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## Teen raped in train carriage at Kamalapur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage girl was raped in the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station early yesterday.

Police arrested five – Sumon, 21, Nayeem, 25, Nazmul, 25, Anwar, 20, and Roman Prakash Kalu, 22 – in this connection.

The victim filed a case against six men with Dhaka Railway Police Station.

According to the case statement, the 17-year-old girl went out of her Netrakona home following a family feud and got on the Haor Express train. She reached Kamalapur around 8:30pm on Friday.

As she was waiting on platform 1, a hawker of the station, Imran, 20, asked her to go to platform 2 for her safety.

Around 12:30am yesterday, Imran asked the girl to sleep in a carriage of the Turag commuter train.

Imran and his five accomplices entered the carriage around 1:00am and raped the girl, said Riaz Mahmud, sub-inspector of Dhaka Railway Police Station.

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As the authorities do not repair the pothole-riddled Abu Naser Bypass Road in Khulna city, despite the sufferings of a few hundred families there, locals try to fill the holes with worn-out shoes. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## MOTORBIKE CRASH 3 BCL men die trying to flee from own party men

STAR REPORT

Three Chhatra League activists fleeing an attack by their rival faction had died after their motorcycle hit electric poles loaded stationary truck around 11:00pm on Friday in Jhenidah town.

BCL activists Murad Biswas, Touhidur Rahman and Samaresh Hossain Shamir were all fourth year students of Jhenidah Government Veterinary College.

Police said they appeared to have died at the scene in the Atharomile area on Jhenidah-Chuadanga Road.

There is a rift among the BCL leaders and activists over establishing supremacy in the college, said a BCL activist requesting anonymity.

On Friday, about 15 leaders and activists from both sides went to Jhenidah town to settle the matter in presence of a BCL central leader.

"They failed to reach an agreement and were leaving the place angrily. Around 11:00pm, Murad, Sajib, and I and three other activists on three motorcycles reached the Johan Park area on the way back to the campus, when they [rival activists] attacked us with sharp weapons," said an activist who was on one of the motorcycles.

"After seeing Sajib being hacked, those of us on the other motorcycles tried to flee quickly, but

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## CHHATRA ODHIKAR PARISHAD

# Attacked first, then sued and now in jail

BCL files 2 cases; 24 parishad men incarcerated

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A day after attacking activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad on Dhaka University campus, Chhatra League men yesterday filed two attempted murder cases against 25 leaders and activists of the parishad and 24 of them have landed in jail.

Chhatra League Organising Secretary Nazim Uddin and activist Aminur Rahman filed the cases with Shahbagh Police Station accusing the 25, and 140 to 150 unnamed people.

On Friday, at least 13 people were injured when BCL attacked a rally organised by the parishad marking the death anniversary of Buet student Abrar Fahad.

Abrar died on October 7, 2019, in a dormitory after being brutally beaten up by some Chhatra League men.

Nazim in his case said, "On October 7, the accused gathered illegally on DU campus and made provocative remarks against the government, its chief, various ministers and political leaders to create unrest."

"When the complainant, along with 10 to 12 fellow men, protested the matter, the accused suddenly attacked them with iron rods, bamboo sticks and local arms," read the case statements.

Aminur in his case said, "When I went to the emergency department of DMCH to see my injured friends on October 7, the accused swooped on us with iron rods, bamboo sticks, and local arms."

Witnesses, however, said the BCL men swooped on parishad leaders and activists in TSC area soon after the rally began around 3:30pm.

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## THIRD SHITALAKKHYA BRIDGE

# 3-year project finally done in 12 years

Bandar upazila to get well connected to N'ganj city tomorrow

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Nine years behind schedule and costing 61 percent more, the Third Shitalakkhya Bridge is finally going to be opened to the public tomorrow.

Roads and Highways Department in November 2010 had taken up the project to establish a direct link between Narayanganj city and Bandar upazila.

It was supposed to be done by 2013 for Tk 377.62 crore, from Saudi Arabia.

The project authorities, however, took over six years just to hire consultants and contractors and the work on the ground began in 2017.

In the meantime, the project cost escalated to Tk 608.56 crore.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will open the 1.23km bridge to the public tomorrow.

Time extension and cost escalations are nothing new for RHD projects and it exposes its weaknesses in implementing such work.

A report of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division on 49 projects, completed in fiscal 2016-17, shows that 41 of them required time extension and suffered cost escalation.

Taking up projects without proper feasibility studies and estimation of costs, long delays in the

tender process, and dividing project work into "small packages" to benefit influential but non-professional contractors are among the key reasons behind the delays, the report pointed out.

Delays in land acquisition, moving utility lines and frequent changes of project directors were also blamed for the poor show, the report said.

In the last fiscal year, RHD completed 44 projects but only three were done within their original deadlines.

Most of the other 41 missed their original deadlines by more than two years. Some got delayed by three to four years.

### WHY THE DELAY?

The Shitalakkhya river is between Bandar upazila and Narayanganj city.

The only direct road connection is through the Kanchpur Bridge (Shitalakkhya-1 Bridge), which currently requires nearly 30km of travel, according to RHD documents.

Once the four-lane bridge with walkways is opened to the public, people will have to travel less than two kilometres to reach Narayanganj city from Bandar upazila.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council in November 2010 approved the project setting a cost of Tk 377.62 crore, of which 311.64 crore

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AFP, Hong Kong

A rare pink diamond has sold in Hong Kong for nearly \$58 million, setting a record for price per carat paid at auction for any diamond or gemstone, according to Sotheby's.

The 11.15 carat Williamson Pink Star on Friday fetched HK\$453.2 million (\$57.7 million), the second-highest price paid at auction for any jewel, Sotheby's added.

The winning bid, by an undisclosed buyer from Boca Raton, Florida, was more than twice the estimated \$21 million sale price.

The stone was the second-largest pink diamond to be sold at auction. Pink diamonds are the rarest of the precious gems and the most in demand on the global market.

The world record for a pink diamond was set in 2017, when a stone known as the CTF Pink Star was sold in Hong Kong for \$71.2 million.

Friday's sale "not only attests to the resilient demand for top quality diamonds in Asia, but a heightened awareness of the great scarcity of pink diamonds", said Wenhao Yu, chairman of jewellery and watches at Sotheby's Asia.

The Williamson Pink Star was named after two other pink diamonds: the record-setting CTF Pink Star and the Williamson Stone, a 23.6-carat diamond given as a wedding present to Queen Elizabeth II in 1947.

Tobias Kormind, managing director of UK jewel retailer 77 Diamonds, said the "astounding" sale

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## 'Not afraid anymore'

Clashes as Iran protests enter fourth week

AFP, Paris

Schoolgirls chanted slogans, workers went on strike and street clashes erupted across Iran yesterday, as protests over the death of Mahsa Amini entered fourth week in defiance of a bloody crackdown.

Anger flared after the 22-year-old Iranian Kurd's death on September 16, three days after she was arrested in Tehran by the notorious morality police for an alleged breach of the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.

Iran said Friday an investigation found Amini had died of a longstanding illness rather than "blows" to the head, despite her family reportedly saying she had previously been healthy.

But the protests continued yesterday even as ultra-conservative President Ebrahim Raisi posed for a group photograph with students at Tehran's all-female Al-Zahra University to mark the new academic year.

Young women on the same campus were seen shouting "Death to the oppressor", said the Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights (IHR).

In Amini's hometown Saez, in the western province of Kurdistan, schoolgirls were heard chanting "Woman, life, freedom" and seen marching down a street swinging headscarves over their heads, in videos the Hengaw rights group said were recorded on Saturday.



To press the authorities for their demand of appointing a gateman on an unmanned level crossing on Joydevpur-Bangabandhu Bridge rail line, locals of Tangail's Hatia area halted a train yesterday. A woman died there under the wheels of a train a day before. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: STAR

## Former UP chairman dies after attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A former union parishad chairman, who was attacked in Netrakona's Durgapur upazila on September 29, allegedly by BNP men, died around 11:30am yesterday while undergoing treatment in Mymensingh.

Deceased Subrata Sangma, 47, former chairman of the upazila's Kullagora union parishad and the nephew of Promod Mankin, the former state minister for social welfare, was attacked twice at the Rashmoni and Shibganj Kheyaghat areas on that day.

According to the victim's cousin Paritosh Bonoari, the attacks were carried out under the leadership of the union parishad's incumbent chairman Abdul Awal, the member-secretary of the upazila unit BNP, and his younger brother Shamim Ahmed.

Following the attack, Subrata was rushed to Durgapur Upazila Hospital Health Complex. He was later moved to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

The victim's sister Keya Sangma had filed a case with Durgapur Police Station a day after the attack,

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