



Police take no action against cop accused of rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police are yet to take any action against a constable even though a complaint of raping a 10th grader was lodged with Lalmonirhat's Aditmari Police Station a week ago, the victim's family alleged.

Bipul Chandra Roy, 35, of Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila, is currently working in Gaibandha Police Lines.

The victim's father said their home is near Bipul's father-in-law's house in Aditmari upazila.

According to the complaint, Bipul went to his father-in-law's house on September 10. At night, Bipul went to the victim's home when the 15-year-old girl was alone and raped her.

As the victim screamed, locals rushed there and caught Bipul. But Bipul's in-laws forcibly took him away, the complaint mentioned.

A day later, the girl was admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital as her condition deteriorated. The same day, the father filed the complaint,

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Jaywalkers wait in the middle of the road as an oil tanker passes by emitting black smoke at Azampur in the capital's Uttara on Saturday. Rules being flouted by drivers and pedestrians alike have become a norm on the roads.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Homes, shops of pro-BNP men attacked in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Ruling Awami League activists allegedly attacked at least five houses and shops of Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal leaders in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj on Saturday night.

BNP activists said the attacks that took place between 9:30pm and 11:00pm left at least six people injured in the Bhulta area.

Most of the attackers were leaders and activists of Chhatra League and Jubo League, they added.

"We marched on Dhaka-Sylhet highway after 9:00pm protesting the attack on Tabitha Awal and other BNP leaders. The AL men attacked our houses, when we were returning home," said Masudur Rahman, vice president of Rupganj Chhatra Dal.

"The vandals took away around Tk 73,000 in cash and valuables worth Tk 1.5 lakh from my house in presence of police," he said, adding, "They assaulted six of my family members, including my old father and mother."

Masudur said his parents were admitted to a private hospital in the capital.

Shakil Ahmed, president of Bhulta Union Jubo Dal, said, "The attackers failed to break into my house, and then entered my shop in front of my house and took away the cash and looted the shop."

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Russia widens strikes on Ukrainian civilian targets

Says Britain; residents of Izium search for dead relatives at forest grave site

AGENCIES

Russia has widened its strikes on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure in the past week following setbacks on the battlefield and is likely to expand its target range further, Britain said yesterday.

Ukrainians who returned to the northeastern area retaken in Kyiv's lightning advance earlier this month were searching for their dead while Russian artillery and air strikes kept pounding targets across Ukraine's east.

Moscow and Kyiv yesterday accused each other of provoking fighting in Kherson, after a video showed clashes in the centre of the occupied Ukrainian city the previous evening.

"There was a clash in the centre of Kherson between sections of the Russian armed forces patrolling the streets of the city and an unidentified group of people," Russian-installed administration of Kherson said on Telegram.

Ukrainian southern army command spokeswoman Natalia Gumeniuk said, "Yesterday's [Saturday's] shootings and explosions in Kherson are provocations by the occupiers."

Five civilians were killed in Russian attacks in the eastern Donetsk region over the past day and in Nikolop, further west, several dozen residential buildings, gas pipelines and power lines were hit, regional governors said yesterday.

Britain's defence ministry said Russian strikes at civilian infrastructure, including a power grid and a dam, have intensified over the past seven days.

"As it faces setbacks on the front lines, Russia has likely extended the locations it is prepared to strike in an attempt to directly undermine the morale of the Ukrainian people and government," it said in an intelligence update.

On Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video address that authorities had found a mass grave containing the bodies of 17 soldiers in Izium, some of which he said bore signs of torture.

Residents of Izium have been searching for dead relatives at a forest grave site where emergency workers began exhuming bodies last week. The causes of death for those at the grave site have not yet been established, although residents say some died in an air strike.

Ukrainian officials said last week they had found 440 bodies in the woodlands near Izium. They said most of the dead were civilians and the causes of death had not been established.

Moscow, Kyiv accuse each other of provoking fighting in southern city of Kherson

The Kremlin has not commented on the discovery of the graves, but in the past Moscow had repeatedly denied deliberately attacking civilians or committing atrocities, reports Reuters.

Making his way between graves and trees at the forest site where exhumations were underway, Volodymyr Kolesnyk was trying to match numbers written on wooden crosses with names on a neatly handwritten list to locate relatives who he said died in an air strike in the early days of war. Kolesnyk said he got the list from a local funeral company that dug the graves.

"They buried the bodies in bags, without coffins, without anything. I was not allowed here at first. They (Russians) said it was mined and

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History beckons women's team

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh women's football team stand on the verge of history as they take on Nepal in the final of the SAFF Women's Championship today.

The final will kick off at 5:15pm Bangladesh time at the Dasarath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Having swept aside their opponents in group stages and in the semifinal with a 20-0 goal record, Bangladesh are fairly confident going into the final against the hosts, who, too, have come into the deciding match with a perfect record.

It is safe to say that the two best teams have qualified for today's final, which will crown a new champion as all the five editions of this

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There could be a misunderstanding

Say election commissioners over distortion of some parties' stance on EVM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two election commissioners yesterday said there could be a "misunderstanding" about the EC's representation of some political parties' stances regarding the use of electronic voting machines in the next national elections.

Commissioners Md Alamgir and Rashida Sultana told reporters that they have documents of what the parties had said about EVMs in the recent dialogues and the EC would review those.

Alamgir said the EC would make the documents public after review.

On September 14, while unveiling its work plan for the 12th national polls, the EC claimed that 17 parties were in favour of using EVMs. The Daily Star however found that at least four of the 17 actually spoke against using the machines during the next polls, slated for late next year or early 2024.

Leaders of those parties were surprised to see that the EC put them on the list of parties that favoured EVM use, saying there was no reason for the EC to be confused about their stance.

The parties are: Zaker Party, Bangladesh Islami Front, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon, and Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish.

EC Alamgir said many political parties

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NTAC urges wearing masks

Covid positivity now 12.72pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the health directorate yesterday reported 12.72 percent Covid-19 positivity rate, the highest since July 20, the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 has placed five recommendations to contain the disease in the country.

The committee issued the recommendations following its 59th meeting held on Saturday.

The committee recommended the government to take initiatives to reduce the cost of Covid-19 tests at private level, according to a press release.

Currently, the charge for a Covid test is Tk 100 in public facilities while Tk 2,500 in private facilities. In India, it is less than Tk 1,000 in private facilities.

The NTAC also urged people to follow hygiene rules, including ensuring wearing of masks and hand washing or use of sanitisers.

The committee has suggested all to avoid holding meetings in confined spaces and to conduct office meetings virtually as much as possible.

Besides, those who are not vaccinated with three doses against Covid-19 have been urged to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

527 NEW CASES

No Covid-19 deaths were reported in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, read a Directorate General of Health Services press release.

The total number of Covid-19 deaths in the country remains at 29,339 and the mortality rate is 1.45 percent.

At least 527 new infections from Covid-19 were recorded in the 24 hours. The total number of cases rose to 2,017,614, added the release.

A total of 4,143 samples were tested across the country yesterday.

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French 'Spiderman' scales skyscraper at the age of 60

REUTERS, Paris

Alain Robert, the free climber dubbed the "French Spiderman", scaled a 48-storey skyscraper in Paris on Saturday, fulfilling a goal he had set for himself once he reached the age of 60.

Dressed in red, Robert raised his arms aloft as he reached the top of the 187-metre (613-foot) Tour TotalEnergies building, which towers over the French capital's La Defense business district.

"I want to send people the message that being 60 is nothing. You can still do sport, be active, do fabulous things," said Robert, whose 60th birthday was last month.

"I promised myself several years ago that when I reached 60, I would climb that tower again because 60 symbolises retirement age in France and I thought that was a nice touch," he told Reuters.

Robert, who also wanted to use the climb to raise awareness about the need for climate change action, had already climbed the TotalEnergies tower on numerous occasions.

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Despite it being illegal, posters of different organisations have been pasted on the pillars of the Moghbazar-Mouchak Flyover. Such activities spoil the beauty of the city. The photo was taken in Mouchak area on Friday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

7-year-old murdered after rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The body of a seven-year-old girl was found at an abandoned house in Port Colony of Chattogram city yesterday.

The police suspect she was raped and strangled to death sometime after she went missing around 4:00pm on Saturday.

Her family lives in Boropool area of Halishahar.

"My daughter went out at 4:00pm on Saturday and had been missing since then," said the victim's father.

The family gave out missing announcements through loud speakers in different areas and learned that she was picked up by a rickshaw puller near her house, said the girl's maternal aunt, quoting locals.

"According to a witness, he lured my niece by offering to buy her biryani," she added.

Students of Ghasful Primary School found the body inside abandoned quarters nearby and informed their parents. The parents later contacted the police about the incident, said Mahfuzur Rahman,

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