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JASHORE RAPE

Fear of backlash held me back

Says victim about why she didn't identify the SI, the prime suspect; she also alleges intimidation

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHSIN MILON



The Jashore woman who was allegedly raped by a police officer and his "source" in the early hours of Tuesday has said she did not name the cop for fear of repercussions.

"I clearly recognised SI [sub-inspector] Khairul when senior police officers brought him before me. But I told them at the time that I cannot recognise him because Khairul stared at me angrily when I looked at him," the victim, who has two young children, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, doctors said they found evidence of rape.

"In the primary medical test, we found presence of semen. DNA tests are needed for confirmation as well as to determine how many people were involved. This requires a court order," said Arif Ahmed, a resident doctor at Jashore Sadar Hospital where the tests were done.

Jashore Superintendent of Police Mainul Hoque, who is aware of the test results, said they would "definitely" carry out DNA tests.

"The victim's specimens have probably been sent to Dhaka by now. And the process to send the specimens of the accused is underway," he told this paper yesterday.

Police arrested three suspects -- Kamrul, 40, Omar Ali, 50, and Abdul Latif, 48, over the alleged rape. Police have petitioned to the court for placing them on remand. The hearing date could not be known immediately.

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ROHINGYA RELOCATION

Support our plan or leave the country

FM tells UN agencies, reports Deutsche Welle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has said if the UN agencies do not support the government's plan to move 100,000 Rohingya refugees to an island in the Bay of Bengal, they would be expelled, if necessary, reports the Deutsche Welle.

In an interview, published on the German broadcaster's website on Wednesday, he was asked if he would expel the UN agencies if they didn't support his plans. "We'll do it if necessary," he replied.

He also expressed disappointment that the UN had failed to put enough pressure on Myanmar to take back the Rohingyas.

"It is time to relocate them to Bhasan Char. But the island cannot accommodate all of them; we can send only 100,000 refugees there," he said, when asked if the refugees' reluctance to return to Myanmar prompted the government to make the plan.

"We didn't want to repatriate them forcefully. We had hoped it would be done voluntarily.

"The island offers economic activities to

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Post-Ershad JP split over party helm

Raushan declared chairperson; Quader warns action against those behind the move

RASHIDUL HASAN

Raushan Ershad was declared Jatiya Party chairperson yesterday as the rift between her and GM Quader over the party leadership and post of Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad deepens.

Flanked by a section of JP leaders and MPs, senior presidium member Anisul Islam Mahmud, also a lawmaker, made the announcement at a press conference in Raushan's Gulshan residence.

Anisul said, "Raushan Ershad will discharge the duties of Jatiya Party chairperson. A permanent chair will be appointed in a democratic manner through a council in the next six months."

Raushan, who was present there, said JP



leaders were worried about the party. "They also fear that the party is going to split up like it did in the past. But I want to run the party together, with all."

She urged those who had left the party at different times to join JP again.

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No exam up to class III from 2021

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's decision to scrap examinations up to grade three at the primary level will be implemented from 2021, said Primary and Mass Education Minister Secretary Akram-al-Hossain yesterday.

"There will be no traditional exams -- first, second term or yearly -- up to class III. The students will be assessed in their classes throughout the year," he told reporters in reply to a query at a press briefing to mark the International Literacy Day at the Secretariat.

He said students will

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Sheikh Nasir Uddin, Chairman of Akij Group receiving National Export Trophy (Gold) for the fiscal year 2016-17 from the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

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