

Punish those behind college girl's death in flat

Demands BNP's Harunur at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP MP Harunur Rashid yesterday -- at the parliament -- demanded that perpetrators behind the death of a college girl in a Dhaka flat be punished.

He also demanded that the law enforcement agencies bring those to book who allegedly assaulted and attempted to rape actress Pori Moni.

Participating in discussions on two different bills, Harun -- elected from Chapainawabganj-3 -- said if the perpetrators involved in the two incidents were "general people", law enforcers would have taken actions against them.

Mentioning death of the young girl at a flat at city's Gulshan, the BNP MP said, "Is there no law in the country? What is the home ministry doing?"

On April 26, police recovered the body of the girl hanging from the ceiling fan in her bedroom.

A day after, her family sued Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir over abetting her death by suicide.

Her family members expressed frustration as police are yet to arrest Anvir.

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To encourage people to live a healthy, mindful life, especially during the pandemic, members of all ages of Quantum Foundation's Barishal unit participate in meditation sessions at the city's Bangabandhu Udyan under the open sky.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

JS BODY'S COMMENT ON FEMALE UNO Activists, rights bodies incensed

NILIMA JAHAN

The attitude of some lawmakers towards women has become a matter of great concern, said women's rights activists as well as organisations working for women's rights and empowerment yesterday.

The men use shameful excuses sometimes to suppress women, they said, adding that such attitude of the people from responsible positions is not only unacceptable but also unconstitutional.

The comments came in reaction to the latest recommendation of the parliamentary standing committee on Liberation War Ministry regarding finding an "alternative" to female upazila nirbahi officers' (UNO) presence during guard of honour given to freedom fighters after their death.

The committee on Sunday came up with the recommendation in a meeting at the Jatiya Sangshad Bhaban with ruling Awami League lawmaker Shajahan Khan in the chair, where a member suggested that upazilas where the UNO is female, it is necessary to assign the responsibility to a male officer -- assistant commissioner (land), upazila education officer, upazila agricultural officer or any such officer, as an alternative.

According to the member, usually women do not take part in namaz-e-janaza and many in society raise questions about this.

Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir expressed her shock at the issue and said namaz-e-janaza and guard of honour are two different things, just like religion and the state are.

"Giving guard of honour is showing last respect of the state to the freedom fighter, which is a very minimal way of respecting their contributions. And UNOs are not present there as an individual man or woman, rather they perform their responsibility there on behalf of the state, as they are the highest-ranking officials at the upazila level," she said.

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PAPUL'S VACANT SEAT

HC clears way for Laxmipur-2 by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for holding the Laxmipur-2 constituency by-election, where Mohammad Shahid Islam -- also known as Kazi Papul -- had been elected as an independent lawmaker.

The court summarily rejected a writ petition filed by BNP leader and former lawmaker Abul Khair Bhuiyan. The petition challenged the legality of decisions for announcing the Laxmipur-2 constituency vacant and the schedule for holding a by-election on June 21.

The bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah came up with the order after hearing arguments from Attorney General AM Amin Uddin and the petitioners' lawyers AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon.

On February 22, the parliament secretariat issued a gazette notification announcing that the constituency fell vacant due to Kazi Papul's moral turpitude, after a Kuwait

court on January 28 sentenced him and four others to four years in jail in a bribery case.

The court passed yesterday's rejection order on the grounds that there is no legal bar for holding the by-election to a constituency if any election petition regarding a previous election of the same constituency is pending with this court.

Besides, the election petition filed by Abul Khair Bhuiyan challenging the election held on December 30, 2018 was admitted by another HC bench much later (more than two years) into its submission, the bench said.

Khair Bhuiyan had submitted the petition to the HC on January, 2019, citing irregularities and vote rigging in the Laxmipur-2 constituency election held on December 30, 2018.

However, the HC bench of Justice SM Kuddus Zaman admitted the petition on April 4 for its hearing. Khair Bhuiyan's lawyer Shanjid Siddique told The Daily Star.

Don't evict Tripura people from Ctg's Sonaichhari: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned not to evict Tripura families from Sonaichhari in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila till further order.

The court also issued a rule asking the officials concerned of the government to explain in four weeks why their inaction and failure to prevent Abul Khair Group of Industries from evicting and disturbing peaceful possession of Tripura families at Sonaichhari should not be declared illegal.

In the rule, the HC also asked the officials to show cause why they should not be directed to recover, restore and secure peaceful possession of people of Tripura community in the area.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), challenging the legality of Abul Khair Group of Industries' action to evict Tripura people from Sonaichhari area.

ASK submitted the petition recently based on reports in

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Massive eviction drive starts on port city hill



As authorities knocked down illegal, risky houses on hill slopes in Bayzid connecting road, residents said they were not given time to move their valuables.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram District Administration started a massive eviction drive on the hill that surrounds port city's Bayezid Bostami Link Road yesterday.

A total of six executive magistrates from the administration, in association with Department of Environment, Chattogram Metropolitan Police and Fire Service and Civil Defence, conducted the drive to evict illegal structures constructed on the risky hill slope.

The drive was initiated as per the decision of Chattogram Divisional Hill Management Committee, said sources.

During the drive, the team identified a total of 370 illegal structures on the hill slope, said Rashedul Islam, one of the six executive magistrates, who led the drive, adding that all those structures would be evicted step by step.

On the first day, many structures were demolished, he said, without mentioning the number.

However, eyewitnesses said around 50 structures were demolished.

Those living on the hill slope alleged



that they were not given any notice about the drive, and so, they could not take out their valuables.

Many others claimed that they did not build the structures, rather rented them from some people, giving advance payment.

Asked, Rashedul said residents there were given notice several times to leave their houses, and were given time to take out valuables before demolition.

He said it was a part of regular drives by the district administration to evict people living on risky hill slopes.

Replying to journalists, Sharif Ullah, another executive magistrate and assistant commissioner (land) of Hathazari circle, said they were making a list of people who illegally occupied the hill to make structures, and later rented them out to poor people.

He said the administration conduct drives on hills during monsoon every year.

Asked then how come new illegal structures can be seen every year, he explained that illegal occupiers construct them at the dead of the night to dodge the administration.

DU STUDENT RAPE CASE Nur, 3 others dropped from charge sheet

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday pressed charges against two former leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad but dropped names of former DUCSU VP Nurul Haque Nur and three others in a case filed with Kotwali Police Station over rape of a Dhaka University student last year.

Md Wahiduzzaman, an inspector of detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, submitted the charge sheet to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Wahiduzzaman, also the case's investigation officer, prayed to the court to drop the names of four other accused including Nur, saying their involvement was not found.

The charge-sheeted accused are: Parishad's former convener Hasan Al Mamun and joint convener Nazmul Hasan Sohag.

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Two members of 'fraud gang' held

Police say they identified 135 more operating from Madaripur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Detective Branch (DB) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) claimed to have identified several gangs that use mobile financial service to defraud people, and arrested two operatives of a gang.

The arrestees are Mithun Kumar Bala (26) and Hamdul Islam Molla (22), both hailing from Madaripur, said police.

Hamdul was held from port city's New Mooring area, and after receiving information from him, law enforcers conducted a two-day drive in different parts of Madaripur and arrested Mithun from Goadah village.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC, South) Shah Md Abdur Rauf told the newspaper yesterday that while investigating a bKash fraud case filed with EPZ Police Station, police found links to 135 other fraudsters residing in Goadah and Mehespur villages of Madaripur, and local police are trying to arrest them, as allegations have piled up against them.

Mohammed Salam Kabir, deputy commissioner (DC, North Zone) of CMP DB, told The Daily Star, "DB police

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Cabinet okays policy for local auto industry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of a policy to develop the automobile industry in the country in a bid to be self-reliant in this sector.

At a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, cabinet okayed the "Automobile Industry Development Policy 2021".

The meeting was held in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Following the meeting, cabinet secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said the government is trying to reduce its dependency on import.

"We've potential to develop the automobile industry in the country," he said.

The cabinet secretary said the main objective of the policy is to develop the local industry by ensuring competence in automobile engineering and necessary facilities for production of automobiles and parts.

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Three charged with killing schoolgirl Nila Roy in Savar

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police have pressed charges against three people in a case filed over the murder of school student Nila Roy in Savar last year.

The three are: Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, the prime accused, and his accomplices Selim Pahlan and Sakib Hossain.

Investigation Officer Nirmal Kumar Das, also an inspector of Savar Police Station, filed the charge sheet with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on April 28 this year, court sources said.

The IO also prayed to the court to drop the names of Mizanur's parents -- Abdur Rahman and Nazmunahar Siddiqua -- from the charges.

In the charge sheet, 18 people were shown as prosecution witnesses.

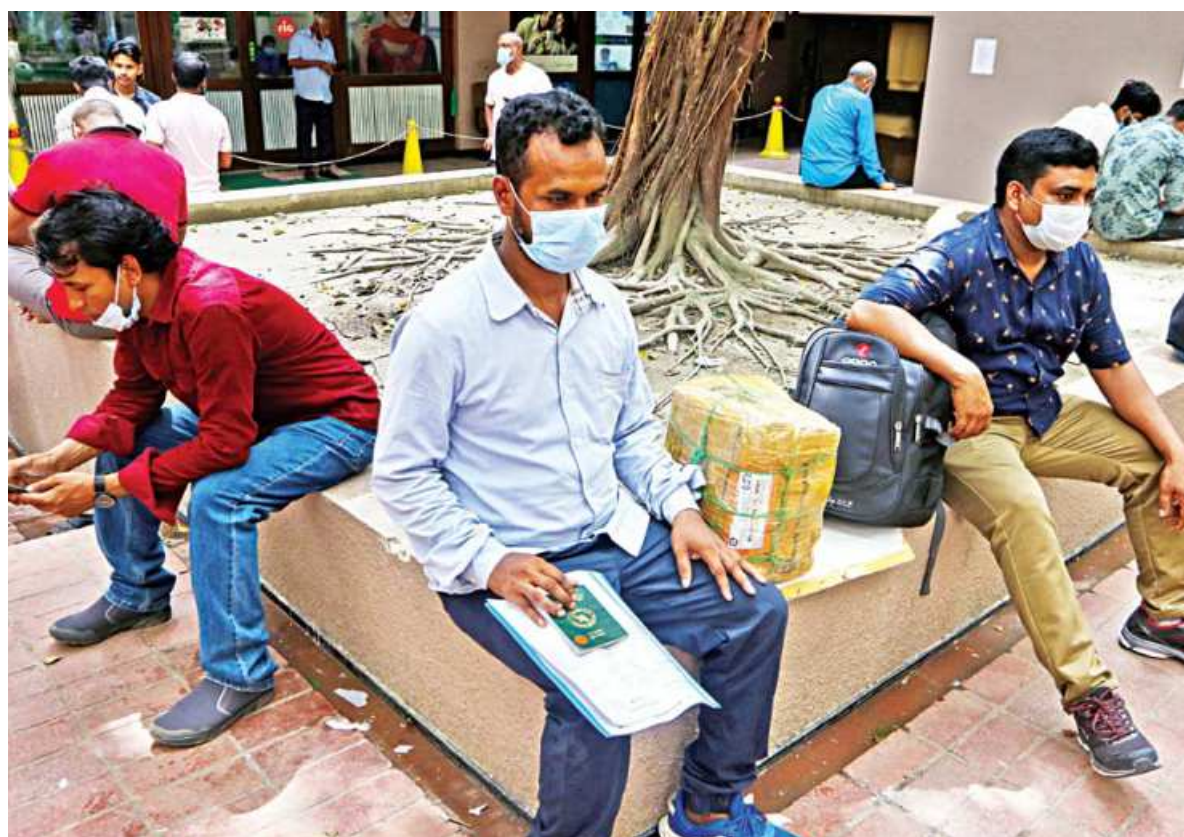
Nila Roy, a tenth-grader at a local school, was stabbed to death on her way to a hospital on September 20 last year. Her elder brother Alok was with her at the time.

The following day, Narayan Roy, the victim's father, filed a case against Mizanur and his parents.

Police later arrested Mizanur and his associate Selim in connection with the incident.

Mizanur on October 1 last year confessed to a Dhaka court that he killed the girl because she refused to continue relationship with him.

Mizanur also revealed Sakib's involvement in the crime. Later, police arrested Sakib.



An exhausted Kabir Hossain sits under a tree's shade at the capital's Sonargaon hotel to relax. He was set to fly back to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia on June 16 to resume work, but could not get a hotel room for mandatory quarantine on the same day. And this led to all sorts of trouble for the expatriate worker. Many like Kabir are running from one place to another just to sort out the complicated process of returning to their workplace. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

New VC joins BRUR University's liaison office in Dhaka closed after exit of Kalimullah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The newly appointed vice-chancellor (VC) of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) officially assumed his post on campus yesterday.

President Abul Hamid appointed Prof Hasibur Rashid as the fifth VC of the university on Wednesday.

Prof Hasibur served as treasurer of BRUR for the last four years.

After joining, the VC answered various journalists' questions at the university's conference hall yesterday. He informed journalists that the liaison office of BRUR in Dhaka has been shut down permanently on the same day.

"From now on, every university meeting will be held on campus", he said.

The university already plunged into many problems for various forms of mismanagement over the years. He will try his best in his four-year tenure to solve all the piled up issues, especially session congestion and academic problems, he said.

Besides, he also assured of his steady presence on campus.

"Firstly, reorganising is needed at the university by fixing some internal problems, which is time-consuming," he said. But he will try his best to solve them swiftly, after discussing with teachers, officials, staffers and students.

Stricter action will be taken if any corruption allegation is found against any university employee, he added.

The immediate-past VC, Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, was present on campus for only 240 days during his four-year term. He preferred processing all officials work of BRUR at Dhaka's liaison office.