

# JU suspends 11 for ragging

STAR REPORT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have suspended 11 students from all academic activities for a year, as they were found guilty of ragging first-year students.

The university syndicate made the decision on December 19, after an investigation committee submitted its report regarding the ragging incidents, said an office order yesterday.

The suspension is being considered effective from December 19, reports our JU correspondent.

They also expelled the students from their respective dormitories, said the release.

The students are: Harun-Or-Rashid, Enamul Haque Tamim, Raisul Islam Razu, Taosif Abdullah, Salanga Rema, Jakir Hossain Jibon, Mahbubul Alam, Sara Binte Salah, Mahbubul Alam, Saima Lima and Fariha Binte Haque.

The authorities also warned some freshmen who tried to conceal information about ragging, saying such incidents should not be repeated in the future.

On April 15, some first-year students of journalism and media studies department were harassed by some students of the same department at the university's playground.

Meanwhile, protesting teachers and students of JU yesterday announced a fresh programme in a press briefing at the university's Teacher-Student Centre in the afternoon.

They will bring out a protest procession on January 5 at the campus under the banner of Jahangirnagar Against Corruption, demanding removal of JU VC.

## PERMANENT EXPULSION FOR RAGGING AT JNU

Authorities of Jagannath University yesterday issued a letter stating if any student is found guilty of ragging, they will be expelled permanently, reports our JnU correspondent. "Though no ragging incident was reported earlier, first-year students are afraid of it," said JnU Registrar Md Ohiduzzaman.

"Ragging is against the code of the university and a punishable offence," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Narayanganj Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy puts a brushstroke on a 100ft canvas which features the work of 100 artists. This art installation at Narayanganj Charukala Institute is an initiative of the city corporation and Narayanganj Sangskritik Jote, marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This photo was taken yesterday.

# Fazilatun Nasa Bappy no more



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Awami League MP from reserved seat and Supreme Court lawyer Fazilatun Nasa Bappy passed away yesterday at the age of 49.

Bappy had been suffering from pneumonia, breathing problems and other respiratory diseases and was on life support since December 28 at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMU).

Doctors pronounced her dead at around 8:30am, said sources at BSMMU.

She left behind her husband, relatives, friends and a host of well-wishers.

Bappy was an assistant attorney general for around two years. She was also a prosecutor at the

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# Road crashes kill 10, injure 30

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were killed and 30 injured in road accidents across the country in the last two days, report our correspondents and news agencies.

In Laxmipur, four people were killed and 15 injured after a pick-up van carrying them plunged into a roadside ditch near Palli Bidyut area on Dhaka-Laxmipur highway yesterday.

The deceased are Khorshed Alam (35), Rafiqullah (55), Mafizullah (55) and Abdur Nur.

The accident took place around 9am when one of the vehicle's tyres got punctured, leaving three people dead on the spot and 16 injured, said Azizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

The injured were taken to different

hospitals and clinics, and one of them died on the way to Noakhali hospital.

In Cox's Bazar, three people were killed after a Shyamoli Paribahan bus hit their car at Joarianala area in Ramu upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased are Jan-e-Alam (35), Masud Kibria (40) and Jamal Uddin (35).

Abul Khayer, officer-in-charge of Ramu Police Station, said the accident took place around 10:30pm.

"Two passengers of the car were killed on the spot and the other was injured," he said.

The injured was taken to a local hospital where the doctors pronounced him dead. Police seized the bus but could not arrest its driver.

In Mymensingh, auto-rickshaw driver Forkan Uddin (45) was killed on the spot

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# Gas explosion burns three of same family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Three people from the same family sustained burn injuries after a gas explosion at their flat in CI Khola area under Siddhirganj upazila in Narayanganj early yesterday morning.

The injured are—Kabir Hossain (50), Rekha Begum (40), and their daughter Sufia Akhter (22). They are residents of a six-storey building named "Italy Bhaban". Of them, Kabir Hossain sustained 55 percent burns and is now in critical condition.

Besides Kabir, Rekha and Sufia sustained 20 percent and 5 percent burns respectively. All three are currently undergoing treatment at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Quoting the victims, police said the explosion occurred at the family's kitchen after one of them tried to light a stove around 5:00am.

In an instant, fire engulfed the kitchen and adjacent rooms, leaving the trio injured. Upon hearing the noise, locals put out the fire, rescued the victims and rushed them to DMCH, said Abdul Khan, assistant sub-inspector

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## Tk 4.48 CRORE PROCUREMENT GRAFT

# Rangpur Medical College doctor sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A doctor of Rangpur Medical College (RMC) was sent to jail on Wednesday after a court rejected his bail prayer in a Tk 4.48 crore corruption case.

Judge Rasheda Sultana of senior special judge's court in Rangpur gave the order after Dr Sarawat Hossain, an assistant professor of community medicine at RMC, surrendered before it in the afternoon, confirmed Harun Ur Rashid, a lawyer for Anti-Corruption Commission in Rangpur.

College Principal Dr Nur Islam, another accused in the case, has been in Rangpur jail since November 26 last year.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Ferdous Rahman filed the case on September 12, 2019, accusing six persons for embezzling

Tk 4.48 crore by preparing false documents to procure medical equipment for the college in June 2018.

Besides, no approval was taken from the health directorate and the tender process to purchase the machineries was flawed and lightning quick, mentioned Rahman, also the case's investigating officer.

The work order was issued only two days after the bidder was picked and the bill worth Tk 4.48 crore was collected in just 10 days, he added.

ACC lawyer Rashid said Dr Sarawat Hossain was a member of the committees to purchase the equipment and scrutinise the tender documents.

Hossain was also the member secretary of the committee to verify the market rate for the products, he added.



Wearing a protective gear made of plastic sheet, a man with a basket full of fish carefully walks on a makeshift bamboo platform to get off a boat. Like him, many are engaged in this line of work -- unloading fish from trawlers near a fish market in Chattogram's Chaktai area. They make around Tk 500-600 per day. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

# Three accused of raping eighth grader in Narail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An eighth grader was allegedly raped on Sunday morning at her village in Lohagora upazila of Narail district. She is now undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital's ICU.

The main accused in the case, Eman Sheikh, was arrested after the victim's father filed a case against three local youths at Lohagora police station on Monday.

Other two accused, Nasir Sheikh and Sajib Sheikh, have been absconding since the incident.

Speaking with The Daily Star, the victim's father Salim said, "My elder daughter passed her JSC examination with a GPA 5.00 on Tuesday, but she was raped just a couple of days before."

"They had been harassing my daughter for the last two years. Several times I informed it to their [harassers] family members but they did not pay heed," said the victim's father.

"On Sunday around 9am, my daughter went to fetch water from a pond near our home. The three men forced her into the

bushes and raped her," he claimed.

"After returning home, my daughter attempted to take her own life. Sensing the incident, family members rescued her and sent her to Lohagora Heath Complex," said Salim. She was later shifted to Narail Sadar Hospital.

"There, the doctors referred her to Khulna Medical College Hospital. She is in critical condition at the ICU now," Salim added.

Dr Sailendranath Biswas, resident medical officer of KMCH confirmed that an injured girl was admitted to their ICU on Sunday.

"After I filed the case, the accused persons' family members cut down some of my mango trees and broke the lights outside my house. They also threatened me, asking me to withdraw the case," said Salim.

Md Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Lohagora Police Station told The Daily Star that police arrested the main accused and sent him to jail.

"We are trying to arrest the other two accused," said the OC.

Families of the accused refused to comment on the incident.

## EASTERN UNIVERSITY AGM

# Shekh Sydur elected chairman

CITY DESK

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Foundation of Eastern University was held on Tuesday.

At the meeting, renowned entrepreneur Shekh Sydur Rahman was elected chairman of the foundation, according to a press release.

In addition, Enayet Ullah, Imroz Hossain and Moniruzzaman Mollah were elected as vice-chairmen.

Abul Khayer Chowdhury was elected treasurer, added the press release.



# Youth burnt to death in warehouse fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A youth was burnt to death in a fire at a warehouse in port city's Patenga area early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Javed (18) of Cumilla, said police.

The fire started around 12:30am at the warehouse which was used to store boats, said Jasim Uddin, assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Chattogram.

On information, five firefighting vehicles rushed to the spot and managed to douse the blaze around 1:10am, he added.

Firefighters recovered the youth's body from the building and sent it to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy. The origin of the fire could not be known immediately, Jasim said.

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# 31,505 minorities faced persecution last year: report

## Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance demands reserved seats at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance in a report yesterday said some 108 people of the minority community were killed and 26 went traceless across the country last year.

During this period, some 31,505 people of the minority community faced persecution while perpetrators -- often belonging to the ruling party -- grabbed around 9,507 acres of land belonging to minorities, the alliance said in its annual report based on data collected from national dailies, social media and their representatives.

Gobinda Chondro Pramanik, secretary general of the alliance, read out the report at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

In total, victims faced a loss of around Tk 433.57 crore last year, the report said.

Some 36 people of the community were listed as Razakars who are freedom fighters, according to the report.

In this context, leaders of the alliance expressed deep concern "as perpetrators are not punished while violence is on the rise."

"Hindus are leaving the country in fear of violence

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# Fire at Dhaka Bar Association

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at Dhaka Bar Association yesterday, which was brought under control after 45 minutes of frantic efforts.

The fire broke out around 9:20am at the conference room of Dhaka Bar Association, said its general secretary Asaduzzaman Rochi.

Two firefighting units rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control in 45 minutes.

The conference room was completely destroyed in the fire which originated from an electric short-circuit, said Senior Station Officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence (Sadarghat) Mohammad Ali.

No one was injured in the incident, but the total loss was of Tk 30 lakh, Rochi said.

Power supply to the building was suspended for about three hours due to the fire.