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SHAH CEMENT

Housewife gang-raped in Laxmipur

Jubo League leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police yesterday arrested a Jubo League leader on charge of gang-raping a housewife in Laxmipur.

The accused, Sumon Majhi, 26, is a joint convener of Tewariganj union unit Jubo league in the district's Sadar upazila.

Quoting the victim, police said the 25-year-old woman, her child and brother, who has disabilities, were sleeping early yesterday. Five people entered her room, making a hole on the wall, and raped her.

At one stage, the accused left the house, leaving the victim critically injured. But she could identify all the five, said police.

On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued the woman. As per her statement, police arrested Sumon around noon.

The victim is undergoing treatment at Laxmipur Sadar Hospital, said Palash Kanti Nath, additional superintendent of Laxmipur police.

Contacted, Anwar Hossain, the hospital's resident medical officer, said rape evidence was found in primary diagnosis. There were multiple injury marks on her body.

Sumon is a younger brother of Mizanur Rahman, who is a joint convener of Laxmipur town unit Jubo League, the youth wing of ruling Awami League.

Contacted, Mizanur said a rivalry related to land was going on between them and the housewife. The

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A woman walking past a "stop rape" graffiti painted by a left-leaning student organisation inside Dhaka University campus. Incidents of rape are being reported almost every day. Recently, the gang rape of a student of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University of Science and Technology, Gopalganj, sparked protests. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Afghan whitewash beckons Tigers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will look to consolidate their position on top of the ICC ODI Super League and ensure a whitewash against visitors Afghanistan when the two sides meet in the third match of the three-match ODI series at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram today.

Having had a clinical victory in the second match following a hard-fought win in the first, the Tamim Iqbal-led side will look to bag 10 more points from the last fixture and take the momentum into the two-match T20I series, which will be played in Dhaka on March 3 and 5.

The last game could also be a good opportunity for some of the senior players to get back among the runs after the youngsters took majority of the responsibility in the first two games.

Transnational nexus bringing in Phensedyl

Fake currency gang joins hands with drug traffickers; fake notes printed in Pakistan, says DB

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A transnational currency forgery gang joined hands with drug traffickers, and together they smuggle Phensedyl from India using fake Indian rupees printed in Pakistan.

Law enforcers have so far learned about the involvement of 35 people, including two Pakistani nationals, in the syndicate. Eight of them are already behind bars.

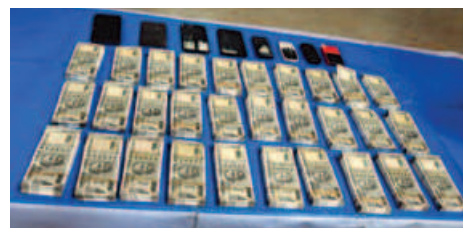
Talking about the syndicate's modus operandi, the law enforcers said after the fake notes are printed in Pakistan, they are stacked inside marble stone-laden containers, which arrive at the Chattogram port by sea via Sri Lanka. The notes are then stolen from the containers and sent to different border areas using courier services after hiding them inside bags of clothes, shampoos or soaps.

Later, the notes change hands through the border fences and make their way into India, where the liquid drug is bought by defrauding other smugglers with the fake notes.

The Detective Branch of police claimed

to have unearthed the information following three months of investigation and analysing the confessional statements of five arrested members of the syndicate.

Eight members of the gang, including a fake rupee notes dealer, were arrested between November 27 and February 7. Fake notes of 7.45 crore rupees have also



been seized from their possession, said DB officials.

In a recent drive, fake notes of 15 lakh rupees and eight cell phones were recovered on February 7.

"We have also found that the syndicate uses the fake notes to buy things like stolen phones and marijuana. Money earned

through the illegal business is transferred to different bank accounts. Money is also sent to the syndicate members in Pakistan through illegal hundi," Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Gulshan division) of DB police, told The Daily Star.

Investigators said a Bangladeshi man named Fazlur Rahman receives the money in Pakistan on behalf of two Pakistani nationals named Shafi and Sultan, who oversee the printing.

In the guise of cloth traders in Old Dhaka, Fazlur's two brothers Saidur Rahman and Nomanur Rahman look after the transactions here, said one of the investigators.

Both Saidur and Nomanur have been arrested.

The Daily Star has seen copies of bank statements, which shows Saidur received Tk 2.62 crore in his two accounts from January 2021 to January 2022. Most of the money was wired from Chapainawabganj border areas.

Law enforcers confirmed the authenticity of the documents.

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DSA CASE Kishore, six others indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday framed charges against cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore and six others in a case filed under the Digital Security Act for anti-government activities and spreading rumours.



The six others are Hungary-based entrepreneur Zulkarnain Saer Khan alias Sami;

Swedish-Bangladeshi journalist Tasneem Khalil, editor-in-chief of Netra News; Minhaj Mannan Emon, former director of Dhaka Stock Exchange; Didarul Islam, an activist; Ashik Imran; and Shapan Wahed.

Emon and Islam, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal read out the charges.

Earlier in the day, the tribunal cancelled the bail of Kishore and issued an arrest warrant as he was absent at the court for two consecutive dates.

The tribunal also dismissed two petitions submitted for dropping the names of Minhaj and Didarul from the case.

The tribunal set April 7 to launch the trial in the case.

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A car making an illegal U-turn on the Moghbazar level crossing in the capital yesterday. There is a designated place for U-turns only a few yards ahead. Such manoeuvres are dangerous as this forces vehicles to stop on the level crossing.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BUSINESS

Refiners demand another hike in edible oil price

Edible oil refiners and millers yesterday again proposed the government hike the price of cooking oil, saying the item has become costlier in the international markets. They are now calling for an increase of the price of bottled soybean oil to Tk 180 per litre from Tk 168, with effective from March 1.

Refiners are demanding the price of loose soybean oil be set at Tk 157 per litre, the five-litre canned soybean oil at Tk 870, and the loose palm oil at Tk 150 per litre.

STORY ON B1

LANGUAGE MOVEMENT IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The news of students' death

KHAIRUL KABIR

On February 21, 1952, I went to my office by the Medical College Road from Azad's office shortly before the shooting. Hours after the shooting, the home secretary told me that they were sending an official press note to be printed in Sangbad. I agreed but added that we would also publish the reports of our reporters.

Later, when the official press note came, I saw that there was no mention of students' death in the shooting although according to the reports of our reporters, several students were killed. I telephoned the home secretary and pointed out the issue.

I then went to meet Nurul Amin in the evening and told him that the press note could not be printed as there was no mention of deaths

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