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Your Right to Know

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"This war has to end. And to underscore our commitment, we're ending all American support for offensive operations in the war in Yemen, including relevant arm sales."
US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



"I absolutely wouldn't be playing if I didn't think that."
AMERICAN TENNIS LEGEND SERENA WILLIAMS, WHEN ASKED IF SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS STILL THE BEST IN THE WORLD.



"We need to join up to speed up vaccinations. Otherwise competing pharmaceutical companies (must) join efforts to drastically increase production capacity... that's what we need."
WHO EUROPE DIRECTOR HANS KLUGE

COMPENSATION FOR RAPE VICTIMS

Crippled law cares little

Despite periodic calls for legal reforms, it remains hard to get

NILIMA JAHAN

Compensation for rape victims and their family members remains elusive in the existing criminal justice system, with a clear mandate absent in the relevant law, say legal experts.

On the other hand, a law drawn up to address compensation for victims of violent crimes, including rape, has been in the draft stages for 14 years.

Legal experts said the current system has left rape victims and their families to fend for themselves during long, difficult trial proceedings, deprived of state support they desperately need.

Take the widely reported case of the five-year-old girl abducted and raped by the father of one of her friends while she was playing near her home in Dinajpur in October 2016.

The rapist left her unconscious, in critical condition with genital injuries, stab wounds, bite marks, and cigarette burns, according to media reports and the family.

More than four years on, trial proceedings are still ongoing. But the young victim and

her family have been left to bear the burden of their personal circumstances alone while the state takes no responsibility -- other than only assigning a prosecutor to represent them before the court.

According to her mother, the incident changed their lives drastically.

Though the child underwent yearlong treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC), even today, she is yet to talk or walk properly. She also lost bladder control, which is why the now nine-year-old can no longer attend school regularly.

"She needs to change her pants every five to 10 minutes. When she goes to school, I put some clean clothes inside her pants to absorb the urine, as our financial condition is not good enough to buy diapers every day," her mother told The Daily Star.

"After another operation, her bladder problem might be solved. But she has been psychologically affected since then, as she has become very stubborn and always screams when she doesn't get her own way. The doctors suggested allowing her to do

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Railway and fire service staffers conduct rescue work while locals collect diesel oil that spilled from oil tank wagons of a train in Sylhet's Fenchuganj upazila yesterday, hours after the Sylhet-bound train from Chattogram derailed there. Train services on Sylhet-Dhaka and Sylhet-Chattogram routes were suspended following the accident. Inset, a man fills a container with oil. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



KASHIMPUR CENTRAL JAIL Govt sacks jail super, jailer

They allowed an inmate to spend time with a woman at prison officer's room

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry sacked a senior jail superintendent and a jailer of Kashimpur Central Jail-1 for letting an inmate spend time with a woman inside a prison officer's room.

Superintendent Ratna Roy and jailer Nur Mohammad Mridha were sacked after leaked security camera footage showed a woman meeting inmate Tushar Ahmed, general manager of Hallmark Group, on January 6.

The Ministry of Home Affairs also asked the inspector general (IG) of prisons to take action against others involved.

Md Shahiduzzaman, secretary at the ministry's security services division, told The Daily Star yesterday that an order was sent to the department of prisons regarding the matter on Thursday.

The ministry can directly act against a jail superintendent and a jailer, but it is the inspector general (IG) of prisons, who has the authority to decide about the others, said the secretary.

Shahiduzzaman said the ministry asked to take action against the officials, but could not provide any numbers.

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MASS VACCINATION FROM TOMORROW Campaign hardly reaches villages

Union digital centres waiting for people to come for registration

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The mass inoculation against Covid-19 begins tomorrow, but the government's campaign to raise awareness on the vaccination has hardly reached rural areas.

As a result, the number of people going to the digital centres at the unions to register online for the inoculation appears to be very low.

The Daily Star found this after talking to over a dozen such centres, picked randomly. Not a single person went to those centres till yesterday.

The government had instructed around 6,686 digital centres at unions across the country to help people with the registration. The instruction was given keeping in mind that many in the rural area might not have the technical know-how regarding the online registration.

Take the example of one centre in Baldhara union of Manikganj. Md Sabuj Raihan, an entrepreneur from the centre, said no one went there to take help for the registration. "We're waiting for people to come."

Similar is the case with another digital centre in Rajabari union of Gazipur. Shaymal Chandra Das, an entrepreneur there, said people were yet to show up for the registration. "Our centre is ready. We are waiting to assist people," he added.

Asked why they did not initiate any awareness campaign ahead of the mass inoculation, public representatives at the rural level in different districts said they were yet to receive any instruction in this regard from the higher authorities.

Md Jahangir Alam, chairman of Mawna Union Parishad in Gazipur, is one of them.

Echoing Alam's statement, Selina Begum, a women ward councillor in Telihati union of Gazipur's Sreepur, said she herself was not much aware of the mass campaign.

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RAPE OF UNIV STUDENT One accused confesses to raping her

Gives statement to a Dhaka court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the accused in the case over rape of a private university student yesterday confessed to a Dhaka court that he had raped the victim at her friend's house in the city's Mohammadpur area.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Satyabrata Sikder recorded the confessional statement of accused Mortuza Raihan Chowdhury after Investigation Officer Sajedul Haque, also a sub-inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station, produced him before the court, said court sources.

The magistrate later sent Mortuza, 21, to jail.

The victim died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in the city on Sunday, a day after her father filed the rape case with Mohammadpur Police Station accusing five of her

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COUP IN MYANMAR Protests grow amid arrests

UNSC final statement fails to condemn putsch; Biden demands military 'relinquish power'

AGENCIES

Several hundred teachers and students protested at a Myanmar university yesterday as the military widened a dragnet against officials ousted in a coup that has drawn global condemnation and the threat of new sanctions.

The rally took place after the arrest Win Htein, a key aide to de facto leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi, who has not been seen in public since being detained along with president Win Myint early Monday.

A representative of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy yesterday said she was being held at her residence in Naypyidaw, the country's capital, and was "in good health".

Monday's putsch ended the country's 10-year dalliance with democracy that followed decades of oppressive junta rule, and sparked outrage and calls by US President Joe Biden for the generals to relinquish power.

On Friday, around 200 teachers and students at Yangon's Dagon University staged a rally where they displayed a three-finger salute borrowed from Thailand's democracy movements, and sang a popular revolution song.

"We have to resist this dictatorship," lecturer Win Win Maw told AFP. "If all civil servants participate in this movement, it's not easy to operate this government system."

Students chanted "Long live Mother Suu" and carried red flags, the colour of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

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Tigers on top despite late stutter

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Despite taking a big lead in the first innings, Bangladesh are still in some discomfort after West Indies managed to dismiss their top three batsman at the end of the first day of the first Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

After striking his maiden Test ton the previous day, Mehedi Hasan Miraz was instrumental with his off-spin and bagged four wickets to help bundle out West Indies for 259. Bangladesh in their second innings will resume the fourth day on 47 for three.

The Tigers are now leading by 218 runs with skipper Mominul Haque batting on 31 off fifty balls with the experienced Mushfiqur Rahim not out on 10.

The hosts will likely be looking to bat till tea today and post a big target. It will be a tough ask for the Windies batsmen to negotiate the home

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18th Death Anniversary



Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)
Death: 6th February, 2003

This day in 2003, we lost our beloved & honorable Director Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu). We mourn his pre-mature death. With our distressed heart, we pray to Almighty Allah for his eternal peace. May Allah bless him. Ameen.

All Employees

ABUL KHAIR GROUP

In 2003, on this very day, you left us at the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent. Your pre-matured departure has made us and many of your relations overwhelmed with grief. It is straining that you are not in this mundane world with us. But we are feeling your existence by remembering the tender-aged days of your life.

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and request all friends, relatives, well-wishers to pray for him from the core of heart.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved members of the family