

MORE NEWS

Cutting hair of 6 students: Lakshmi-pur madrasa teacher sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A madrasa teacher was sent to jail yesterday for cutting hair of six students in Raipur upazila of Lakshmi-pur.

"The teacher, Manjurul Kabir Manzur, was detained on Friday night over the incident," said Raipur Police Officer-in-Charge Abdul Jalil yesterday. "He was shown arrested in a case filed by the mother of one of the students and was sent to jail," he added.

Manjur is an assistant teacher of Kazirdighirpar Alim Madrasa and Jamaat Amir of Bamni union. The six students said while attending a class on Wednesday, Manzur made them stand in a row outside the classroom. Later, he cut their hair randomly.

Neighbour arrested for raping teen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police yesterday arrested a youth on charge of raping a 13-year-old in Narayanganj Sadar upazila on Friday.

The accused rapist Khalilur Rahman (21) was a neighbour of the victim.

Police arrested him from Muslimnagar area yesterday afternoon after the victim's grandmother filed a case with Narayanganj Sadar Police Station, said OC Rakibuzzaman of the police station.

The girl used to live in a rented flat with her grandparents and Khalilur was their next-door neighbour. As her grandparents went outside on Friday afternoon, Khalilur forcibly took the girl to his room. Threatening to stab her to death, he raped the girl there, the OC said.

The victim was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for treatment and test.

BNP should participate in local govt polls: Tazul

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

If BNP is committed to the country's people, it should participate in local government elections, said LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam yesterday.

The minister was talking to reporters after inaugurating the 54th annual planning conference of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) at Kotbari, Cumilla.

Earlier, Tazul participated in a discussion where he talked about different dimensions of development. He said BARD has worked hard to rebuild Bangladesh and develop its rural areas. The conference was presided over by Secretary Md Moshir Rahman.

Stone-laden ship capsizes in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A stone-laden ship capsized in the Bay of Bengal near Bagerhat's Dublar char area early yesterday.

On information, BGB members rescued all crew members of the vessel, MV Beauty Lohagarah-2, said a press release signed by Lieutenant Khandakar Monif Taki.

The vessel sank after cracks developed on its floor when it was going to Khulna with 1,100 metric tonnes of stone unloaded from Singapore's flag-carrying "MV Sagar Ratan".

On Friday, lighter vessel MV Desh Bandhu sank in the Pashur river with 850 tonnes of Diammonium phosphate.

Probe report on Rabindra University teacher Farhana delayed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The submission of probe report is being delayed as the investigation committee is yet to get Farhana Yeasmin Baten's statement over forcibly cutting hair of 14 students at Rabindra University, Sirajganj on September 26.

Laila Fardous Himel, head of the committee of the university, said, "We notified Farhana of giving her statement on October 3. However, the accused teacher replied that she was sick but she didn't submit any medical report." Later, Farhana was given three more days, but to no avail.

Afterwards, Farhana sent a medical report of a doctor showing she is suffering from "hepatitis B", she added.

Fifty-two people -- including the university teachers, officers and students -- gave their statements, said Laila. "We are preparing to submit the probe report within this week."

For the welfare of strays

Youngsters step up to look after port city's animals

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

For more than five years, a bunch of young volunteers in the port city have been hard at work, all for the welfare of strays. Wherever there's an animal in need -- on the streets, at residential areas, or even in jungles -- the team gets ready for a rescue mission.

With founder Sumi Biswas, they work under the organisation "Animal Care of Chattogram", which doesn't just stop at providing food, but offers treatment and shelter at a centre until the animals are fully healed.

When Sumi was still a schoolkid, she used to save tiffin-money and feed strays as well as take care of sick and injured animals. Seemingly forever, she harboured a dream of establishing a platform that could take better care of the animals.

In 2015, she founded the organisation and was on her way to help more animals, but funds soon became a cause for concern.

Fortunately, her father stepped up and provided a piece of land at Halishahar's Anandabazar area, so that Sumi and her group of young volunteers could set up their shelter centre.

The shelter was crucial. "We used to rescue strays and take them to the veterinary surgeon or veterinary hospital," Sumi said. "Some of the injured animals needed post-operative care. We couldn't just leave them on the road."



PHOTO: COLLECTED

"We built a tin-roofed centre there in 2016. Since then, we have rescued and treated a total of 151 animals," she said. "Last year, we relocated to a new facility in Bandartila area, after a volunteer provided a piece of land."

"The injured animals -- mostly victims of motor vehicle accidents -- are provided with shelter, food, and treatment at the centre. Currently, we have 11 dogs here," she said.

Today, the organisation has 32 volunteers dedicated to its mission.

One of them, Saadman Ittehad, serves as the chief operating officer. Talking to this correspondent, he recounted how they fed several hundred animals during the countrywide lockdown, when their

food sources ran dry with the closing of hotels and restaurants.

Chief technical officer Jobaid Azim said, "There was an initial struggle with the centre, as neighbours annoyed by the barks of dogs used to lodge complaints regularly."

"But we reached out and informed them about the animals' predicament, and soon they were on-board too," he said.

But for all their good intentions, the organisation is still facing a shortage of funds. "So far, we have been running mostly on volunteers' contributions. It would be so much easier if affluent people of the city, the government, and organisations like the city corporation stood by us," Sumi said.



Former JU pro-VC Afsar Ahmed passes away

JU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Afsar Ahmed, playwright and former pro-vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, passed away yesterday.

Mahibur Rauf Shaibal, assistant professor of the department of drama and dramatics, also the assistant proctor of the university, confirmed the information.

"Professor Afsar was returning from Khulna by air today [Saturday] when he suffered a heart attack. He was taken to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases where he was declared dead," said the assistant proctor.

In a condolence message, JU VC Prof Farzana Islam said the death of Afsar Ahmed is an irreparable loss to Bangla drama, culture and the university.

BNP joining

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So, there will be no benefit in creating unnecessary chaos over the matter, he said. About BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's remarks over Buet student Abrar murder, the AL general secretary said, "Can Mirza Fakhrul give a single instance of bringing their own party men to justice for their wrongdoings during their government's tenure?"

He said most of those accused in Abrar killing have identity of Chhatra League but none was spared. Offenders, whoever they are, must be brought to justice, he said.

He said party identity cannot be a shield of anyone's protection, and Sheikh Hasina's government has proven it time and again.



For the last few days, the combination of rainfall and poor drainage has made this road at the capital's Shyampur overflowing with knee-deep water. Amid this situation, many residents, like this man here, have to cross the road by wading through the murky mess and simultaneously find a way around the barricades, which were put in place due to development work. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Larger platform for movement

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Mosharraf, a BNP standing committee member, said people are ready to wage a tougher movement to ensure the fall of Awami League government.

He said it is now the responsibility of the political parties to protect the

country and restore people's rights through a united movement. The BNP leader said the fall of the current government through a movement will pave the way for holding a credible national election in the country under a neutral administration.

"Some of you have said our 20-party alliance has become inactive. It happened due to the coronavirus. Our party also kept all organisational activities suspended due to the same reason. But this situation won't remain the same in the days to come," he said.

EMBEZZLING Tk 34 LAKH IN RANGPUR Railway ticket official sued, stationmaster suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The authorities of Western Railway Zone of Lalmonirhat division have filed a case against the ticket booking manager of Rangpur's Kaunia Railway Station over embezzling around Tk 34 lakh from ticket sales.

The authorities also suspended its stationmaster for negligence in account maintenance.

Junior traffic inspector of the division Sagir Uddin filed the case with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in Rangpur on Monday, accusing Mishuk Al Mamun, chief ticket booking manager of Kaunia Railway Station.

According to the case documents, the money was embezzled from ticket sales of the last six months.

During this period, the station sold tickets worth around Tk 34 lakh. But instead of depositing the money to the national exchequer, Mishuk embezzled it, divisional manager Shah Sufi Nur Mohammad claimed.

The issue came to light after railway officials noticed the mismanagement on September 24.

They soon carried out an internal audit and found evidence against the allegations.

They later interrogated Mishuk on October 4, filed the case on the same day and handed him over to police, officials said.

Police produced him before a local court and sent him to Rangpur jail on the same day.

Meanwhile, the railway authorities have also suspended stationmaster Babu Al Rashid for his alleged negligence, divisional manager Nur Mohammad confirmed to journalists yesterday.

The official also said according to the rules, a stationmaster is responsible for taking ticket sales money from the booking manager and depositing the amount in the bank.

But it was found that the stationmaster of Kaunia did not do this for the last six months, the official told The Daily Star.

This correspondent tried to reach the stationmaster for comments, but he did not receive calls.

Dorms reopen at Islamic univ

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Residential students of Islamic University (IU) in Kushtia returned to their dormitories after the authorities reopened those yesterday following an 18-month closure due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Vice Chancellor Prof Sheikh Abdus Salam welcomed the students with flowers, chocolates, and masks. Pro-VC Prof Mahbubur Rahman, Treasurer Prof Alamgir Hossain Bhuiyan, and provosts of different halls were also present.

Proctor Prof Jahangir Hossain said residential students who have received at least one dose of vaccine are being allowed to return to dormitories. Students were seen joyous as they reunited with their friends after such a long time.

Meanwhile, the "gono" (mass) rooms of the halls remained closed. Only students with residential cards were allowed in the dorms. According to campus sources, out of 15,000 students, only 23 percent get accommodation in dormitories. The others find private accommodations or stay in crowded "gono" rooms.

The VC said their responsibility didn't end with reopening halls. It is also important to keep the students healthy and well.

Freedom fighters yet to get Muktijoddha Complex in Savar

ARLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

In 2012, the government took up the initiative for a Tk 1,223 crore project to build multi-storied Upazila Muktijoddha Complexes across 470 upazilas.

The government has a four-pronged aim with the project: to inspire everyone by highlighting the spirit of the Liberation War; to help with the operations of Upazila Muktijoddha Sangsads; to meet the daily expenses of the sangsads with the income earned from the complex; and to ensure socio-economic welfare of freedom fighters and their children by creating long-term employment opportunities.

According to the website of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, the project's implementation period runs from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2023. The total cost was fixed at around Tk 1,223.54 crore.

But nine years on, the project is yet to see any progress in Savar upazila, which is creating deep frustration among the area's freedom fighters.

Ain Uddin Ahmed, commander of Savar Upazila Muktijoddha Sangsad, told The Daily Star recently that the project has been delayed due to complexities in finding land for the complex. "We wanted to make sure the complex is constructed on a good piece of land, which will be beneficial for the freedom fighters as well as the area's people."

Contacted, UNO Mazaharul Islam said a site has been selected for its construction -- at a spot close to Savar Bazar bus stand, next to the Savar Model Mosque and Islamic Cultural Center. A proposal has been sent to the ministry to get approval for the land, he said.

Project director Md Abdul Hakim told The Daily Star that 400 complexes have already been completed, while 31 are under construction. Besides, three more are undergoing the tender process while 10 are in the soil testing phase.

He said Savar's muktijoddha complex is among the 10 going through soil testing right now. However, the project is being delayed as water has accumulated around the chosen spot for the complex. "Once the water dries, we will finish up the soil testing," added Abdul Hakim.

Fake secretary

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Posing as an additional secretary, Kader took a hefty amount of money as "visiting fees" and commissions to lobby for jobs. Some of the victims were present at the media centre yesterday.

Joyal Abedin, a supplier who needed a loan for a government project, said he contacted Kader, after getting a visiting card from a marketing executive of Kader's office. "I filled up a form and paid Tk 15,000 to meet him. Then I gave him Tk 5 lakh for 'profile-making charge'. For taking the loan, I paid an additional Tk 2 lakh. He then asked for an advance of one percent of the total loan amount to get a loan of Tk 20 crore. I paid half of what he demanded -- Tk 10 lakh." He did not get the loan.

DB said two cases have been filed against the arrestees.

Resources fall

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"But it's also a must to remove social stigma surrounding mental health. If a patient gets support from the family and society after returning home, they tend to recover faster," he said, echoing the slogan for this year's world mental health day "Mental health care for all, let's make it a reality."

Brac on mission to promote masks, hand-washing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On a busy weekday morning, Md Imran, a vegetable supplier at Sadek Khan Krishi (agricultural) Market in Dhaka's Rayer Bazar area, was unloading vegetables from his truck. Suddenly, he noticed a volunteer from Brac distributing masks among people in the market, free of cost.

He quickly approached the volunteer and took seven masks for himself and his workers.

"Wearing a mask is crucial to prevent Covid-19. However, traders at this market are so busy that we often forget to wear them. So, I took a mask for myself and six more for my workers," said Imran.

Md Sami, manager of Sadek Khan Market, said, "Brac is also maintaining a hand-washing booth here. In the beginning of 2020, the bazaar committee installed a hand-washing booth but we could not maintain it. However, Brac is keeping this new booth functional."

Brac has been working to build community resilience against Covid-19 in 68 wards of Dhaka city under a project called "Community Support Team Dhaka" -- in collaboration with UNFPA and FAO, and with support from UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

The organisation has identified 1,360 places of public gathering as Covid-19 transmission hotspots, where its volunteers and community health workers distribute masks for free, run hand-washing booths, support vaccine registration, arrange telemedicine, and conduct community health monitoring.

From June to September 2021, the organisation has distributed 1.61 million masks, established 408 hand-washing stations, supported 799 persons with vaccine registration, and arranged telemedicine for 3,417 people.

"Besides, our volunteers are running the same initiatives in 600 schools and 3,400 mosques," said Monzur Morshed Patwary, senior manager of Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP) at Brac.

HNPP director Morseda Chowdhury said, "We are trying to bring behavioural changes among people in maintaining hygiene and physical distancing. It will take time to bring complete change, but we have already made people understand the significance of these health guidelines."

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The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladesh nationals for the position of Tuberculosis (TB), Communicable Diseases, and Urban Health Specialist, FSN-11 in the Office of Population, Health, Nutrition and Education (PHNE).
Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application submission: November 07, 2021

For a complete job description, required qualifications and detailed information on how to apply please visit USAID/Bangladesh website:
<http://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers> and www.bdjobs.com D-132

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e-Tender Notice

Sl No.	e-Tender ID	Invitation Ref. No.	Tender Description	Publication Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
1	615442	27.27.2666.401.08.008.21.1720, Date: 03/10/2021	Procurement of ABC Powder/ CO ₂ for portable Fire Extinguisher.	10-Oct-2021 & 14:00	27-Oct-2021 & 12:00

For detailed information please visit the following links:
For SI No.1: <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/resources/common/ViewTender.jsp?id=615442>
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Poritosh Kumar Pal
Superintending Engineer (Maintenance)
Haripur 412 MW CCPP, EGCB
Bandar, Narayanganj.