

Man arrested for gang-rape in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested a man on charge of gang-rape in Rajshahi's Bagha upazila early Tuesday.

The arrestee, Suruj (35), along with two other men, Jhantu and Rushdar, has been accused of gang-raping a 28-year-old homemaker.

According to the FIR filed with Bagha police station, the trio broke the tin door and stormed into the woman's house after she went to bed. Her two children were with her.

Brandishing weapons, the trio confined the two children in another room.

Rushdar kept watch while the others raped her, threatening to use the weapons on her. The woman's husband was not at home as he went to harvest paddy at Chalan Bil.

OC of Bagha Police Station Nazrul Islam, said Suruj was sent to a Rajshahi court yesterday to record a confessional statement.



The sluggish repair work of Chattogram city's Strand Road has made the thoroughfare inconvenient for vehicles, as many drivers have a hard time manoeuvring through the puddles and mud. This photo was taken yesterday from Majhir Ghat area.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

Manage

FROM PAGE 3 natural resources, he added.

Tanmay Sanyal, coordinator of Rajshahi unit of Bela, presented the keynote paper and said Barind Multipurpose Development Authority began extracting groundwater in 1985.

BMDA has so far installed some 15,553 deep tube-wells by which it withdraws 2583.62 million cubic metres of groundwater annually to irrigate at least 5.25 lakh hectares of farmland. Now the private users of deep tube-wells have doubled than that of BMDA, the paper said.

Referring to a Department of Public Health Engineering report, the keynote said groundwater table in Dinajpur has been declining by three to 4.5 metres in every 10 years. Groundwater in the district was available at 6.26 metres in 1985, while the level went down to 41 metres in 2019.

It said the annual rainfall in Barind region is 44 percent lesser than the country's total rainfall.

Kutupalong camp to get solar lighting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Beyond2020, a UAE-driven humanitarian initiative has announced deployment of solar energy lighting solutions at Kutupalong Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. This is expected to benefit at least 4,500 residents.

The deployment in Bangladesh aims to enhance security and create better conditions for social and community activities after dark. This marks the second phase of 20by2020, which recently rebranded to 'Beyond2020' to serve as a flagship platform for continuous global outreach, said a press release yesterday.

Electricians Without Borders, a France-based non-profit and Zayed Sustainability Prize 2020 winner, was tasked with installing the technology on behalf of Beyond2020, at the world's largest refugee camp, it added.

Electricians Without Borders provided its expertise in the field of renewable energy projects for off-grid communities by installing 240 solar home systems and 640 solar lamps in the refugee camp while training its residents in equipment maintenance for their respective households, it reads.

"The Beyond2020 deployment in Bangladesh targets all refugees, with a focus on people with disabilities, pregnant women, and young girls," said the press release.

Beyond2020 donates sustainable technologies and solutions to vulnerable communities, with a total of nine countries reached to date.

As part of the initiative's first phase, a total of eight deployments have been rolled out, including energy, health, water and food-related solutions in Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda, Jordan, Egypt, Cambodia, Madagascar, and Indonesia. In addition to Bangladesh, another 11 countries have been identified for phase two.

Inter-district

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before a vehicle starts its journey, they added.

Workers, however, said as Eid approaches, more people are trying to leave the capital and are rushing to the terminal in search of a transport.

A staff member of a bus company said for more than 10 passengers they arrange a microbus, if the number remains between five and 10 then an ambulance and if it is less than five then a private car.

"I have been working at a bus counter for the last 32 years and I know many passengers quite well. They keep on requesting me to arrange something for

them in this situation. And this is how we started the service," he said.

He said many also show up with their families to go to their home districts and they arrange transportation for them along with known passengers.

"We take Tk 100 from each passenger for the help" he said.

This is not only assisting them to sustain amid the "lockdown", but also helping people as many do not have the ability to hire a private car just for themselves due to the high price, said another worker.

Around 50 transport workers are involved with arranging transportation for people during this lockdown, he said.

Teachers

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Around 11am, after the incident, the university authority was forced to suspend the meeting. Earlier on Sunday, a finance committee meeting was also suspended in the same way.

TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Talking about the matter in a press conference held after the incident, Prof Shafikunnabi Samadi said the VC is responsible for the incident. No one would have the courage to threaten university teachers like this, if the VC worked for betterment of the university.

Prof Sultan ul Islam, convener of Teachers' Society against Corruption, said, "We had information that the VC would illegally recruit some 150 peoples on ad-hoc basis through this meeting. To discuss the matter, when we tried to enter the VC's residence, they [BCL men] harassed us in front of the proctor and police officials."

Teachers from the conference demanded authorities concerned remove the administration as soon as possible and take legal actions against them.

AUTHORITIES' COMMENTS

Talking to The Daily Star, RU Registrar Prof Abdus Salam said the meeting was suspended for unavoidable reasons. In a reply, Prof Salam said, "We did not have any agenda regarding any recruitment in the meeting."

Terminating the incident as "unexpected", Proctor Prof Lutfur said, "We had instructed police officials to control the situation, but it happened so quickly."

The VC could not be contacted over phone despite repeated attempts. His term as VC will expire on May 6, as he was appointed for four years on May 7, 2017.

This correspondent tried to get a reply from BCL activists, but they refused to comment on the matter.

Mentionable, on December last year, following a probe report of University Grants Commission, the government postponed all recruitment process to the university until further notice. Since then, the authority could not recruit anyone to any post.

UK, South

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understanding the mode of the second wave and taking preventive measures," he said.

"We conducted a similar type of study, after onset of the pandemic last year, and it was seen that the Italian and Chinese variants were behind the first wave," said Dr Goutam.

As part of the study, 10 samples were collected for whole genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2, said Prof Sharmin Chowdhury of pathology at CVASU, also a member of the research team. The samples were sent to the laboratory of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) for whole genome sequencing.

After genome sequencing, it was seen that six of them were infected by the UK variant (B.1.1.7), while three were infected by the South African variant (B.1.351), and

one was infected by the Australian variant.

Of the 10 patients, five were to be hospitalised, and the others took treatment at home, said Dr Sharmin.

"Apart from seven researchers from CVASU, two researchers from BCSIR also took part in this research," she said, adding that result of the study was updated in the international database.

Asked, Dr Goutam said to prevent spread of the Indian variant in the country, Indian truck drivers, who transport goods from India, should be allowed to enter into Bangladesh after checking Covid-19 negative certificate.

"Besides, a 14-day mandatory institutional quarantine should be imposed on those who would come from India and other countries labelled as highly risky," he said. "The most important point for everybody is to follow health rules when going outside."

Aid available

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The minister handed over cheques to 30 journalists and their families, said a press release.

Hasan Mahmud said, "The journalist-friendly Awami League government has ensured freedom [of the media] and its development."

"The media of Bangladesh enjoy unlimited freedom, which is unprecedented for a developing country. But it is necessary for the sake of the country, society's multidimensional progress and development. We're working with this belief," he said.

He requested the persons concerned to distribute the special allocation of Tk 2 crore for journalists during the pandemic.

Regarding BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's treatment, the minister said she was the country's prime minister and a senior politician. "I wish her early recovery," he said.

Replying to a question, he said the treatment for coronavirus is similar all over the world.

"The treatment facility of our country is far better. I don't understand the reason for taking her abroad for treatment," he said.

Among others, state minister for Information Murad Hasan and secretary to the ministry Khajra Miah spoke at the programme.

BJWT managing director Zafar Wazed presided over the event.

Charbaria

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"It was around 10 or 11am. At one point of their attack, they went down to Taltali and started firing from door to door."

"It took until the afternoon for the violence to subside a bit. But the danger was far from over, as some soldiers remained stationed in the gunboats," Mannan continued.

The next day, they set fire to some houses in Charmonai union and fired on their residents, he said. "The army kept marching towards Barishal city. A number of anti-Bangladesh people welcomed them in Barishal launch area."

"The following day, all the bodies were buried," chronicled Mannan. "It was also the day when all the seven family members of Abdus Sattar Hawladar were killed, after the occupation army found out that they were hiding in a trench."

"A memorial for the deceased was later set up at Hawladar Bari, and another one was built at Taltoli Bazar. In addition, I've built a library in memory of my father, martyred Abdur Rahman," Mannan said.

However, very few people have traced down the families of all the 47 martyrs there. Many families, including the Hawladar family, have been wiped out by indiscriminate firing of the Pakistan army, said locals.

Putul Ghosh, divisional secretary of Sector Commanders Forum, said it was the first massacre by Pakistan forces in Barishal region. Once breaching through this area, the army proceeded to set up their military base in the city's Wapda area and continued the onslaught across different parts of Barishal over the next couple of months.

Journalist Nazrul Biswas of Charbaria told The Daily Star on Sunday, "Today is a day of mourning for the people of the union. The Charbaria massacre shall never be forgotten."

Shopping mall

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finned shopkeepers and customers who were not wearing masks.

Around 12:45pm, executive magistrate Sanjib Das fined Asian Jewellers in New Market Tk 500 after the mobile court found one of its employees without mask.

The magistrate said he fined a very insignificant amount of money as they are conducting drives to raise awareness. He, however, warned that the mobile court would slap a hefty fine for similar offence for the second time.

Later, talking to reporters, Sanjib said they found almost all shopkeepers and customers wearing masks in the shopping complex.

"Our aim is not to fine but to raise awareness about following health rules," he said.

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Advertisement for Corrigendum to Notice-2 regarding tender details, including a table with columns for Sl. No., Description of Corrigendum, Read, and For.

The web should

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its article 9 and 21 mentioned that the state should take necessary measures to promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the internet.

The World Wide Web Consortium has also developed some technical guidelines, through which it is possible to create universally accessible and acceptable websites, he said.

The speakers also demanded that web portals must provide alternative texts, diagrams and flow charts to understand any image, and the texts must be in Bengali Unicode so that the contents can be understood even without downloading

any other font.

In addition, there should be easy subtitles, transcripts and layouts.

According to them, since Bangladesh is committed to fulfilling the global goals by addressing the rights of persons with disabilities, web accessibility must be ensured to provide equal benefits to all citizens.

MJF executive director Shaheen Anam, University Grants Commission's additional director Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan, YPSA chief executive Md Arifur Rahman, and Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) executive director AHM Noman Khan, among others, spoke at the event.

Official government notice table with columns for serial number, description, and details regarding procurement and tendering processes.