

Woman gang-raped in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Savar

A woman was allegedly gang raped by three youths in Rajashion area in Savar on Saturday night.

The 30-year-old filed a case against three people yesterday, Mohammad Abdullah Biswash, inspector (intelligence) of Savar Police Station, told The Daily Star.

A youth, whom she knew, took her to an abandoned house with a promise of giving her a job, said the police officer citing the case statement.

Later, two more youths showed up and the three of them raped her, the official said.

They then fled the scene leaving her unconscious, according to the case statement.

Locals took her to the police station.

The woman was sent to One-stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital for tests, said the official.

Police are investigating the matter.

1,049 RMG workers, employees get arrears after 15 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Savar

After 15 months of closure, a total of 1,049 employees of a factory at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) have received their arrears.

The Indonesia-based factory was closed due to shortage of work order during the pandemic period.

Abdus Sobhan, executive director of DEPZ, handed over cheques among 10 workers and staffers of M/S Avant Grade Fashion Ltd. Others received money to their individual bank accounts.

The programme was organised by Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) on the DEPZ premises yesterday.

BEPZA took the initiative to pay the workers but the factory authorities were not able to do so. As per the rules, BEPZA later decided to pay the arrears by selling the factory.

"Finally, we were able to sell the factory. Now we are paying Tk 16.10 crore to its workers, staffers and officers," said Abdus Sobhan. "Earlier, we paid arrears of two closed factories named A-One (BD) Ltd and M/S Shine Fashion Co (Pvt) Ltd."

GRAFT CASE ACC seeks stay of Selim Khan's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday submitted a petition to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging a High Court order that granted bail to Chandpur's union parishad chairman Md Selim Khan in a Tk 34.53 crore corruption case.

In the petition, the ACC prayed for a stay of the bail order saying that there is specific allegation of corruption against Selim Khan, ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

The lawyer also said he will try to move the petition before the chamber judge of the apex court as early as possible.

On September 14, the HC granted four weeks' anticipatory bail to Selim Khan, also an expelled Awami League leader, in the case filed for amassing



Although this may seem to be an ordinary scene of local life near the Jinjira Ferry Ghat at Old Dhaka, this area from the demarcation pillar used to be the Buriganga river. Due to continuous dumping of waste and encroachment, the lifeline of the capital is in its deathbed. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO

This... is Buriganga

Dhaka's lifeline continues to suffer due to encroachment, waste dumping

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, back from Keraniganj

If you walk by Buriganga's bank from Jinjira ferry ghat to Keraniganj, you will see people dumping household garbage into the river that's considered to be the lifeline of Dhaka.

The colour of its waters looked almost black, even pinkish in some areas – thanks to industrial waste.

"The bad odour from the river due to industrial and other waste makes it difficult for people to breathe but we have to endure it since we live here," said Nasir Hossain, a resident of Jinjira area.

The situation worsens during dry season, as the river water turns deep black, he added.

In a recent visit to the site with National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) Chair Dr Manjur A Chowdhury, this correspondent got a firsthand experience of the dire situation.

"People living around the river embankment dump garbage in it, to make it broader. Then they start using the space for various purposes, including making boats or setting up makeshift shops," said Anwar Ali, a resident of Lasmanpur area.

In many places, garbage dumping is so frequent that the concrete blocks demarcating the embankment get covered up by it, he added.

This correspondent saw a demolished makeshift bamboo structure on the river bank in Lasmanganj, which indicated that the structure was built by piling garbage that was initially dumped there.

Md Sakur Hossain, union parishad chairman of Jinjira, said people living near the spot are living a nightmare.

He mentioned that initiatives have been taken by upazila administration to remove the garbage from the river.

"We are also carrying out a campaign to raise awareness on garbage dumping in the river," added the UP chair.

Meanwhile, other concerns remain. Locals alleged that encroachers are occupying the river bank for years, while authorities remain silent.

This correspondent saw some boatmen repairing boats in one such occupied site. When asked, they seemed oblivious to the fact that the place they were sitting on is actually a part of the river.

Locals said a large portion of the river

solid, household, and chemical wastes.

The survey blamed industries discharging chemical waste as a major factor for pollution.

Witnessing the situation, NRCC Chairman Dr Manjur asked the Keraniganj district administration and police to take legal action against those who are dumping garbage into the river.

He also said a DoE team sealed off 49 dying



beside the Jinjira ferry ghat in Keraniganj has been filled up in this process, and a narrow road was built on it years ago.

Besides, dozens of dyeing factories are operating along the banks, contaminating the water every day.

The High Court, the Department of Environment and NRCC on different occasions have ordered these factories to set up effluent treatment plants (ETPs).

The dominance of black water across the river also suggested the presence of underground pipes through which effluents are still being released.

A recent NRCC survey identified 165 sources of river pollution in Keraniganj, including 65 drains and pipelines discharging

factories in Keraniganj for polluting the river.

"However, during a recent visit to 10 of the sealed-off factories, four of them were found operational. The employees of the factories that were found closed fled their workplaces upon hearing that a DoE team is visiting the factory," he added.

Contacted, Keraniganj UNO Mohammed Mehedi Hasan said, "We will start taking actions in this regard very soon."

Md Alamgir Kabir, joint director (Sadarghat) of BIWTA, said they remain vigilant in protecting Buriganga from pollution and encroachment.

"And we will continue to do so," he added.

First Bangladeshi to win 'Global Undergrad Awards'

SHOUT DESK



Zareen Tasneem Sharif, student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), has become the "Global Winner 2022" of Global Undergraduate Awards in the category of "Architecture and Design", for her undergraduate thesis titled "Waste in the City: Agglomerating Local Economy of Matuail Landfill".

She is the first Bangladeshi to have achieved this accolade, which is often referred to as the "Junior Nobel Prize".

The prestigious academic awards accepts submissions in 25 categories to allow students from a broad range of disciplines to submit their academic coursework. Submissions are accepted through their online platform, and evaluated by a group of professional academics.

The programme is split into seven regions: Africa and Middle East, Asia, Europe, Ireland, Latin America, Oceania, the US and Canada. Submissions are awarded in three levels per category: "Highly Commended Entrants", "Regional Winners" and "Global Winners".

While Bangladeshi students have achieved "Highly Commended Entrants" and "Regional Winner" before, this year – among the 2,812 submissions from 73 countries – Zareen's work was the first for someone in Bangladesh to achieve this honour among 25 other global winners.

Her project was an envisioning of an active landfill as an energy efficient industrial ecology, that integrates the culture and lives of the people of Dhaka and brings back the lost agricultural traditions of Matuail.

One dead, 399 infected in 24hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



At least one dengue patient died while 399 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00 am yesterday.

With the new death case in Cox's Bazar, the total number of dengue deaths rose to 45.

Among the death cases, 18 are in Cox's Bazar, four in Barishal, two in Chattogram and 21 are in Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

The total number of dengue cases this year rose to 11,177. A total of 1,483 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment, according to the DGHS. Meanwhile, 9,649 patients have been released from hospitals so far.

A DGHS monsoon survey, conducted between August 11 and 23, found the presence of Aedes mosquitoes in 13.4 percent of houses under DNCC and 11.75 percent of homes under DSCC.

"The density [of Aedes mosquitoes] found in monsoon is more than double of the density found in the pre-monsoon survey," said Dr Md Ekramul Haque, deputy programme manager of malaria and ATD control programme at DGHS, recently.

DNCC mayor signs condolence book for Queen Elizabeth II

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Md Atiqul Islam has signed the condolence book kept at the British High Commission in Dhaka on the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

The mayor on September 13 signed the book in presence of British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson.

At the time, he expressed his deep grief and condolences to the British citizens on the demise of the queen.

Atiqul also paid floral tributes to the queen's portrait at the High Commission.

Court summons couple over stealing Humayun's paintings

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned book trader Manzurul Azim Palash and his wife Ruma Chowdhury, asking them to appear before it on October 25 in a case filed over stealing some of paintings of celebrated novelist, screenwriter and filmmaker Humayun Ahmed.

Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Tofazzal Hossain passed the order after accepting the probe report submitted by Police Bureau of Investigation on June 23.

On June 29 last year, Humayun's wife actress Meher Afroz Shaon filed the case with the court of Tofazzal Hossain against the two. According to the case, the late writer drew some portraits along with his younger son Nishad Humayun in 2012 when he was undergoing cancer treatment in New York. He handed over 24 of those paintings to Ruma Chowdhury and her ex-husband Bishwajit Shaha in June 2012 on the condition that those be returned to him unscathed.

At the time, they tried to coax Humayun into selling the paintings, with the two getting a commission of the sales. However, Humayun turned down the offer.

After several conversations following the writer's death, they returned 20 of the paintings to his mother Ayesha Foyez in February 2013.

Years after the incident, the issue gained momentum



Life of children in a tea garden can hardly ever be called "simple". However, for this group of spirited youths, a game of football acts as an escape from reality even if it's just for a little while.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR