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Four sued for raping teacher

STAR REPORT

Four people were sued on Monday on charges of raping a school teacher at gunpoint last Thursday in Cox's Bazar.

Bedar Miah, 28, a resident of Sadar upazila's Chankhola village, was made the prime accused in the case, while the three others are unnamed.

According to the case statement, Bedar Mia saw the victim at a wedding on August 18 at Malipara area in the upazila.

When she was returning home alone on a battery-run easy bike the next morning, Bedar and his accomplices intercepted the vehicle when she reached the Banglabazar bridge.

They then forced her at gunpoint to go to a nearby under-construction building, raped her, and then fled the scene.

On Monday night, the victim filed the case against the four with Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station.

Md Selim Uddin, inspector (investigation) of the station, said they were trying to arrest the accused, all of whom are now absconding.

The victim's medical tests have already been completed, he added.

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People of Jangalsalimpur clash with law enforcers on Faujdarhat Link Road in Chattogram yesterday. The people of the area, most of whom do not have authorised power connection, had brought out a procession demanding uninterrupted electricity supply. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

RAPE OF TEEN

OC accused of destroying evidence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

The officer-in-charge of Bogura's Dhunat Police Station has recently been accused of destroying evidence of rape.

A three-member probe committee has also been formed to investigate the allegations.

The victim's mother filed a written complaint with the office of the superintendent of Bogura police on August 2.

In the complaint, the mother said her 16-year-old daughter was raped multiple times by their tenant Muradumman Mukul, 48.

Mukul recorded and photographed the rape incidents on his phone, but police deliberately removed those from the device, she mentioned.

OC Kripasindhu Bala, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the rape case, recovered seven to eight video clips from Mukul's phone, she said.

He, however, intentionally deleted the clips which were key evidence in the case, she added in the complaint.

"Even, the OC showed these videos to me and a few other journalists. Later, he destroyed the evidence by taking bribe from accused Mukul," the

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Indian billionaire Adani seeks to control NDTV

Media group says move without consent

REUTERS, Bengaluru

Indian billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate yesterday said it seeks to control a majority stake in the popular New Delhi Television (NDTV, NS) (NDTV), a move the TV news group said was executed without its consent.

A unit of the Adani Group said it had used financial rights in a bid to purchase a 29.18% stake in NDTV, laying out plans for a subsequent open offer for another 26 percent stake in line with Indian regulations.

Hours after the announcement, NDTV issued a statement saying the move by the Adani group "was executed without any input from, conversation with, or consent of the NDTV founders".

Adani Group did not respond to NDTV's remarks.

One of nation's most popular news organisations, NDTV is regarded as one of the few media groups which often takes a critical view of the ruling administration's policies. It operates three national channels - NDTV 24x7 in English, NDTV India in Hindi and a business news channel.

While Adani did not disclose financial details of the group's

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Tea workers defiant

Vow to continue strike unless pay raised, stop express train in Moulvibazar

MINTU DESHWARA

Workers of different tea estates in Sylhet, Habiganj, and Moulvibazar continued work abstention yesterday demanding Tk 300 daily wage.

A group of workers, who had resumed work in Sylhet on Monday, went back on strike yesterday.

In Moulvibazar, about 1,000 agitating workers from at least seven tea estate intercepted Sylhet-bound Paharika Express just outside Kulaura Railway Station around 4:00pm. The train left for Sylhet around 5:20pm after the workers withdrew the blockade.

Ajit Kairi, Panchayet president at Luhayuni Tea Estate, said they did not rejoin work because the central committee leaders of Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union did not instruct them to do so.

"We will join work if the committee issues instructions on its official pad, but only after ensuring Tk 300 daily wage," he said.

As the demonstrating workers continued protests at different tea estates in and around Sreemangal yesterday, the local administration was trying to solve the issue and get them back to work.

Visiting some tea estates, Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner Mir Nahid Ahsan requested workers to rejoin work, assuring them that Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina would look into the matter.

"Upazila nirbahi officers and other officials are holding talks with the workers. I hope the workers will rejoin work soon."

Nahid said they reached a good solution in a meeting with workers' leaders in Sreemangal on Sunday night.



He said the PM would soon talk to the workers via videoconferencing and fix a fair wage for them.

Around 1,25,000 workers in the country's 241 tea estates have been holding protests since August 9 demanding their daily wage be raised to Tk 300 from Tk 120.

They abstained from work from August 9-12 for two hours a day before going on a full-scale strike from August 13.

On August 21, their leaders agreed

to end the strike, accepting an offer to raise the pay to Tk 145. But many workers refused the hike and continued the protest.

Some protesters were angry with the union leaders. Among them is Doyal Almik, who said, "Continuing the strike for 14 days, we incurred financial losses. So, no question arises of rejoining work without implementation of Tk 300 daily wage."

Biplop Mandraji Pashi, vice president of Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union, alleged that the leaders struck a "secret deal" with the owners.

"It won't work. No worker will return to work without a daily wage of Tk 300."

Rabindra Gaur, president of Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union's Habiganj Laskarpur Valley unit, said they did not join work as no clear announcement came from the government in this regard.

Siddharth Bhowmik, upazila nirbahi officer in Habiganj's Chunarughat, said the district administration will hold an emergency meeting with the workers of Chanpur tea estate this afternoon. Habiganj Deputy Commissioner Ishrat Jahan and Superintendent of Police SM Murad Ali will be present.

Raju Goala, president of the union's Sylhet valley unit, said workers of four out of 23 tea estates in Sylhet resumed work on Monday morning. They, however, went back on strike yesterday.

Dogs get teary eyed when reunited with owners

AFP, Washington

Dog owners know the pure joy of returning home from a long trip to be greeted by their tail-wagging, uncontrollably jumping, face-licking companion.

But those ecstatic canines might be shedding more than just fur on your clothes - they might also be tearing up, according to a new study published Monday in the journal Current Biology.

"We had never heard of the discovery that animals shed tears in joyful situations, such as reuniting with their owners," said Takefumi Kikusui, one of authors of the study, which he called a possible "world first."

The scientists measured the amount of tears in the dogs' eyes with the widely-used Schirmer test, which consists of placing a specialised strip under the eyelids. For a baseline reading, they performed the test on dogs during a normal interaction with their owners.

When dogs were reunited with their owners after five to seven hours of separation, they "significantly" increased tear production in the ensuing five minutes, the researchers found.

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CONTEMPT CASE

Pak HC issues show-cause notice to Imran

Summons him on Aug 31

DAWN ONLINE

The Islamabad High Court yesterday issued a show-cause notice to PTI chief Imran Khan and summoned him in his personal capacity on August 31 in contempt proceedings initiated against him for passing controversial remarks regarding an additional district and sessions judge, who approved his chief of staff, Shahbaz Gill's remand in a sedition case.

The notice was issued by a three-member bench, headed by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and comprising Justice Babar Sattar and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb.

The court had constituted the bench on Monday, after the decision to start contempt proceedings against the PTI chief was taken by acting IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq during the hearing of a petition challenging incarcerated PTI member Shahbaz Gill's police remand in a

sedition case.

The possible contempt charge comes on top of charges under an anti-terror law that police filed against Imran over the same televised speech.

Meanwhile, the United Nations chief has said he is "aware" of the recent terrorism charges against PTI chief Imran Khan and has called for an "impartial legal process".

Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesperson for Secretary General Antonio Guterres, in response to a question during a press briefing on Monday, said the UN chief was "aware" of the charges brought against Imran and emphasised the "need for a competent, independent and impartial legal process".

Separately, US State Department Spokesman Ned Price said it was also aware of reports about the charges against Imran, but added: "This is a matter for the

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Children enjoying fishing at the water tank beneath the fountain for beautification at Minto Road intersection in the capital. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS