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Our system goes against the victim

Court holds social system responsible for sexual offences

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Sexual offences against women take place in Bangladesh because of the social system that blames the victims more than the offenders, said a Rajshahi court yesterday.

"The society smears her in such a way that it is as if she had committed the crime -- our system makes the victim think that the crime happened because of her," said Ismat Ara, the public prosecutor of Rajshahi's Cyber Tribunal, quoting Md Ziaur Rahman, the judge.

The observation came while delivering judgement into a case of sexual offence in Bogura district's Kahalu upazila in January 2017.

In the judgement, the court said the victims of sexual crimes face various discriminations and social injustices, and they become cornered in their societies and even in their own families.

To set an example, the court showed the highest honour to the victim: she was given a pseudonym Kolpo for the case proceedings, Ara said.

Citing the examples of Britain and India, the judge said Bangladesh has a similar law to protect the victim's identity.

But the victim's identity invariably gets disclosed in some newspapers and online news portals.

Some newspapers do not mention the victim's name, SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



The Awami League decorates the fountain at the Bijoy Sarani intersection with placards, posters and a large cutout of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to wish her a happy 75th birthday. The prime minister is currently in the United States. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PARBIR DAS

Khaleda's bail in five cases extended for one year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has extended for one year its earlier orders that granted bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in five cases.

Two HC benches passed the extension orders on Monday and yesterday after five prayers were moved by her lawyers.

A bench led by Justice Muhammad Abdul Hafiz yesterday extended the bail order in four defamation cases.

The cases were filed against Khaleda in Dhaka and Narail on different dates in 2014 to 2017 for her statements over Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Liberation War and the number of its martyrs on separate occasions.

On Monday, another bench headed by Justice AKM Asaduzzaman extended the bail in SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS How are you collecting tax?

HC asks NBR; orders BFIU to report what it did to stop money laundering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know how tax is collected from e-commerce platforms and what steps have been taken into the allegation of money laundering by the companies.

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit -- the government agency responsible for investigating money laundering, suspicious transactions and cash transaction reports -- has been asked to submit a detailed report within 30 days.

The HC also asked the National Board of Revenue to submit a report on how it collects tax from the e-commerce entities and whether it has any policy about tax collection for the sector.

At the same time, the HC asked the commerce ministry to inform about the functions and terms of reference of the 16-member committee reportedly formed by the ministry over the e-commerce scams and to place a separate report in the same period.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Russia, India call for urgent political solution

SEPTEMBER 29, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN



PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION'S PROTEST AGAINST DEFECTIONS
The Pakistan high commission in New Delhi today lodged a "vehement protest" to India in connection with the escape of four Bangalee members of its staff with their families while being taken by road to West Pakistan.

In a note to the external affairs minister, the Pakistan high commission said there had been a breach of the immunity of the high commission personnel. It also accused Indian authorities of collusion with "traitorous elements" -- an apparent reference to the Pakistani diplomats who had defected earlier to set up a Bangladesh mission.

KM Shehabuddin, chief of the Bangladesh mission in New Delhi, today described as "preposterous and mischievous" the charge made by the Pakistan high commission that four Bangalee employees had been kidnapped. He told a press conference that the employees who had escaped dramatically last night had come out on their own to join millions of their Bangalee brethren to serve the cause of Bangladesh, and that the Government of India was not involved in any way.

INDO-SOVIET JOINT STATEMENT
India and the Soviet Union today called for an urgent political solution to the problems created by the developments in East SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SINHA MURDER OC Pradeep killed driver, called it 'gunfight'

Witness testifies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Former Teknaf OC Pradeep Kumar Das killed an auto-rickshaw driver in the name of a "gunfight" after his family members refused to pay bribes.

Victim's wife Chenwara Begum made the allegation before a Cox's Bazar court yesterday while testifying in the Major (ret'd) Sinha Rashed Khan murder case. Driver Abdul Jalil of Teknaf's Harangkhalhi village went missing on December 13, 2018. His family later came to know that he was detained at Teknaf Police Station.

They contacted Pradeep several times to free Jalil, but the then officer-in-charge denied detaining him. A few days later, a police source asked Jalil's SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Unheard Lennon tape goes on sale



AFP, Copenhagen

A 1970 tape of John Lennon singing a hitherto unheard song called "Radio Peace" and expressing frustration at his Beatles image to a group of Danish schoolboys goes under the hammer in Copenhagen.

The 33-minute tape was recorded on January 5, 1970 when the former Beatle spent winter in a remote corner of Jutland in western Denmark with his wife Yoko Ono.

Back then four eager boys, writing for their high school newspaper, braved a snowstorm in the hope of interviewing their idol.

They clinched the interview. The topics ranged from the couple's peace campaign, the Beatles, SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Preacher held over controversial remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday detained Mufti Kazi Ibrahim, an Islamic preacher known for his controversial speeches, from his home in the capital's Mohammadpur.

A team of the Detective Branch of police picked him up for interrogation regarding his recent speeches, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shaiful Islam told The Daily Star. SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 29
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:15 6:00 7:30
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:30 6:05 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

She shows up at police station to stop her marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A schoolgirl in Chuadanga took matters into her hand and avoided being forcefully married off by going to the police.

The 16-year-old went to the Chuadanga Sadar Police Station around 12:00pm yesterday and requested the authorities to stop the marriage.

According to law, the minimum legal age for a girl to marry is 18.

Quoting the girl's written statement, Chuadanga Sadar Police Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Mohsin said the girl is a meritorious student in 10th grade of Chuadanga Jhinuk Secondary Girls' School.

Her father owns a tea stall and mother works in a factory producing puffed rice.

According to the written statement, the girl's mother and aunt were adamant that she should get married even after the teenager's repeated objections to the SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Cars meant for training new drivers are parked in front of the Motijheel Government Boys High School near Rajarbagh Police Lines blocking a significant portion of the busy street. This also leaves little room for cars trying to pick up and drop off children at the school. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

KABUL UNIVERSITY Women barred from teaching

Taliban to 'temporarily' adopt monarchy charter

AGENCIES

Women will no longer be allowed to attend classes or work at Kabul University "until an Islamic environment is created," the school's new Taliban-appointed chancellor announced Monday, in the latest move excluding Afghanistan's women from public life.

"As long as real Islamic environment is not provided for all, women will not be allowed to come to universities or work. Islam first," Mohammad Ashraf Ghairat said on his official Twitter account.

Earlier on Monday, Ghairat tweeted in Pashto that the university was working on a plan to accommodate teaching female students but did not say when this plan would be completed by.

"Due to shortage of female lecturers, we are working on a plan for male lecturers to be able to teach female students from behind a curtain in the classroom. That way an Islamic environment would be created for the female students to get education," he wrote on Twitter.

His appointment as Kabul University's chancellor by the Taliban was met with a storm of criticism over his lack of credentials. Ghairat countered those assessments on Twitter, saying he saw himself "fully qualified to hold this chair."

The Taliban, who ruled over Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001 but were forced from power after a US-led invasion, have historically treated women as second-class citizens, subjecting them to violence, forced marriages and SEE PAGE 10 COL 1