

Pregnant woman

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Dinajpur town.
Police said the victim and the accused were friends. The victim along with Pata, Shanto and Sazu went to visit Laxmitola area, around 14-kilometer away from the district town, on Thursday afternoon.

While returning around 8:00pm, they stopped at one of Sazu's relatives' house at Kawgaon village in Sadar upazila. Then several youths gang-raped the girl.

Pata Sarkar acted as cohorts of the rapists, said Bazlur Rashid, inspector (investigation) of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station.

Later, they let the girl go home and threatened to face dire consequences if she disclosed the matter.

After returning home, the girl shared the incident with her mother, who instantly filed a case. Later on the same night, police arrested four persons. The rest one is on the run.

Earlier on August 10, a college girl was raped at a forest in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur, when she went there to visit with her classmates.

In Gazipur, police on Friday night arrested a youth from Mawna Uttarpara area in Sreepur upazila on charge of raping a pregnant woman and filming the rape scene.

The accused is Uzal Miah, 32, of Nayonkandi village in Manikganj Sadar upazila.

Uzall used to live at a rented house in Mawna Uttarpara area in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur and is an electrician by profession.

The victim woman also lives at the same house and the accused Uzall used to work as an assistant to the victim's husband.

On July 7, the victim was staying at her residence alone. Taking the chance, Uzall forcibly entered into her room, raped her and filmed the rape scene.

Later, Uzall raped her for multiple times blackmailing her to send the video to her husband.

At one stage, the woman shared the incident to her husband, who later shared the incident with the house owner and another one local influential person.

They assured the victim to settle the incident through social arbitration. But they worked against the victim.

Few days later, they kept victim's husband hostage and took deposition from the victim that the rape incident was false. Later, the house owner drove out the couple from his house.

Later on Friday night, a case was filed case in this connection. Following the case, police arrested Uzall. The house owner and another accused is on the run, said Prodig Chandra Saha, sub-inspector of Sreepur Police Station.

Our correspondents from Dinajpur and Gazipur contributed to this report

Woman shot

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of firing, Malek lied down on the floor, said the OC quoting Malek as saying.

As his wife and son were about to step onto the floor, they were hit by bullets, Uttam added.

Later, Malek with the help of locals took her injured wife and son to Dighinala Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared Morsheda dead.

Dr Tanoy Talukder, health and family planning officer in the upazila, said Ahad was undergoing treatment at the health complex and he was out of danger.

Police have sent the body to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital for an autopsy.

Bangladeshis

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According to The Star report, the immigration department on July 9 raided a house in Cheras township of Selangor. The house was used as a base for forgery.

Immigration officials arrested two Bangladeshi men and a Mongolian woman from there.

That arrest led the department to another house dwelled by the mastermind in Old Klang Road in Selangor the next day, reported Bernama.

Malaysian Immigration Director General Khairul Dzaimae Daud said the 39-year-old suspect has been residing in Malaysia on a Temporary Employment Visit Pass, also known as PLKS, for the past 10 years.

He was involved in the service sector. He began dabbling in document forgery last year, the official said.

"He charged RM 300 for a single forged PLKS pass and RM 100 for a forged passport," the official said in a statement on Friday.

At the Old Klang Road premise, the department found nine forged Bangladeshi passports, forged PLKS passes, a laptop, a printer and various other equipment to forge passports and also Nissan Sentra vehicle, all of which were seized, Bernama reported.

"The suspect is believed to have made profits up between RM 8,000 and RM 10,000 a month for the forged documents of which proceeds were sent to Bangladesh," Khairul Dzaimae said.

He said the suspect would drive around looking for potential clients around Kuala Lumpur before offering his services for forged PLKS passes and passports.



Members of conservative civic groups attack an ambulance during an anti-government protest, as concerns over a fresh wave of the coronavirus cases grow, in central Seoul, South Korea, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UNO in CHT leases khas land illegally

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powered panel on that land."

A government logo can be seen on the solar panel on the land in photos and videos circulated on social media.

The UNO, however, denied cutting hills to make a road, and also said the solar panel was not public property, but something he bought himself.

"As there is a government logo on it, I will replace it," he, however, said in this regard.

Asked how he and the cooperative were able to lease khas land, the UNO said, "It is true that the government

approval is needed to lease khas land. But we didn't want to deprive the people from whom we took the lease."

The khas land were under the control of some locals who also own the rest 13 acres.

Md Musa, one of those locals, said "We approached the UNO to sell our land in the hills, including khas land which was in our possession, but the UNO suggested that he lease it instead for 30 years."

In addition to violating the law by leasing khas land, the UNO also failed to take permission from the Khagrachhari Hill District Council,

which is mandatory for leasing land in the hill areas.

UNO Badrudoza admitted he did not take permission from the Hill District Council and claimed that he took the lease "unofficially" only for gardening work.

Mong Sheprue Chowdhury, headman of Ramgarh mouza, said, "It is unfortunate that no one took permission regarding this."

According to the Hill District Council Act-1989 and Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation-1900, no land -- including khas land -- shall be leased out, settled with, purchased,

sold, or transferred without prior approval of the concerned department.

"It is a violation of the law if anybody or any organisation takes lease of khas land in CHT without permission from the district administration," said the Khagrachhari DC.

However, no action has so far been taken against the UNO for his illegal activities and misuse of power.

"As we did not get any official or unofficial allegation against the UNO of Ramgarh upazila, we could not take action in this connection," DC Pratap added.

Russia makes first batch of Covid-19 vaccine

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a vaccine could be dangerous, but Russia denounced criticism as an attempt to undermine Moscow's research.

The Russian vaccine is called "Sputnik V" after the Soviet-era satellite that was the first launched into space in 1957.

It was developed by the Gamaleya research institute for epidemiology and microbiology in Moscow in coordination with the Russian defence ministry.

The head of the institute, Alexander Gintsburg, told the TASS state news agency yesterday that volunteers taking part in the final stage testing of the vaccine's safety and efficacy would have two inoculations.

Russia has said that industrial production is expected from September and that it plans to manufacture 5 million doses per month by December or January.

Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said this week that the vaccine would first be made available to medics and

would later be available to all Russians on a voluntary basis.

With more than 917,000 confirmed infections, Russia's coronavirus caseload is currently fourth in the world after the United States, Brazil and India.

Currently Russia has 92,000 people hospitalised with the virus and 2,900 in intensive care, according to the health ministry.

'CHALLENGE' TRIALS
US scientists are developing a strain of the coronavirus that could be used to deliberately infect volunteers in so-called "challenge studies," a government agency said Friday.

The work is preliminary and the government is continuing to prioritise randomised clinical trials of vaccine candidates, the National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) said.

Several of these have entered their final stages, including the vaccines developed by Moderna, Pfizer and AstraZeneca.

But NIAID has nonetheless "begun

efforts to manufacture a strain that could be used to develop a human challenge model, if needed," it said in a statement.

In normal clinical trials, volunteers receive either a medicine or a placebo and their health is then followed over the course of months of years.

Scientists look for how well the vaccine or treatment worked when the person was naturally exposed to the pathogen.

A quicker way to test whether a drug works is by deliberately infecting volunteers, as has been done in the past for influenza, malaria, typhoid, dengue fever, and cholera.

In the US, advocacy groups like 1DaySooner support challenge studies for Covid-19, but the subject is controversial because of how serious the disease can be and because its effects aren't fully understood.

NIAID said it would probably reach a decision toward the end of 2020, when the late-stage clinical trials that are underway start reporting their results.

2nd virus wave threatens Europe

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Austria urged its citizens to return from popular Mediterranean destination Croatia before similar rules come into effect Monday, while Serbia introduced mandatory testing for travellers from four neighbouring countries.

And thousands of Albanians queued for miles in their cars at the Greek border before tougher entry requirements designed to brake mounting infections began.

The United States also said it was extending a ban on non-essential travel through border crossings with Canada and Mexico throughout most of September "to slow the spread" of the disease.

TRAVEL RUSH
Britain's new quarantine rules, announced late Thursday, prompted a frenzied 36-hour scramble to get home.

Eurotunnel, which operates a

drive-on train service for cars through the Channel Tunnel, was fully booked Friday while some air fares from France to the UK were more than six times more expensive than normal.

Fiona Nicholson, 47, a professor from the English city Portsmouth on holiday in southern France, told AFP from Nice airport Friday that she had cut short her trip.

French holidaymakers in Britain will face tough choices of their own, as Paris pledged to impose a "reciprocal measure".

The Netherlands said it would advise against all but essential travel to Britain, but will not introduce a quarantine of its own for arrivals.

Meanwhile, just 10,000 of the usual 250,000 pilgrims visited France's Lourdes Roman Catholic shrine yesterday for the annual Assumption mass, with mask-wearing compulsory, according to organisers.

Denmark has made the wearing of facemasks mandatory on public transport across the country from August 22 to try to contain the virus.

NEW NZ STRAIN
Elsewhere, New Zealand is battling its second outbreak of infections and extended a lockdown of its largest city Auckland by at least 12 days, after officials detected a variant of the virus previously unseen in the country.

The Pacific island nation's initial response to the pandemic was hailed a success, but a run of 102 days with no reported community transmission ended on Tuesday and a cluster of 30 virus cases was recorded in recent days.

India recorded a single-day spike of 65,002 fresh cases of infection in the past 24 hours. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal yesterday said the government will not open schools unless it is "fully convinced" about

the improved situation in the national capital.

Meanwhile South Korea tightened restrictions in Seoul and its surrounding areas yesterday, as the country reported the highest number of new daily infections since March.

The tightened social distancing guidelines involve restrictions on gatherings and activities including professional sports, which will be played behind closed doors in the capital area again.

But in the US -- which has more registered infections than any other country in the world -- museums, art galleries and other cultural institutions in New York will be allowed to reopen later this month following a five-month shutdown.

However, there will be mandatory face masks, timed ticketing with staggered entry and just 25 percent occupancy, the state governor Andrew Cuomo tweeted.

Mujib

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JAPAN WILL DONATE MORE TEXTILE GOODS

The Japanese industries minister today announces his government's decision to make further donation of textile goods to Bangladesh to relieve the people there of their textile shortage.

30 LAKHS AFFECTED BY FLOOD
Nearly 30 lakh people are affected and crops of about four lakh acres of land are damaged in devastating flood that have ravaged seven districts of Bangladesh. Flood this year so far have claimed 24 lives and 2,500 heads of cattle in the affected districts.

SOURCES: August 17, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

5 officials

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Meanwhile, the social welfare ministry has suspended Abdullah for negligence of duty, said a letter signed by Social Welfare Secretary Mohammad Jainul Bari sent from the ministry that same night.

Besides, the ministry formed a three-member committee, headed by Jashore's additional district magistrate, to investigate the incident, said an office order signed by Mahmuda Yeasmin, the ministry's assistant secretary.

The committee has been asked to submit a report within five working days.

On Friday, the department of social services formed a two-member committee to investigate the incident.

Young inmates on the correction centre were allegedly tortured by several staffers and senior inmates, which led to the death of the three boys.

The allegation was raised by injured inmates who had also been through abuse and are undergoing treatment at Jashore General Hospital.

At first, the teenagers were shown a CCTV footage of the August 3, the day a head guard of the centre assaulted by some teenage inmates and suddenly the beatings started, the injured boys said.

At one point, the senior inmates pulled the hands of the younger inmates through a grilles while the officials, including Masum, beat them ruthlessly until they got tired, they added.

The officials then handed over the teenagers to the senior inmates, who beat them until some of them were unconscious.

Then, around 3:00pm, the beating started again until many lost their consciousness a second time, the injured boys at the hospital said, adding that three of them -- Parvez Hasan Rabbi, 18, Rasel alias Sujon, 18, and Naem Hossain, 17 -- never regained their senses and died in the evening.

Rabbi's father filed a case against the authorities of Jashore juvenile correction centre with Jashore Kotwali Police Station on Friday evening in this regard.

Grey reef

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The tags included acoustic transmitters that could identify individual sharks. Dozens of receivers placed throughout the area enabled the team to recognise any other tagged shark that came within 1,000 feet, according to New Scientist.

Over the four years of the study - the life of the transmitters' batteries - they found the sharks formed incredibly stable groups.

Despite the presence of some 8,000 grey reef sharks around the atoll, the tagged fish rarely strayed into other cliques.

They also frequented the same section of reef, year after year, according to a report published this week in Proceedings of the Royal Society.

"We don't think of sharks as social animals, but they do have social groups," Yanniss Papastamatiou, lead author and head of the university's Predator Ecology and Conservation Lab, told New Scientist.

"They form these sort of spatially structured social groups where they hang out with the same individuals over multiple years."

Papastamatiou described the relationships as that of "associates."

"They are not friends in the sense of having any emotional bond with each other," he said. It's not clear how the sharks identify each other or why they form such strong bonds.

Their nocturnal expeditions happen in the open sea, too far for the team's transmitters to record. But it's possible that, by working as a group, they improve their chances of finding ample prey.

Regardless, such long-term associations are rare in the animal kingdom, and almost unheard of among sharks.

Like many types of shark, grey reef sharks are in serious decline: They are sought after for their fins, which are used in shark fin soup.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has classified them as "near threatened."