

In a complaint submitted to the PHQ on August 2, the woman said she was acquainted to Mahmudul. Promising her a job, the officer took her to a hotel in the capital's Fakirpool in September 2017 and put sedatives in her food and raped her after she fell unconscious, according to the complaint. The OC raped her on multiple occasions. She alleged that she became pregnant last year, and the OC asked her to terminate the pregnancy. The woman also claimed that Mahmudul and his family members had threatened her. Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner of Motijheel (Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that his department found evidence of Mahmudul's involvement in the incident. Mahmudul could not be reached for comments.

## Silica beads

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substance -- silica being a common ingredient in many rocks -- that is able to safely supplement thinning ice and help bolster its resilience against the sun and increasingly warmer weather. So far, the novel new method, which is being tested in Alaska, has been shown to be surprisingly effective.

In a paper published by the American Geophysical Union, one field test reported seeing a 15 to 20 percent increase in reflectivity due to the beads.

In the Arctic, that could translate into a reduction in 1.5 degree Celsius temperature reduction, a 3-degree reduction in sea temperatures, and an increase in ice thickness up to 20 inches, according to a report. For an embattled climate, Ice911's solution for melt mitigation has come not a moment too soon. Earlier this summer about 90 percent of the surface of Greenland's ice sheet melted between July 30 and August 2, during which time an estimated 55 billion tons of ice poured of the island and into the ocean, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center. In just one five-day wave of heat this summer, Greenland lost 55 billion tons of ice.

## Two Rohingya

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Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the muggers opened fire on them, forcing them to fire back that eventually triggered a gunfight. Police rescued bullet-injured Ayub from the spot and took him to Chattogram Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead, OC Azad said.

Police recovered a firearm, two cartridges and a machete from the spot, the OC said, adding that a case was filed in this connection.

## 2 real estate

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eight months ago. Police yesterday produced them before a Dhaka Court where the two admitted their offence and, as such, no remand petition was sought, the OC also said. REHAB President Alamgir Shamsul Alamini confirmed that both the arrestees are director of the association. "REHAB has around 1,200 members and it should not be held responsible for the acts of individuals," he said.

## 60 killed

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Four women and six men were also killed over protesting harassment. As many as 1,115 women were raped and 57 of them were murdered after rape. Eight rape victims died by suicide while 178 women became victims of attempted rape. Around 297 women faced domestic violence and 218 of them were murdered. Besides, 121 women were tortured over dowry and 70 of them murdered, ASK said. Twenty-nine domestic helps were tortured and nine of them died "mysteriously". Twelve women came under acid attack. From January to September, 1,644 children faced violence and 182 of them were murdered. Also, 40 incidents, including vandalism of idols, attack and arson at Hindu temples, took place. Around 47 people were injured in the incidents. Besides, 50 Ahmadiyya men were hurt in arson and vandalism at their 16 houses and four shops. In the nine months, 86 journalists faced torture, harassment, threat, police case, and obstacles while discharging their duties. A journalist died "mysteriously" and the body of another was recovered. Along the border, 29 Bangladeshis were killed by the Indian Border Security Force. Of them, 25 were shot dead and four others tortured to death, ASK added.



French President Emmanuel Macron (R) walks behind as French Republican guards carry the flag-draped coffin of late French President Jacques Chirac during a military tribute at the Invalides (Hotel des Invalides) in Paris, yesterday. Former French President Jacques Chirac died on September 26, 2019 at the age of 86.

PHOTO: AFP

## Hills razed, homes built

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the grabbing and the administration is not taking any serious steps to evict them, they alleged.

Following repeated complaints, the upazila administration conducted drives on August 4 and 7 and removed 22 structures, issuing an ultimatum for all the structures to be removed by August 20.

But no further drive was conducted after that, Pankaj told The Daily Star two weeks back.

While visiting the area in Baragul recently, these correspondents saw that almost all the houses which were knocked down during the drives were reconstructed again.

Around 30 houses, a madrasa and several other structures have been built by cutting parts of the hillocks.

Wishing anonymity, a number of locals said an individual named Moin Uddin, a resident of a nearby area, grabbed the hillocks and let others to stay there by taking money.

There are also allegations that the

madrasa authorities used its students to cut the hillocks to clear out more space for the institution.

Mijanur Rahman, a teacher of the madrasa, admitted that they razed parts of hillocks, but denied involving students in hill cutting.

Jahangir Alam, who resides in one of the houses in the hillocks, claimed they built his home around nine years ago, after Moin gave them the place, which was not being used for any purpose.

Contacted, Moin said, "When Ragib Ali was selling land of the estate, we thought we would keep the hillock area by taking its possession. The madrasa was established in 2014-15, and many houses were built years ago."

"I know the hillocks belong to the estate, but what should all these people do while they have been living here for years?" he asked.

However, the estate authorities said these houses were built in the last couple of years, after the shebait took charge of the estate in 2016.

Several locals supported the estate's version. The grabbers began razing the hillocks only a couple of years ago, they added.

Shebait Pankaj said, "The Supreme Court strictly said no structure can be constructed and also ordered the district administration to keep in mind all clauses of the verdict."

He added, "These structures were built in the last couple of years and following repeated complaints to the administration, they finally conducted two drives in August."

Kazi Mahua Momtaj, upazila nirbahi officer of Sylhet Sadar, said, "We gave them an ultimatum to move from the hillocks by August 20, but could not conduct any further drives due to some unavoidable circumstances and as our assistant commissioner (land) was transferred."

She added, "The new assistant commissioner (land) already took charge and we will conduct drives at the hillocks again to evict them permanently."

## Saudi prince warns of oil price hike

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Saudi Arabia, he said he agreed with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that the attacks, which knocked out more than 5 percent of global oil supply, were an act of war by Iran.

But he said he preferred a peaceful resolution because regional war would collapse the global economy. The United States, European powers and Saudi Arabia have blamed the attacks on Iran, which denies involvement. Instead, Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis group claimed responsibility.

MbS also said President Donald Trump should meet Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to craft a new deal on Tehran's nuclear program and regional activities.

Efforts to bring the two together last week at the United Nations failed. Tensions between Washington and Tehran escalated after the US withdrew

last year from a 2015 nuclear deal and reinstated sanctions against Tehran.

**DENIES ORDERING KHASHOGGI MURDER**

Days before the anniversary of Khashoggi's murder, MbS said, "Absolutely not," when asked if he had ordered it. But he said he took full responsibility "since it was committed by individuals working for the Saudi government." "This was a mistake. And I must take all actions to avoid such a thing in the future." The CIA and some Western governments believe MbS ordered the killing, but Saudi officials have repeatedly said he had no role. Asked about the CIA assessment, MbS asked for "such information" to be revealed.

After initial denials, the official Saudi narrative blamed the murder on rogue operatives. The public prosecutor said then-deputy intelligence chief Ahmed

al-Asiri ordered the repatriation of Khashoggi, a royal insider who became an outspoken critic, but the lead negotiator ordered him killed after discussions for his return failed.

Asked how the killing could have happened without him knowing about it, MbS said, "Some think that I should know what 3 million people working for the Saudi government do daily? It's impossible that the 3 million would send their daily reports to the leader or the second highest person in the Saudi government."

Eleven Saudi suspects have been put on trial in secretive proceedings. A UN report called for MbS and other senior Saudi officials to be investigated. Asiri and Saud al-Qahtani, a senior adviser, were fired over involvement in the operation. Asiri is standing trial, but Qahtani is not.

## Verdict

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by presenting Nusrat's dying statement, different audiovisual records, telephonic conversations among the accused and other evidence before the court.

During the hearing, the defence counsel appealed for acquittal of all the accused, saying that they are innocent.

Nusrat, an Alim examinee of Sonagazi Senior Fazil Madrasa, was allegedly sexually harassed by the madrasa's principal Siraj Ud Doula on March 27. After the incident, the victim's mother filed a case against Siraj, who was later arrested and sent to jail.

Since the arrest, Siraj's associates were threatening the victim's family to withdraw the case. But the family did not compromise, said Hafez.

On April 6, Nusrat was set on fire when she went to the madrasa to take part in an exam.

Two days later, a case was filed with Sonagazi Police Station in connection with the incident.

Around 80 percent of Nusrat's body was burnt. After fighting for her life for five days, Nusrat died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on April 10. The incident triggered a public outcry across the country.

On May 29, the Police Bureau of Investigation pressed charges against 16 accused, including Siraj, in the murder case.

Trial of the case began on June 27 with recording testimony of the victim's brother Mahmudul Hasan Noman. The court recorded statements of 87 witnesses, Hafez added.

## For peaceful

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illicit human-trafficking networks that have reached to the Cox's Bazar camps, home to more than 1 million Rohingyas.

The article said that in her speech last week from the dais of the UN General Assembly, Hasina said the international community must understand the gravity of the situation.

Her nation, she added, is dealing with "a crisis which is Myanmar's own making". Authorities in Myanmar view the Rohingya, a predominantly Muslim minority, as interlopers and noncitizens -- a position rejected by the international community, it said.

**WSJ INTERVIEWS PM**

Hasina has called upon Myanmar to take action to ensure the Rohingyas' safety and security.

The premier said this when she was interviewed by Dan Keeler of The Wall Street Journal in New York this week on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Asked if she would consider forcing the Rohingyas to return to Myanmar, the prime minister told WSJ: "Definitely they should go back to their own country."

But she did not suggest Bangladesh would use force to make that happen, the WSJ report said.

She also said the international community seems to be failing in not convincing Myanmar to welcome the refugees back, but added "I cannot blame anybody because Myanmar is not listening to anyone," it continued.

WSJ report quoted her as saying "Bangladesh would continue to host the refugees, but that their presence was taking a toll."

## Robotics in schools

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translating the books to our language," said Mohibul.

The teachers of the institutions will also be trained, said the junior minister, adding, "If the pilot succeeds, we will introduce it as a course from 2021 in some [other] selected schools in large cities."

The robotics and mechatronics engineering department of DU will be giving the technical support, he said.

Prof Lafifa Jamal, chairperson of the robotics and mechatronics engineering department, said they would evaluate the pilot thoroughly and if it was successful, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board would publish a book on the subject.

"We also have plans to create a resource pool which can help us train teachers on robotics and artificial intelligence," she said.

There is also a plan to develop robotics clubs at the school level, said Lafifa, also an organiser of Bangladesh Robot Olympiad.

Experts welcomed the move but stressed on providing training to the teachers and building logistics to make it a success.

"It is indeed a timely move. The faster we can move with this project,

the quicker we would be able to get capable manpower that the market demands," said Farhana A Rahman, senior vice president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

For that to happen, she said, the teachers would have to be given proper training.

"The government in a prompt decision introduced ICT [curriculum] at the school level a few years ago. But unfortunately, students, in some cases, could not learn anything due to a lack of trained teachers," she said.

"We even heard that some teachers discouraged students to use ICT. This is a major problem and we need to work on it," Farhana added.

"We need support from the relevant industries to make our initiatives viable," Mohibul said.

Meanwhile, three Bangladeshi students -- Rafiath Saleh Chowdhury, of Jalalabad Cantonment English School and College in Sylhet, and -- Quazi Mostahid Labib and Tafsir Tahrim, of Chittagong Grammar School (Dhaka) -- won six medals, including a gold and a bronze, in the Robo Scholar Challenge Category of the International Robot D Challenge in South Korea.

## ACC to launch probe

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Rab members carried out a raid at Salim's online-based gambling office in the capital's Gulshan-2.

A Rab-1 team conducted the drive at "p24 gambling office" on the fourth floor of the six-storey building "Momtaz Vision" on Road No. 99 from 8:30 pm yesterday.

Salim was arrested on a Bangkok-bound plane, said a source in the airport.

Additional Director General of Rab Col Tofayel Mustafa Sorwar told The Daily Star that they arrested Salim at the airport around 3:30pm.

"He has been arrested for his links to online casino business and money laundering," Tofayel said, adding they were not willing to disclose further details now.

Following Salim's confessional statement, the Rab team raided his office, said Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, senior additional director of Rab's legal and media wing.

According to its website, Proddhan Group is a business conglomerate founded by Salim Proddhan in 2006. Proddhan Group's overseas office is located at Si Racha of Chon Buri in Thailand.

Salim, 38, also chairman of Japan Bangladesh Group, was awarded CIP status by the Bangladesh government.

Replying to a query, Dilwar Bakht said, "the ACC will enquire into the wealth of all the people whose names have come up in the media for their involvement in the casino business."

The ACC secretary, however, failed to confirm how many people would be brought under the enquiry process.

Asked whether the anti-graft watchdog will carry out any enquiry against the people who backed the casino business, the commission secretary gave an indirect answer.

"We'll carry out the enquiries that fall under the ACC's jurisdiction," he said adding a director has been appointed to carry out the enquiry.

In line with the directive given by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, law enforcement agencies began a crackdown on casinos and illegal businesses.

Law enforcement agencies arrested Dhaka South Jubo League Organising Secretary Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan on September 18. After Khaled's

arrest, they also detained a number of leaders of Jubo League, Krishak League and the Awami League in the capital.

On September 20, law enforcers arrested Shamim, popularly known as GK Shamim, for his alleged involvement in tender manipulation and making money illegally.

In Narayanganj, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) officials seized gambling items from a battery factory at Laxmankhola area under Bandar upazila yesterday noon.

The ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya said the commission will also enquire into the wealth of Shamim and officials of the PWD.

"A five-member team, led by ACC's Director Syed Iqbal Hossain, will conduct the enquiry," he added.

## Bosnian Muslim

## ex-officer jailed

## for wartime

## civilian killings

AFP, Sarajevo

A former Bosnian Muslim army officer was jailed for 12 years on Monday over his role in the 1990s wartime killing of 27 Croat civilians, including women, children and elderly, a Sarajevo court ruled.

Enver Buza, 72, was found guilty of having "directly commanded the attack" on a village in central Bosnia, during which 27 victims from nearby hamlets were killed, the court statement said.

The crimes were committed on September 14, 1993.

At the time Bosnia's Muslims and Croats, who had previously been allied against ethnic Serbs during most of the 1992-1995 war, began to fight each other too.

Buza was present in the "vicinity of the place where the crimes took place, observing the course of action ... and commanding" it, the court said.

He was also found guilty of failing to punish the perpetrators despite knowing about the crimes, it added.

The former Bosnian army battalion commander pleaded not guilty during the trial.