# Child, widow raped

After a frantic search lasting for hours, the victim was found in the hilly area by her family members, the statement added.

The victim was sent to the One Stop Crisis Centre at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital yesterday for medical examinations, said the OC.

In Cumilla, a team of Rapid Action Battalion-11 Crime Prevention Company-2 arrested the imam early yesterday over raping a 14-year-old madrasa student confining her to his

Mai Mohammad Sakib Hossain, company commander of Rab-11 CPC-2, said a special team of Rab arrested imam Abul Bashar from Nur Jahan Hotel area in Cumilla city.

Bashar, 50, of Sobdolpur in Chandina upazila, is the imam of a mosque in Tirchor Noyabari of the same upazila.

Shamsuddin Mohammad Elias, officer-in-charge of Chandina Police Station, said the victim's father filed a rape case with the police station on July 24 against Bashar.

The complainant alleged that Bashar used to visit his house to give his daughter Arabic lessons.

The imam lured the girl to his room adjacent to the mosque on July 22 and

It was time the Taliban and the

Afghan government accepted each

other and moved towards a peaceful

to stop a first major city from falling

to the Taliban following weekend

offensives by the insurgents on urban

three provincial capitals overnight

-- Lashkar Gah, Kandahar and Herat

-- after a weekend of heavy fighting

Fighting raged in Helmand's

provincial capital Lashkar Gah, where

the Taliban launched coordinated

attacks on the city centre and its prison

-- just hours after the government

announced the deployment of

hundreds of commandos to the area,

May, with the insurgents capitalising

on the final stages of the withdrawal

of US-led foreign forces after almost

In southern Afghanistan, fighting

continued in Lashkar Gah overnight

as Afghan forces beat back a fresh

by air strikes repelled the attack," the

"Afghan forces on the ground and

Resident Hawa Malalai warned

of a growing crisis in the city: "There

in hospital, the telecommunication networks are down. There are no

medicines and pharmacies are closed."

Border said casualties were mounting

Medical charity Doctors Without

"The Pakistanis," Kissinger wrote

in the memorandum, "have played

along with the administrative game

and have not made an issue of our

restrictions. It was clear when I was in

Islamabad that they were grateful that

the US had not taken the formal step

of imposing an embargo. The loss of

military supplies bothers the military,

but to [Pakistan President] Yahya

[Khan] it seems at least as important

that the US has not joined others in

conversation, that Indians and critics

of Pakistan in the Congress were

asking for an embargo on arms and

everything," he said, and concluded,

"on relief we have a fighting chance

In considering how to work around

pressure for an embargo on arms

shipments to Pakistan, Nixon asked

about future export licences. Kissinger

indicated that no licenses were being

as it goes along. We will have to take

Nixon concluded: "We will evaluate

Meanwhile, the US House of

"The extreme people want to cut off

economic assistance to Pakistan.

but arms itself is hopeless.

authorised "at this time".

the heat on this.

Kissinger said, during the telephone

Clashes have intensified since early

that saw thousands of civilians flee the

Taliban fighters assaulted at least

centres in a sharp escalation.

Afghan forces battled yesterday

FROM PAGE 12

and civil society activists.

solution, he added.

advancing militants.

reports AFP

20 years.

'NÓ MEDICINES'

in Lashkar Gah.

South Asian decisions.

condemning him."

assault from the Taliban.

military in Helmand said.

'Abrupt' US pullout to blame

with Pakistan.

separate tweets.

Meanwhile,

Department yesterday.

the announcement.

key provincial capitals.

Pakistan and Greece.

Pakistani army

embraced martyrdom.

BANGLADESH ISSUE

to return to their homes.

OPERATION

OUTPOST

is fighting, power cuts, sick people family members who may be at risk."

Bangladesh warns against

confined her to the room for two days. When the matter came to light, the imam fled on July 24 leaving the girl with custody of his brother Abu Yusuf.

The victim's family later rescued the girl with the help of villagers. The girl underwent medical

examinations at the One Stop Crisis Centre at Cumilla Medical College Hospital, said OC Shamsuddin.

In Joypurhat, a widow was raped in Kalai upazila on Saturday night.

The victim filed a case with Kalai Police Station on Sunday night accusing one Faridul Islam, said police. Faridul, 40, is from Balukhur village in the same upazila.

According to the case statement, the woman was alone at her home on Saturday night. She went to bed after taking dinner.

As it was raining outside, she went out of the home to see if her cattle were safe in the shed.

As the victim returned to her room, Faridul grabbed her and raped her. At one stage, Faridul fled the scene after the woman started crying for help.

Selim Malik, OC of Kalai Police Station, said police visited the crime scene yesterday and were carrying out drives to arrest the accused.

[Our correspondents in Cox's Bazar, Cumilla and Dinajpur contributed to this report.]

The United States and Britain

said yesterday the Taliban may have

committed "war crimes", accusing the

insurgents of "massacring civilians" in

the town of Spin Boldak on the border

Taliban massacred dozens of civilians

in revenge killings. These murders

could constitute war crimes; they must

be investigated and those Taliban

fighters or commanders responsible

held accountable," the embassies

of Washington and London said in

Afghans who may be targets of Taliban

violence due to their US affiliations

will have the opportunity to resettle as

refugees in the United States under a

new program announced by the State

to set up the "Priority Two" refugee

for US-funded projects and for US-

based non-government bodies and

"In light of increased levels of

Taliban violence, the US government

is working to provide certain Afghans,

including those who worked with the

United States, the opportunity for

refugee resettlement to the United

States," the State Department said in

opportunity to permanently resettle in

the United States to many thousands

of Afghans and their immediate

surges in Afghanistan ahead of the

formal completion of the US troop

withdrawal at the end of this month,

with the Taliban pushing to capture

Representatives approved today, by a

close vote, a foreign aid bill that would

authorise \$6.9 billion in economic

and military assistance over the next

two years, but would suspend aid to

The Pakistan army formed a strong

position at Nakshi Border outpost

situated in Sherpur District. The

Bangladesh Liberation Army made it

a target considering its geographical

importance. On August 3, the Bravo and

Delta Company of the 8th East Bengal

Regiment attacked the border outpost.

took shelter in a nearby forest. But

soon they attacked the freedom

fighters. A fierce battle broke out.

casualties. Twelve liberation fighters

SADAT WRITES TO YAHYA ON

Egyptian President Sadat wrote to

Yahya on the situation in East Pakistan.

Sadat was believed to have stressed the

need for creating conditions in East

Pakistan which would enable refugees

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist

sajen1986@gmail.com

and researcher. He can be contacted at

The Pakistanis fled the camp and

NAKSHI BORDER

suffered heavy

The program comes as fighting

"This designation expands the

media outlets, earlier yesterday.

program, covering Afghans who worked

Reuters exclusively reported on plans

thousands

'In Spin Boldak, Kandahar, the

## Irregularities widespread in 3 hospitals patients' lives by providing Covid-19 staffers, upon the instigation of the

over-charging

yesterday, amid the country's most widespread coronavirus outbreak in months.

A child receives a nucleic acid test for the Covid-19 coronavirus in Nanjing in China's eastern Jiangsu province

three hospitals, but the hospital

the report.

Oxygen cylinders were kept on the ground floor ignoring safety measures, and this could have caused a serious accident at any moment, the committee found.

Although there are commercial establishments in the building, there are no separate lift or stairs dedicated for Covid-19 patients, the report said.

Uttara Al-Ashraf General Hospital has been operating a nine-bed ICU with only one ventilator, one highflow nasal cannula and without sufficient oxygen support and the requisite number of specialist doctors

If a patient's condition deteriorates, the hospital referred the patient to other hospitals due to a lack of treatment support, exposing the patient to further risk, the report said.

than those fixed by the government.

The committee in its report recommended a temporary suspension of Radical Hospital's licence and its treatment activities because it continues to risk patients lives by dispensing Covid-19 treatment without necessary facilities while charging patients exorbitant amounts.

Covid-19 treatment information, breaching a DGHS notice issued to the hospital on May 9 to stop Covid

stopping Covid treatment at Shin Shin Japan Hospital and Uttara Al-Ashraf General Hospital.

It also recommended issuing show-

It also said mobile courts should be deployed to ensure that such hospitals abide by rules and standard practices. **MORE FINDINGS** Radical Hospital is operating a 10-bed

treatment without necessary facilities,

information on Covid-19 treatment

services while not having permission

and

concealing

ICU without sufficient ventilators, high-flow nasal cannulas, sufficient oxygen management and the requisite number of doctors and nurses.

The hospital also collected surplus bills showing various reasons while keeping patients hostage by refusing to discharge them until the bills were

Shin Shin Japan Hospital continued treatment of Covid-19 patients without approval from the DGHS and increased the risk of infection by providing treatment to both Covid and non-Covid patients without proper safety measures.

It charges exorbitantly for oxygen and forces patients to pay more than the government-fixed rates for cardiac monitors, high flow nasal cannulas and service charge.

As a chart of charges were not displayed at public places at the hospital, it appears that the hospital used to collect fees as per the authorities' whims, the report says.

ALLEGATIONS OF SABUJ'S FAMILY from Sirajdikhan Munshigani, had been experiencing breathing problems and after his family could not find beds at various hospitals, they admitted him to Shin Shin Japan Hospital on July 18 after a bed there.

The daily charge for the ICU bed was Tk 35,000, excluding all other charges, Jyoti Costa, Sabuj's father-inlaw, told The Daily Star on Sunday.

He said on July 21, the hospital informed them that the patient immediately needed an Avastin injection, which they collected from Dhanmondi at Tk 80,800.

After the injection was administered, Sabuj started behaving abnormally from 1:30 am on July 23 and stabbed three nurses -- Mitu Rego, Kakoli and Sagar -- on duty at the ICU, he said.

Then, several unknown officials and

hospital's General Manager Shariful Islam, beat him indiscriminately from 1:30 am to 6:00 am, Jyoti said in a complaint lodged with Uttara West Police Station. His right hand was fractured and

his left wrist disjointed, the complaint

Jyoti said when he reached the hospital around 10:00am that morning he found Sabuj with his hands and legs tied to a hospital bed in front of the ICU. Jyoti found bruises on different parts of Sabuj's body. With the assistance of police, he

took Sabuj to United Hospital for treatment where he died on July 26. He had to pay Tk 60,000 extra for the treatment of the nurses, along with a total bill of more than Tk 5 lakh to the Uttara hospital and around Tk 8 lakh to United Hospital.

He said Sabuj was supposed to migrate to the US with his family soon. He also demanded a fair investigation into the incident and punishment to those responsible for killing his sonin-law.

whether the Avastin Asked injection has any such reaction, a retired medicine specialist said under condition of anonymity that the injection is given to critical Covid-19 patients and he had never heard of any such side effects.

The hospital GM Shariful Islam claimed that their staffers were not responsible for the beating and that attendants of other patients assaulted Sabuj. He also claimed that their hospital has sufficient treatment facilities.

Saiful Islam, deputy commissioner broker informed them of a vacant ICU of Uttara Division of DMP, said Sabuj's lung was 70 percent infected He was also beaten severely.

"We are waiting for the post mortem report to know the reason behind his death. If his death was caused by the assault, we will take legal action against those involved," he told The Daily Star.

He also said they were collecting information to know whether he was given proper treatment and will then seek the opinion of medical experts.

"If we find any anomalies legal action will be taken. We will also collect a copy of the DGHS investigation on the hospital," he added.

authorities concealed the information from the DGHS as they had no Covid treatment permission from the directorate, found the DGHS

More than 40 Covid-19 patients died at Radical Hospital, according to

During the visit, the committee found only one doctor in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the hospital. The doctor was not wearing any personal protective equipment (PPE).

and health workers, the report added.

The committee found all three hospitals charged Covid-19 patients exorbitantly, at rates much higher

The hospital has also concealed

treatment. The report also recommended

cause notices asking why their licences should not be suspended for risking

# Complaints of blackmail led to arrest

lodged the case against Mou with Mohammadpur Police Station. During the drive, Mou alleged that

she was being framed.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, two security guards and a chef of Mou's house said the DB team took liquor into the house during the

A security guard said, "A man came around 9:00pm [on Sunday] and told me that there was a parcel for Mou madam. He asked whether she was at home. I called madam over the intercom and found that she was at home. Within moments, 14-15 people in plainclothes entered our building. They took away our phones.

Another security guard told this newspaper, "They were asking: where is the whisky. As they found nothing illegal in the house after conducting a search for about two hours, they themselves were saying when the goods will come.... After 11:00pm, another 12-13 people came. They brought with them cartons.'

Police, however, in the case statements claimed that the liquor and drugs were seized in the two houses.

The duo used to bring people to their house parties and sold liquor, and yaba pills. Another two-three people are involved in this crime, added the case statements.

Despite several attempts, this newspaper could not reach Harun Ur Rashid, joint commissioner of DB (North Division) of DMP, over the phone for comments.

Sources in the DB yesterday said detectives launched the drive against the models following complaints

about blackmail from some influential

A source close to the investigation said Piasha got into trouble with an influential person of a business group. He was the first individual to have lodged a complaint with the DB about the model and it triggered Sunday's

Police claimed that the two models are members of a blackmailing gang. Yesterday, the investigation officers

produced the arrestees before the courts seeking 10-day remand for each of the accused.

The defence in both the cases submitted petitions to the courts, seeking bail and cancellation of remand prayers, saying that their clients were implicated in the cases as part of a conspiracy to harass them. The magistrates, however, rejected

the bail prayers and placed the duo on **BRIEFING AFTER ARRESTS** 

"These two models are the queen of night. They sleep in the day and carry out these activities at night. They are members of a blackmailing gang. They used to invite people from welloff families, arrange drugs for them and take compromising photos of them. Later, they would blackmail them with those photos," the DB official said.

The DB claimed to have seized

It also claimed to have seized 750 vaba tablets and a 12-bottle carton of foreign liquor from Mou's Mohammadpur home.

Piasha, also a former TV presenter, is the ex-wife of Shafat Ahmed, son of the owner of Apan Jewellers. Her name first came to light after Shafat was accused of raping two female private university students in the capital's Raintree Hotel in 2017.

Shafat's father Dildar Hossain Selim later filed a case against Piasha on charges of extortion.

The model's name again came up recently following college student Munia's death by suicide at a Gulshan home after the deceased's elder sister named her in a case filed in this connection.

[Our court correspondent contributed to this report.

AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday took to Tik Tok and Instagram to try counter misinformation about vaccines following a third weekend of demonstrations over a controversial Covid health pass.

dark suit and tie for a black t-shirt in a short video from the presidency's holiday residence in southern France, in which he repeated that vaccines were the "only weapon" that could beat back a fourth wave of coronavirus.

#### Princess Diana's

FROM PAGE 12

Mother, the auctioneer said, adding that this seemed to have been from one of the cakes sent to the staff.

The 40-year-old slice, which has been kept in plastic wrap in an old cake tin, was sold to Dominic Winter Auctioneers in 2008 on behalf of Smith's family.

The auctioneer said it "appears to be in exactly the same good condition as when originally sold, but we advise against eating it."

The listing also includes printed Ceremonial and Order of Service programs for the wedding, which had an estimated worldwide television audience of more than 700 million people. It also includes a memorial Royal Wedding Breakfast program.

The auction is on August 11. The cake slice is expected to go for at least 200 pounds, or \$278.

This announcement comes just a few months after Princess Diana's sons agreed to loan her wedding dress to go on public display at Kensington

A car Prince Charles gave Princess Diana as an engagement present also recently went up for auction, selling for more than £52,000 (\$72,000).

#### Sadeque Agro

airlines flight on July 5, 2021, Deputy Commissioner (Preventive) of Dhaka Customs House Mohammad Abdus Sadeq told media on July 6.

After the flight landed, no one came to the airport to claim the animals.

Abdus Sadeq said customs officials seized the herd as import of Brahmanbreed cows is not legal in the country, and the importer could not be located.

The animals were handed over to the Livestock Department, he added.

#### DU Prof sued

complaint, the Facebook post of Prof Karzon "was ugly and defamatory; it hurt crores of Hindu people's religious sentiments as it went viral on social media." The complaint said, "Prof Karzon

posted it on purpose to create religious chaos and to embarrass the government of a non-communal country.'

Prior to filing of the case, a general diary was lodged on the matter on July

On July 31, a delegation of Bangladesh Hindu Lawyers' Council led by its president Sumon Kumar Roy met DU Vice-chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman and submitted a written complaint, seeking action

against Prof Karzon. The accused professor told The Daily Star that the post he shared was a satire and when he realised that it could hurt someone's religious sentiment, he removed it and

apologised in another post. "I apologised, the case was filed only for harassing me."

### Muhith still

FROM PAGE 12

said, seeking prayers from the countrymen.

Muhith on Sunday night had told Momen that everything was alright but there was no newspapers or books

with him. "So, I am supplying him with newspapers and books," Momen said. Muhith also inquired about the

#### Anger as top US Republican jokes about hitting Pelosi

situation of the country.

AFP, Washington

The top Republican in the US House of Representatives faced calls to apologize or resign Sunday after oking about hitting speaker Nancy Pelosi with a gavel. It marked a sharp escalation in a

minority leader Kevin McCarthy and Pelosi, the chamber's top Democrat. At a fundraising dinner Saturday night in Tennessee, McCarthy spoke with optimism about prospects for his

nasty spat between the Republican

party retaking the House in mid-term elections next year. At one point attendees presented him with an oversized gavel, prompting him to joke that -- should he become speaker -- he would

struggle to resist striking Pelosi with it. "I want you to watch Nancy Pelosi hand me that gavel. It will be hard not to hit her with it but I will bang it down," McCarthy said to cheers and laughter from the room, according to details shared by a Washington Post reporter and a local Nashville

journalist who were at the event. McCarthy's comments were the latest sign of his deteriorating relations with Pelosi -- who last week called her Republican counterpart a "moron" for opposing mask mandates to fight the resurgent Covid-19 pandemic.

Democrats pounced on McCarthy Sunday.

Representative Ted Lieu of California urged McCarthy apologize or resign, a call echoed by fellow California lawmaker Eric Swalwell.

"Violence against women is not a oke," tweeted Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez of New Mexico, one of a string of female lawmakers who voiced outrage at the comments.

## Israel's top court delays decision on Sheikh Jarrah evictions

Israel's Supreme Court yesterday delayed a decision in the case of Palestinian families facing expulsion by Israeli settlers in annexed east Jerusalem, an issue that exploded into armed conflict in May.

Palestinians said the offer was made that they remain in their properties in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood as "protected tenants" who would recognise Israeli ownership of the homes and pay a symbolic annual

"They placed a lot of pressure on us to reach an agreement with the Israeli settlers in which we would be renting from the settler organisations," said Muhammad el-Kurd, from one of four Palestinian families at the heart of the

"Of course this is rejected," he said. Justice Isaac Amit called for further documentation and said "we will publish a decision later", but without

rent, but they refused.

Briefing reporter after the arrests, DB Joint Commissioner Harun said they received complaints of blackmailing against the duo.

780 yaba pills, eight bottles of liquor and four bottles of beer from Piasha's Baridhara home.

Macron takes to Tik Tok to push Covid vaccines

Macron discarded his customary