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Gaibandha cop sued over rape of college girl

5 more rapes reported in 4 dists

STAR REPORT

A police constable has been sued on charge of raping his girlfriend in Gaibandha.

The victim's mother filed the case against Constable of Rangpur range Abu Bakkar Siddiqui and his aide Aminul Islam, with Gaibandha Sadar Police Station Thursday.

Both of them are on the run, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Khan Md Shahrir.

The 19-year-old girl was a class XI student at a local college and had a relationship with Bakkar, said her mother.

On Tuesday, they went to visit some nearby places, but Bakkar and his friend Aminul tricked her into entering a bamboo garden where they tortured and raped her, she said.

The girl was sent to hospital for medical examination. SEVEN-YEAR-OLD RAPED

Meanwhile, a seven-year-old girl was raped in Khulna city yesterday when she went to a neighbour's house to play with other children.

A young man lured the girl with chocolate and raped her at another house, according to the victim's mother.

"There was a wedding ceremony of my cousin going on next door. At that time, we could not find her for about 20-25 minutes. When she returned, she was bleeding," the mother said. The girl said she did not know the rapist, but can recognise him.

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Passengers get off an overcrowded train at the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday. The railway, bus and launch terminals were bustling with people returning to the city after celebrating the Eid-ul-Azha with their families. Many trains to and from the capital ran behind schedule.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Novelist Rizia Rahman passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Noted novelist Rizia Rahman died at a hospital in the city yesterday. She was 79.

Rizia breathed her last at Apollo Hospitals in the morning, said an official release.

Born on December 28, 1939, in Bhabanipur of Kolkata, she authored many memorable books, including "Bong Theke Bangla" (1978); "Rokter Okshor" (1978); "Ghar Bhanga Ghar" (1974); "Uttar Purush" (1977); "Surja Sabuj Rakta" (1980); "Ekal Chirokal" (1984); and "Nodi Nirobdhi" (2011).

She received many prestigious awards, including Ekushey Padak (2019), Bangla Academy Literary Award, Jashore Sahitya Parishad Puraskar, Bangladesh Lekhika Sangha Shwama Padak and Ananya Sahitya Puraskar.

President Abdul Hamid expressed profound shock at the death of the eminent writer.

In a condolence message, he prayed for the salvation of her departed soul and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid expressed deep shock at the demise of Rizia.

In a message, he said, "The death of the renowned novelist is an ir-reparable loss in the cultural arena of the country. People will remember her for her great contributions in Bangla language and literature."

Public exam schedules to get shorter

Govt decision to allow more classroom learning

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Public examinations will now take less time than before as the government looks to increase academic hours.

The next Junior School Certificate examination will be held in 10 days instead of 15 and Secondary School Certificate examination will be held in 29 days instead of 35, said officials.

Prof Ziaul Haque, chief of Inter-Education Board Coordination Subcommittee, told The Daily Star they already set a calendar for next JSC and SSC examinations that would consume less time.

He said, "We are also planning to do the same with Higher Secondary Certificate examination from 2020."

The decisions have been made so that students get more academic hours, he reasoned.

Prof Ziaul said, "We also put mental pressure on the examinees and their family members with the existing exam calendar. If the examinations run for a longer

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Unicef seeks urgent investment in edn

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) has called for urgent investment in education of the Rohingya children who live at different refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

The call came from a report titled "Beyond Survival: Rohingya Refugee Children in Bangladesh" that was produced yesterday.

According to the report, the overall education sector had provided non-formal education to 280,000 children aged between four and 14 by June 2019.

Unicef and its partners have ensured access to learning for 192,000 of those children, enrolled in 2,167 learning centres.

However, this leaves over 25,000 children who are not attending any learning programmes, and an additional 640 learning centres are needed, according to Unicef.

Further, 97 per cent of children aged between 15 and 18 are not attending any type of educational facility, the report said.

"For the Rohingya children and youths, now in Bangladesh, mere survival is not enough," said Unicef Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

"It's absolutely critical that they are provided with the quality learning and skill development that they need to guarantee their long-term future."

More formal teaching and learning materials are being progressively rolled out for younger refugee children studying in camp learning centres.

Unicef and other agencies are calling on the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh to allow the use of national educational resources.

"Providing learning and training materials is a huge task and can only be realised with the full backing of a range of partners," said Fore, adding, "But the hopes of a generation of children and adolescents are at stake. We cannot afford to fail them."

Bhola gangrape victim a little better

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condition of the sixth grader gangraped in Bhola on August 11 has slightly improved as the bleeding stopped yesterday.

But she is still in pain and is given pain killers, said Bilkis Begum, coordinator of One Stop Crisis Centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, her brother told The Daily Star yesterday that his family was feeling insecure and threatened because the brother of an accused rapist told people that he would take revenge for his brother's death in a "shootout".

"A brother of [rape accused] Manjur told people that his brother was killed because of us. So, they will take revenge one day. We are feeling insecure," he said.

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Trump wants US to buy Greenland



AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump is asking advisers if it is possible for the US to buy Greenland, according to a report.

Trump has expressed interest in the self-governing part of Denmark -- which is mostly covered in ice -- asking advisers if it is possible for the US to acquire the territory, The Wall Street Journal said Thursday, citing people familiar with the discussions.

The president has been curious about the area's natural resources and geopolitical relevance, the paper reported.

Greenland is a self-governing region of Denmark, which colonised the 772,000 square-mile (two-million square kilometre) island in the 18th century, and is home to nearly 57,000 people, most of whom belong to the indigenous Inuit community.

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Tanners to start buying rawhide from today

REFAVET ULLAH MIRDHA

Tanners will start buying rawhide from merchants today amid a slump in prices and dumping of 35 percent rawhide after the Eid-ul-Azha.

"We have already conveyed the message to our members that we will start buying salt-applied rawhide from tomorrow [today]. Purchasing will continue for the next two months," Shakawat Ullah, general secretary of Bangladesh Tanners Association, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We had originally planned to buy rawhide from August 20. However, we have moved the date forward as many seasonal traders have already thrown away some rawhide due to poor demand," he added.

Shakawat said they would buy rawhide at government fixed rates. Rawhide would be bought directly from merchants

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A worker applies salt to rawhide which has been piled up along Beribadh Road in the capital's Hajeribagh area. Locals said although handling of rawhide is prohibited in the area, some traders are storing it there, polluting the environment. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Najib Razak faces trial over 1MDB

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's former prime minister, Najib Razak, on Monday faces the biggest of five trials linked to a multi-billion-dollar scam at state fund 1MDB, although lawyers are seeking a delay to allow time for the completion of a previous trial.

Najib, who lost a general election last year, has been hit with 42 criminal charges of graft and money laundering at 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) and other state entities.

1MDB, founded by Najib in 2009, is being investigated in at least six countries, and the US Department of Justice says about \$4.5 billion was misappropriated from the fund.

In his second trial at the Kuala Lumpur High Court, Najib will have to fight 21 charges of money laundering and four of abuse of power for receiving illegal transfers of about 2.3 billion ringgit (\$550.8 million) between 2011 and 2014.

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