

College girl murdered after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinaipur*

Locals yesterday found the body of a college student thought to be raped and murdered at her home in Panchbibi, Joypurhat.

Aysha Siddiqua, 22, was a student of botanical studies at Joypurhat Government College, said police, adding that there were signs that she was raped before the murder.

In Rangpur, police are looking for the Imam of a mosque accused of raping a three-year-old girl on Thursday, leaving her critically injured.

Mahfuzur Rahman, imam of Nagdah Keramotia Jame Masjid at Dalbari in Mahiganj area, has been accused of raping the toddler and threatening her mother not to inform the police or take the girl to a hospital.

In a case filed with Mahiganj Police Station hours after the incident, her mother stated that Mahfuzur took the girl to his home in the afternoon and raped her. Hearing her screams, several locals rescued her.

Since Mahfuzur is an influential person in the locality, the girl's mother and the neighbours obeyed when he told them to keep quiet.

As the girl began to lose blood rapidly, her parents took her to the police station late at night.

Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Mahiganj Police Station, said police recorded the case and made arrangements for her treatment at a hospital.

In Joypurhat, Aysha, the woman who got killed, and her two nieces went to sleep in separate rooms on Friday night.

When the two girls woke up yesterday morning, they found Aysha's room locked from inside. As the latter did not respond to their calls, they called the neighbours, who broke the door and found the body lying on the bed.

Ishtiaq Alam, assistant superintendent of police in Panchbibi, who visited the tin-shed building, said the woman might have been choked to death.

It was unclear how the suspects broke into the house and left, he added.

The body will be sent for an autopsy after forensic experts visit the scene.

US judge tosses Trump suit over Twitter ban

AFP, *San Francisco*

A lawsuit filed by former US president Donald Trump seeking to reinstate his banned Twitter account was tossed out Friday by a federal judge in California.

The suit's argument that Twitter had "censored" Trump in violation of free speech rights was weak, since the First Amendment bars government bodies – not private businesses – from interfering with what citizens say, the judge said in his ruling.

2 held over raping 3rd grader in Magura

UNB, *Magura*

Two people were arrested over raping a female student of grade-III in Salikha upazila of Magura.

The arrestees were Imdadul Haque, neighbour of the victim and Rezaul Munshi, a local matabbar.

The arrestees were produced before court on yesterday, said Tarakanath Biswash, officer-in-charge of Salikha Police Station.

A case has been filed in this regard following a complaint lodged by the girl's mother, said the OC.

Journey back

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the vehicles were buses, cars and minibuses.

Azizul Hayat, a student, his nephew, niece, and two other family members reached near the terminal from their home in Barishal around 7:30pm on Friday. It took them eight hours to board a ferry, he said, terming the experience a nightmare.

The situation remained unchanged as of yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the launches on the river were also carrying more passengers than they unusually do.

People who got off the vehicles had to walk one and a half kilometres to board the launches.

Garment factory worker Aklima Khatun said she had to walk with three bags and small children.

Contacted, Shehab Uddin, manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) office at Daulatdia, said the sheer number of Dhaka-bound vehicles caused the long queue.

"But we are trying our best to serve them," he added.

Two other ferry routes, Shimulia-Banglabazar and Shimulia-Majhikandi, also witnessed excessive pressure of Dhaka-bound passengers. Salauddin, manager

of BIWTC at Majhikandi Ghat of Shariatpur and Banglabazar Ghat of Madaripur, said over 500 cars were waiting to go across the river around 10:00am yesterday.

After arriving in Shimulia from Banglabazar, Awlad Hossain, a private firm employee, said, "There is no room to set your foot at Banglabazar launch ghat. After waiting for about two hours under the sun, I was able to board a launch."

Jalal Hossain, who was in a car, said he had to wait for four and a half hours for a ferry at Banglabazar.

Our correspondents in Barishal and Patuakhali also reported a large number of passengers on launches heading for Dhaka.

[Our Correspondent in Munshiganj contributed the report]

Bangladesh

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characterised by lower infection and death rates, better inoculation coverage, as well as fewer movement restrictions.

The index is maintained by Nikkei, Japan's leading business publication group that includes the Nikkei, Nikkei Asia, and the Financial Times (of London).



A shopkeeper weighing palm oil a man is buying for Tk 220 a kg in the capital's Kawran Bazar yesterday. The scarcity of soybean oil in the market has resulted in increased demands for palm oil. Some shopkeepers are selling the oil at higher-than-usual prices.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

US defends passing intel to Ukraine

Kyiv claims to destroy another warship in Black Sea as UK says conflict taking 'heavy toll' on Russian key units

AGENCIES

Amid reports of more losses to Russian forces, US officials have said they shared information about Russian troops and the location of the Russian warship Moskva with Ukraine prior to its sinking last month, a fresh demonstration of the close intelligence support Kyiv is receiving from Washington.

However, Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby deflected questions about whether the US provided information to Ukraine that helped military leaders target Russian generals, instead saying Ukraine "makes the decisions" when it comes to how they use US intel.

On the ground, Ukraine tried to evacuate more civilians from a besieged Mariupol steel plant yesterday as Russian forces unleashed new bombardments across the country ahead of Victory Day festivities in Moscow.

On Friday, in a press briefing, Kirby stressed that Ukraine combines intelligence from many countries and the US is "not the sole source of intelligence and information to the Ukrainians".

"The kind of intelligence that we provide them – it's legitimate, it's

lawful, and it's limited."

According to a Guardian report, the US has been providing the location and other details of the Russian military's mobile headquarters, which has allowed Ukraine to target them with artillery strikes, potentially disrupting the invaders' command and control.

It is thought to be one reason why

"The kind of intelligence that we provide them – it's legitimate, it's lawful, and it's limited."

about a dozen Russian generals have been killed in the fighting so far, prompting a New York Times report this week with the headline "US Intelligence Is Helping Ukraine Kill Russian Generals, Officials Say" that was shut down by the Pentagon as "misleading".

Yesterday, fighting was continuing on many fronts in Ukraine, and Ukraine's defence ministry said it had destroyed another Russian warship – a Serna-class landing craft – in the Black Sea.

"The traditional parade of the Russian Black Sea fleet on May 9

this year will be held near Snake Island – at the bottom of the sea," the ministry added. Russia did not immediately confirm the incident.

Tomorrow, President Vladimir Putin will celebrate the World War II Soviet victory over Nazi Germany with a traditional Victory Day parade.

The Russian military campaign, which began on February 24, has run into tough resistance – and provoked Kyiv's western allies into slapping massive economic sanctions on the Russian economy and Putin's inner circle.

But with Victory Day fast approaching, Ukrainian officials fear more intense missile and artillery bombardments and renewed assaults as Moscow scrambles for symbolic wins.

The Ukrainian rescue service yesterday said a missile hit a technical college in Kostiantynivka, in the eastern region of Donetsk, causing a fire and at least two deaths.

Donetsk regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said there had been "massive bombardments" along the frontline.

Strikes were also reported in the north of Ukraine near the city of Kharkiv and in the southern city of Mikolejev, a key Russian target.

Woman molested, tortured in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Police yesterday rescued a woman who was molested and tortured allegedly by three youths in Chattogram's Akbershah area.

The 20-year-old victim was sent to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for medical tests after the rescue, said police.

Following an altercation with her parents, the victim left home in Cumilla and went to Akbershah by a bus.

Later, the three youths forcibly took her to a rented house to molest and torture her, said Jahir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Akbarshah Police Station.

On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued her. The law enforcers primarily suspect that she was molested and tortured, he added.

"We are trying to arrest the culprits," the OC said.

25 injured in Faridpur clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Faridpur*

At least 25 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Gangadhardi village in Faridpur's Bhanga upazila yesterday.

Several houses and shops were vandalized and looted during the clash.

The injured were admitted to Faridpur Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College hospital and Bhanga Upazila Health Complex.

According to locals, there was a longstanding conflict between Gharua union unit Awami League Vice-President Motiar Rahman and AL activist Manan Mollah over establishing supremacy.

They both are also the supporters of Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury alias Nixon Chowdhury, law maker of Faridpur-4 constitution.

Selim Reza, officer-in-charge of Bhanga Police Station, said, "On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control."

4 held with local weapons in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

Locals have detained four youths with local weapons and handed them over to the police while they were trying to stab a youth in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat.

They were detained from Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway in front of Sarpukur High School at Sarpukur village in Aditmari upazila on Friday night.

The detained are identified as Azizul Islam, 19, Masud Rana, 19, Faridul Islam, 18, and Ziad Hossain, 18.

Moktarul Islam, officer-in-charge of Aditmari Police Station, said policemen went to the spot and brought the four detained youths to the police station with home-made weapons.

Shah Alam has filed a case accusing five named people and 30 to 35 unnamed people with the police station on Friday morning, the OC said.

All-out effort

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election and also for the AL's tri-annual conference and advised them to complete all district conferences within December. The tenure of the current central committee of the AL will expire that month.

Talking tough on the party's rebel candidates, the PM said those who contest local body elections against party candidates can't be contenders at the grassroots councils, said sources.

"Election will be held using EVM and it would be a participatory one. Don't think you will win the election only on the party ticket. You will have to win by dint of your popularity and merit," an AL central leader who participated in the meeting quoted Hasina as saying.

The PM's hints at all-EVM JS polls come when Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal several times said they were yet to make any decision about using EVMs in elections and they were studying the system.

Earlier in March when the newly constituted EC sat with civil society members and other professionals, eminent citizens opined

that the commission should refrain from using EVMs in polls unless there is consensus regarding the use of the technology.

They also urged the EC to take steps to restore people's trust in it.

UNB reports: The PM in her introductory speech said her party always comes to power through elections, never by the backdoor.

The premier thanked the people for repeatedly voting her party to power.

"Due to this, the country witnessed massive development in the last 13 years, leading to rise in the people's living standards," she said.

The AL chief underscored the need for strengthening the party as the national election is due late next year.

She said her successive governments since 2009 gave importance to developing the rural areas.

"As a result, the infrastructure in rural areas have improved a lot and people could go to their village homes smoothly," she said.

She mentioned that during the Eid-ul-Fitr this year, people could go to their villages without facing hassles.

College student

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he was picked up. I was told he was safe and well. Four days ago, I was allowed to meet my son at the Rab-2 office in the capital's Mohammadpur, but he was not released that day," said Azhar.

He expressed gratitude at getting his son back and said, "I was asked to pick him up in the afternoon."

Eshak was taken in for questioning concerning a phone call he received during the time the New

Market clashes were going on.

"But they investigated his background and found that he was not involved in any violence. He rarely goes out. So they released him," Azhar said.

The Rab-2 company commander, however, stated that no such person was brought in by Rab.

Commanding officer of Rab-2 did not pick up the phone despite several attempts.