



SEXUAL ASSAULT AT CU Two friends of victim stalked by BCL leaders

NAIMUR RAHMAN

Two friends of a female student of Chittagong University, who was allegedly sexually assaulted on the campus on July 17, said they were being followed and threatened by several BCL men of the university.

The two informed the CU proctor's office that the president of the university unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Rejaul Haque Rubel and some of his followers were stalking them.

One of the two friendssaid, "When we went to the proctor's office the first time, Rubel was there. He talked to the victim, asking her not to lodge a complaint.

"Rubel told her if she filed a complaint, journalists would publish her name and she would be embarrassed before everyone. Rubel then wanted to know my name and academic session.

"I am getting phone calls. They are asking me about my location. Rubel even mentioned my name in a talk show, saying I was doing politics

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Eidgah Chatter in Khulna city is locally known as a used bicycle market. People looking for used bicycles come to the market from across the city every evening and some manage to buy one for as little as Tk 500.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

'We did not cause their sufferings'

Kolkata airport rejects Biman's claim of not letting onboard passengers disembark

RASHIDUL HASAN

The authorities at the Kolkata airport have rejected Biman's claim that they did not permit the deplaning of passengers from a Biman flight left stranded at the airport for four hours on July 18 due to a technical glitch.

The airport authorities said there was no provision that prevents or disallows boarded passengers to deplane.

"But it has to be requested and it has costs. The request was never made by the Biman pilot or their ground duty manager posted at the airport," said the Kolkata airport authorities.

Earlier, Biman alleged that the Kolkata airport authorities were responsible for the sufferings of its passengers on the Dhaka-bound flight.

Flight BG 396 remained stuck with around 150 onboard in Kolkata from 9:00pm local time on July 18 at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport as the Boeing 737 aircraft suffered a technical glitch in its landing gear, said Biman sources.

Biman Managing Director and CEO Zahid Hossain earlier told this newspaper that the passengers were not allowed by the Kolkata airport authorities to disembark.

During the four hours, the passengers were left without food and air conditioning. The Biman MD said they couldn't serve food or turn the AC on as repair work was ongoing.

After the fix, the flight, however, landed in Dhaka at 1:42am on Tuesday.

"Food was stored in the aircraft as per our information. In the worst case scenario, if there is insufficient food or

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Kyiv pushes to restart grain exports

Flags Russian strikes as risk; Ukraine's north, south and east shelled

AGENCIES

Ukraine yesterday pressed ahead with efforts to restart grain exports from its Black Sea ports under a deal aimed at easing global food shortages but warned deliveries would suffer if Russia's strike on Odessa was a sign of more to come.

President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced Saturday's attack as "barbarism" that showed Moscow could not be trusted to implement a deal struck just one day earlier with Turkish and United Nations mediation.

"This apparent Russian barbarism brings us even closer to obtaining the very weapons we need for our victory," Zelensky said in an address to the nation.

Public broadcaster Suspilne quoted the Ukrainian military as saying after the strike that the missiles did not hit the port's grain storage area or cause significant damage and Kyiv said preparations to resume grain shipments were ongoing.

"We continue technical preparations for the launch of



exports of agricultural products from our ports," Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said in a Facebook post on Saturday.

Russia said yesterday its forces had hit a Ukrainian warship and a weapons store in Odessa with missiles.

"A docked Ukrainian warship and a warehouse with US-supplied Harpoon anti-ship missiles were destroyed by long-range precision-guided naval missiles in Odessa

seaport on the territory of a ship repair plant," Russia's defence ministry said.

The deal signed by Moscow and Kyiv on Friday was hailed as a diplomatic breakthrough that would help curb soaring global food prices, with UN officials saying it could restore Ukrainian grain shipments to pre-war levels of 5 million tonnes a month.

But Zelensky's economic advisor

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Five die as bus, train collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Five people were killed and 20 others injured as a train hit a bus on a level crossing in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila yesterday.

The accident happened due to negligence of the gateman at the level crossing, claimed witnesses.

Of the dead, three were illegally travelling on the train's engine and two others were passengers of the bus, said police. Further details of the dead could not be known immediately.

Netrakona-bound Balaka Commuter Express rammed into the staff bus of Jaman Fashion Limited, a readymade garment factory, around 7:30am in Maizpara area, said police.

The bus turned turtle on the spot. Locals rescued the passengers and rushed them to different hospitals, said Rafiqul Islam, sub-inspector of Mymensingh's Golorgaon Railway Police Station.

On information, police recovered three bodies from the spot. Two others succumbed to their injuries at Sreepur Upazila Health Complex.

Jannatun Naem, doctor of the health complex, said 15 injured had been treated. Six of them were seriously injured and referred to hospitals in Dhaka and Mymensingh.

According to locals, three gatemen perform duties at the level crossing but none was present there when the accident happened.

Contacted, Jahangir Hossain, general manager (east) of Bangladesh Railway, admitted that no gateman was present at the level crossing.

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MALAYSIA LABOUR MARKET 2 agencies get 'recruitment approval'

JAMIL MAHMUD

The government yesterday gave recruitment approval to two agencies for sending migrant workers to Malaysia amid allegations of attempts to create a "syndicate of 25 agencies".

The two agencies -- Ahmed International and Amial International -- got the approval based on their submissions in this regard to the expatriates' welfare ministry.

The proprietor of Ahmed International is Benjir Ahmed, a ruling Awami League lawmaker from Dhaka 20 and former president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira).

Benjir's agency got the approval for sending 15 factory workers to Lifong Furniture Sdn Bhd, according to an employment permit paper uploaded on the ministry's website.

Amial International got approval for sending 180 factory workers to two separate companies -- 150 workers to Aspic Industries Sdn Bhd and 30 workers to Kurnia Sejati Sdn Bhd.

Contacted, Secretary of Expatriates' Welfare Ministry Ahmed Munirur Saleheen last night said they gave the recruitment permissions in line with the ministry's due procedure after necessary documents were attested by the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia.

Asked how many agencies will get the opportunity to send workers to Malaysia, he said the ministry does not know the number yet. "We

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China launches second space station module

REUTERS, Beijing

China yesterday launched the second of three modules to its permanent space station, in one of the final missions needed to complete the orbiting outpost by year's end.

A live feed on state broadcaster CCTV showed the 23-tonne Wentian ("Quest for the Heavens") laboratory module launching on the back of China's most powerful rocket, the Long March 5B, at 2:22 pm (0622 GMT) from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on the southern island of Hainan.

Space agency staff, seen on the live feed observing the progress of the launch from a control room, cheered and applauded when the Wentian separated from the rocket about 10 minutes after the launch.

The launch was "a complete success", CCTV reported shortly after.

China began constructing the space station in April 2021 with the launch of the Tianhe module, the main

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Cables for internet and TV and the boxes used for shielding connections make an ugly mess on an electricity pole at Tantibazar in Old Dhaka. The authorities concerned often launch clean up missions but the poles get messy again.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Maintain the diplomatic norms, protocols Dhaka asks foreign envoys here

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

In view of certain "recent occurrences", the foreign ministry recently wrote to all foreign diplomats, UN representatives and international organisations in Dhaka, urging them to maintain the diplomatic norm and protocol.

The ministry letter did not specify what it meant by recent occurrences.

Contacted yesterday, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said, "Issuance of such letters is routine work. New officers come and join different offices. We send them these letters from time to time."

When asked about the mention of "recent occurrences" in the letter, he said, "I don't know. I have no idea."

The letter sent on on July 18 reads, "Nevertheless, in view of certain recent occurrences, the Ministry has further the honour to

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