

Judge sued over torture, dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

A Rangpur court yesterday accepted a case against the judge of a magistrate court after his wife filed a complaint of torture over dowry.

The court also asked the Police Bureau of Investigation to conduct a probe into the allegation, said sources.

Khandakar Rafiq Hasnain, public prosecutor of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Court, said Hridita Sarkar filed the complaint against her husband Debanshu Kumar Sarkar.

Debanshu is a judge of the senior judicial magistrate court in Rangpur.

Meanwhile, after hearing the complaint, Judge Mohammad Rokonzaman accepted the case and ordered PBI to submit a report within May 9, said the lawyer.

In the case, Hridita mentioned that Debanshu and his family members demanded Tk 30 lakh as dowry during the marriage that was held on May 11, 2015.

As the marriage was about to break, locally influential people settled the matter.

However, after the ceremony of marriage was over, Debanshu again demanded dowry to buy a car. As the dowry was denied, he tortured his wife, the victim mentioned in the complaints.

Jaishankar likely to visit this week

UNB, Dhaka

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is likely to visit Dhaka this week, most probably on April 28, says a diplomatic source yesterday.

He will be coming with an invitation for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a visit to New Delhi -- likely to be in the second or the third week of June, said the source.



An Orthodox priest Oleksandr sprinkles holy water on believers during the Orthodox Easter service next to The Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church damaged by shelling during Russia's invasion in the village of Peremoha, in Kyiv region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia strikes arms depots in Kharkiv

Ukraine says US officials to visit Kyiv, urges Easter truce for Mariupol

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia's defence ministry said yesterday its high-precision missiles struck nine Ukrainian military targets overnight, including four arms depots in the Kharkiv region where artillery weapons were stored.

The ministry also said its missile and artillery forces destroyed a further four such arms depots in the same region and hit a facility in Dnipropetrovsk region producing explosives for the Ukrainian army.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin were set to visit Kyiv yesterday to discuss Ukraine's call for more powerful weapons.

The trip, announced by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday, would be the highest-level by US officials since Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine on February 24.

The White House has not confirmed any visit by Blinken and Austin. The State Department and Pentagon declined to comment.

As Christians in Ukraine celebrated Orthodox Easter yesterday, there was no end in sight to a war that has killed thousands of people, uprooted millions more and reduced cities to rubble. Ukraine said two children were among those killed

in shelling yesterday.

Kyiv also called for a truce in battered Mariupol for Orthodox Easter, celebrated in both Russia and Ukraine.

"Usually we would come to our churches with Easter baskets. But now this is impossible," Serhiy Gaidai, governor of the eastern Luhansk region, wrote on Telegram, saying seven churches in the Luhansk

"We are all convinced that we will not be destroyed by any horde or wickedness."

region had been "mutilated by Russian artillery."

"We are all convinced that we will not be destroyed by any horde or wickedness," Zelenskyy said in an Easter video message from the 1,000-year-old Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, praying God would "give endurance to those who, unfortunately, would not see the return of their child from the front."

He told a news conference on Saturday that talks with his US visitors would cover the "powerful, heavy weapons" Ukraine needed and the pace of supplies that he said would be used to retake territory.

Moscow, which describes its actions in Ukraine as a "special military operation", denies targeting civilians and rejects what Ukraine says is evidence of atrocities, saying Kyiv staged them.

Ukraine said yesterday that Russian forces were bombarding the steel works in Mariupol where Ukrainian defenders were holding out, days after Moscow declared victory in the southern port city and said it did not need to take the plant.

"The place where our civilians and military are located is shelled with heavy air bombs and artillery," senior Ukrainian presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak said on Twitter, calling for "a real Easter truce in Mariupol".

Ukraine estimates tens of thousands of civilians have been killed in Mariupol and says 100,000 civilians are still in the city. The United Nations and Red Cross say the civilian toll is at least in the thousands.

A new attempt to evacuate civilians from Mariupol failed on Saturday, an aide to the city's mayor said.

Meanwhile, the UN refugee agency said yesterday the number of Ukrainians who have fled the country since Russia's invasion two months ago is approaching 5.2 million.

Hakim keeps Masud Rana books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court chamber judge yesterday refused to stay a High Court verdict granting copyright of 260 books of the popular spy thriller "Masud Rana Series" and 50 books of "Kuasha Series" to ghost writer Sheikh Abdul Hakim.

On December 13 last year, the HC rejected a writ petition filed by Kazi Anwar Hossain, owner of Seba Prokashoni, challenging the copyright office order.

Two sons and daughter of the writ petitioner then filed a leave to appeal petition with the SC's Appellate Division seeking stay on the HC verdict.

However, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the SC's Appellate Division, yesterday sent the petition to its full bench for hearing it on May 30.

Khurshid Alam Khan, lawyer for the copyright office, told The Daily Star that the HC verdict would remain in force till further order of the apex court.

Monitor travellers to India: Maleque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday asked the authorities concerned to beef up monitoring of travellers to India as Covid-19 infections are increasing in the neighbouring country.

Saying that the Covid situation in the county is under control, he asked people to remain cautious to prevent its deterioration.

The minister was addressing a programme on the eve of National Nutrition Week at the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (Niposm).

"It has become possible to inoculate all because of the prime minister's assistance," he added.

Meanwhile, no Covid-19 death was reported in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a press release of Directorate General of Health Services.

At least 24 fresh infections were recorded during the period, taking the Covid cases to 19,52,556, added the release.

6yr-old-girl raped, murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A teen killed a six-year-old girl after raping her in Naogaon's Manda upazila on Saturday, said police.

Police arrested the teen aged 17, Abdul Mannan Miah, superintendent of Naogaon police, told a press conference yesterday.

He would be produced before a court for recording his statement, he said.

When Fariha Akter, of Nimbaria Laxmirampur village, was playing near her house on Saturday afternoon, the boy took her to a bush and raped her. He then strangled her, said the SP, quoting the arrestee.

Around 8:00pm, locals found her body. The girl's father filed a case with Manda Police Station accusing the teen.

The Daily Star refrained from disclosing the teen's identity as he is underage.

Take actions against hoarders

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to keep one thing in mind that it'll have to ensure modern fire extinguishing systems in the institutions and the availability of water for firefighting."

The PM also asked to protect waterbodies and conserve rainwater in the project sites or multi-storey structures.

Noting that there is the capacity to fight fire in the highest 20-storey structure in the country, Hasina said some might have plans to construct

30-storey buildings or 40-storey buildings or even 100-storey skyscrapers.

In this regard, she asked them to consider the firefighting capacity before taking any plan for construction of the high-rise buildings.

The PM asked the fire service department to ensure training and rehearsal over fire extinguishing systems and on what to do in case of fire in educational institutions, mills and factories.

Hasina said the

government has decided to set up a fire service station in every upazila.

Mentioning there are now 456 fire service stations in the country, she said the construction of 55 more stations would be completed by June next.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Secretary of Security Services Division Mokabbir Hossain and Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Department Maj Gen Sazzad Hussain spoke at the function.

Cops grill 6 Dhaka College BCL men

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Jashim Uddin. Of them, Jashim group was more violent than the other two.

Law enforcers said the youths who beat up and hacked Nahid during the clashes were primarily identified and were now under police surveillance.

Kaiyum, a Dhaka College student, hit Nahid first. He was wearing a blue T-shirt with white stripes, said police sources.

Many of those who were carrying locally-made weapons, iron rods and sticks during the clashes have also been identified.

One of them is Shahin Sadek Mirza, a member of the BCL unit's convening committee. He was carrying a machete.

BCL activist Kawsar, clad in a green T-shirt, was also carrying a machete. He is a student of Islamic history and resides at the college's South Hostel.

Another person, who was holding a hammer, has been identified as Monayem. He is a member of Dhaka City (north) Chhatra League, said investigators.

Earlier on April 18 night, employees of two shops at the New Market got into a brawl, which spilled over into daylong pitched battles between Dhaka College students and shopkeepers the following day.

Nahid, a delivery man of a computer accessories shop on Elephant Road, was attacked in front of

Nur Jahan Super Market's Khan Fashion store, just opposite Dhaka College. He died later that night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Four cases were filed over the incident -- two by police and two by the family members of the two victims killed in the clashes.

More than 1,500 unnamed people were made accused in these cases.

The two murder cases are being investigated by the DB and the other two by the New Market police.

PANIC AT HOSTELS

Fearing police raid, many Dhaka College students left the hostels after midnight. media reports revealed the

identities of some college students allegedly involved in Nahid's murder and the clashes.

According to police, the suspects are involved with the BCL.

During the clashes, the college authorities had asked the students to vacate the hostels but they refused to leave.

However, following the media reports, many students started leaving the hostels since early Sunday night, fearing that police might raid the dormitories.

Seeking anonymity, a fourth-year graduate student of the college told

The Daily Star that many students left the hostels after midnight.

Nurul Amin, a security

guard at the main entrance of the college, said he saw many students leave the campus since yesterday morning.

BCL General Secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee told this newspaper on Saturday that the organisation has nothing to do with the suspects.

General students of Dhaka College took part in the "protests", he said, adding that none of them joined it as "activists of Chhatra League".

"We are sure that no Chhatra League activist was involved in the [Nahid's] killing," he added.

Acting Dhaka College principal ATM Mainul Hossain could not be reached for comments.

Won't be lifted without actions

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called Rab the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) of Bangladesh.

"Rab has since then done an excellent job at combating terrorism. Maybe we have to look at it more closely to see how accountability can be increased ... but this is a great institution," said Momen.

Ambassador Haas also said, "We will continue to work with Bangladesh to combat violent terrorism, combat transnational crime and enhance security. We will continue our support to the transnational crime police and to the anti-terrorism unit and the specialised police units in Chattogram, Sylhet, and Rajshahi.

"The USA is not perfect. We have embarked on our own democratic renewal. This journey ensures tackling our own issues with police accountability. We are inviting other countries in the world to make similar commitments."

He announced that the

US would be an impartial observer of the upcoming parliamentary election. "The USA will not pick a side in the elections. Our view is simple: the Bangladeshis people have a democratic process that allows them to choose their government.

"Holding an election consistent with international standards is not just about ballot day. Truly fair elections involve creating a space where civic discourse can take place, where journalists can investigate without fear..."

He welcomed the law minister's commitment to reform the Digital Security Act to prevent abuse of the law.

The ambassador also spoke about the need for signing two defence treaties called ACSA and GSOMIA between Bangladesh and the US. GSOMIA would set the ground rule for exchanging sensitive data about military operations, said Haas, while ACSA will allow exchange of fuel and food.

These treaties are not like the "broad, vague defence agreement that Bangladesh signed with China in 2002," he said, referring to the "China-Bangladesh Defence Cooperation Agreement" which covers military training and defence production.

"The DFC [US International Development Finance Corporation] has a \$4 billion active portfolio in South Asia across multiple sectors including clean energy, healthcare, agriculture. The DFC cannot operate in Bangladesh because of a lack of labour rights."

Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, chairman of BIIS led the event, while former diplomats Humayun Kabir and Tariq A. Karim, former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain, BIIS Director-General Maj Gen Mohammad Masudur Rahman and Dhaka University professor Ruksana Kibria spoke.