military and intelligence wing of the outfit, according to CTTC officials.

CTTC found direct involvement of 13 people into the double murder. Of them, five were excluded from the charge sheet as their full names and addresses were not found during investigation, the charge sheet mentioned.

Earlier on May 12 this year, the

### JABAL-E-NOOR BUSES

## Verdict in Dia, Rajib's killing case in September

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial over the death of two college students in a road accident involving two Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan buses last year is now at the final stage.

"The judgment is likely to be pronounced by September," said Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Pal, who is conducting the case from the very beginning.

Six people including the owners, drivers and helpers of the buses stand the trial. They were indicted on homicide charges.

Tapash said the defence is continuing the cross-examination of the investigation officer -- Inspector Kazi Shariful Islam of the Detective Branch (DB) of police.

After completion of the cross-examination, arguments from both sides will be heard and the judgment will be passed, he added.

The case is pending with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge KM Emrul Kayesh. So far, the court recorded statements of 36 prosecution witnesses including the complainant. The next hearing is scheduled for August 22.

On July 29 last year, two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College -- Abdul Karim Rajib, 18, and Dia Khanam Mim, 17 -- were run over when two Jabal-e-Noor buses were speeding to overtake each other on Airport Road.

Their deaths sparked a huge public outrage and unprecedented nationwide student demonstrations demanding road safety.

Dia's father Jahangir Alam filed the case with Cantonment Police Station.

The accused are drivers Masum and Zobair Hossain Sumon, helpers Enayet Hossain and Kazi Asad,

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Abdul Karim

Dia Khanom Mim

The government said enforcing some sections of the act would require forming of the rules first.

Officials later said transport leaders were lobbying the government to make several changes in the act, resulting in the delay.

About the delay, Nazrul Islam, secretary of Road Transport and Highway Division, said transport leaders and several other organisations were demanding changes to some sections of the act. "We will make the law effective after addressing those issues."

About the PMO directives, he said it would be unfair to hold the ministry solely responsible for ensuring road safety.

### DAILY CONTRACTS

Due to the reduction of trips caused by severe traffic congestion in the city, bus owners often rent out their vehicles to the drivers who indulge in reckless driving just to maximise profit by operating as many trips as possible.

Following last year's agitation, transport owners announced that they would shun the practice.

Khondaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, said around 40 percent buses were still rented out to drivers.

"Owners are forced to do this as there is no ticket-selling counter from where the owners can sell tickets," he said.

He claimed that the city's transport system had improved a lot and they were constantly working with the authorities and police for further improvement.

### WHAT EXPERT SAYS

Prof Mizanur Rahman, director of the Accident Research Institute at Buet, said, "We expected a change after the student movement, but unfortunately, nothing has changed."

Terming the government initiatives inadequate, he said, "One must wonder whether the government is failing to properly realise the depth of the problem."

"It is not possible to eliminate the anarchy in the sector unless there are coordinated efforts."

Road users have a responsibility as well, he added.

"The government should emphasise more on the issue now. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to solve the problems later."

## DIG prisons held

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be filed soon."

Earlier, ACC Director Mohammad Yousef quizzed Partha over allegations that he committed irregularities and corruption as DIG (prisons) of Chattogram division.

The interrogation continued at ACC headquarters for about four hours.

On October 26 last year, the Government Railway Police (GRP) arrested a jailer of Chattogram Central Jail, Sohel Rana Biswas, and recovered Tk 44 lakh in cash, documents

showing fixed deposit accounts worth Tk 2.5 crore, and cheques of Tk 1.3 crore issued in favour of him, and 12 bottles of Phensedyl.

Sohel was going to his home town Mymensingh by train from Chattogram.

Two cases were filed over the incident -- one for money laundering and the other for carrying drugs.

At that time, Partha was DIG (prisons) of Chattogram division, and Prasanta Gopal Banik was senior jail superintendent of Chattogram Central Jail.

An investigation launched by the prison authority found that a section of Chattogram prison officials were involved in the incident. As per recommendations of the committee, several prison guards and senior officials were transferred.

The home ministry formed another probe committee over the matter. One of the recommendations of the committee was to launch inquiries into the wealth of top prison officials. ACC yesterday quizzed Partha and Prasanta as part of the inquiry.

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CTTC

unit prepared the charge sheet and sent to the home ministry for its approval.