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Four arrested for rape; victim dies 'from poisoning'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Four people, including three teenagers, were arrested yesterday for the rape of a ninth grader, who later died in hospital, in Jamalpur's Sarishbari.

The arrestees are Mahim, 19, two of his underaged friends, and Joynal Mia, the owner of the house where the rape took place on Thursday, police said.

Mohabbat Kabir, officer-in-charge of Sarishbari Police Station, said all four were arrested from different areas in the upazila's Pogoldigha union early yesterday.

He added the victim's father filed a case accusing six people including the arrestees yesterday noon.

According to case statement, Mahim had developed a romantic relationship with the victim a year ago, and married her seven months ago.

After two months of marriage, Mahim began pressuring the victim for Tk 4 lakh dowry. He then divorced her around two and half months ago after her family failed to give him the money.

On Thursday, Mahim promised to marry her again and asked her to come to Joynal's house to meet him. Once she reached, he and his friends raped her.

After she fell ill, they made her take poison to make it look like she attempted suicide, the victim's mother alleged.

Family sources said that locals informed them about the incident after word spread through the area.

They then rushed the girl to Jamalpur General Hospital, where she died on Saturday during treatment, the OC said.



Children with lotuses in their hands race to pick up the flowers on the edge of Dibir haor in Sylhet's Jaintapur upazila. Tourists now flock there for the scenic beauty of the haor along the Bangladesh and India border. They buy the flowers from the children. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Daughter, father die after road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

A man and his one-and-a-half-year-old daughter died after a road accident in Shariatpur's Zajira upazila early yesterday.

A microbus, carrying Rashedul Haque, 45, and his family, fell into a roadside ditch around 4:00am, said police.

On information, fire service men rushed to the spot but found Rashedul and his daughter Meem dead on the spot, said Mohammad Selim, deputy assistant director of the Fire Service and Civil Defence in Shariatpur.

The fire service officials pulled out the microbus from the ditch in Jamtala area, he added.

The microbus driver Kamal said he broke the rear windshield with a brick and took Rashedul's wife and elder daughter out.

"Rashedul could not be rescued because of the seat belt and for being submerged in water. Meem

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BORDER TENSIONS It's all due to Myanmar infighting

Momen tells parliament; Myanmar border police expresses regret at meeting with BGB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent incidents, like mortar shell blasts and airspace violations, on the Bangladesh side of the border with Myanmar took place due to the raging conflict between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told parliament yesterday.

Bangladesh, however, has so far shown patience in the face of Myanmar's provocations, he said in response to a question from ruling AL MP Momtaz Begum.

Momen said that as its neighbour, Bangladesh wants peaceful coexistence with Myanmar.

"For this, the foreign ministry is trying to resolve the ongoing problem regarding Myanmar's recent behaviour through diplomatic initiatives."

He added, "As part of those initiatives, we have strongly protested [the incidents] by summoning the Myanmar ambassador to Dhaka four times and organising a briefing for the ambassadors of ASEAN countries."

"The Chinese ambassador was separately briefed, and our embassy in Yangon has informed the Myanmar government about Bangladesh's concerns over the border situation."

In response to a question from Jatiya Party's Rustom Ali Farazi, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said Bangladesh is not a drug-producing country but is

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Ukraine grain exports halted

EU urges Russia to reverse suspension of grain deal; Biden says 'outrageous' move will increase starvation

AGENCIES

Ukraine's maritime grain exports were halted yesterday after Russia suspended its participation in a landmark agreement that allowed the vital shipments, blaming drone attacks on its ships in Crimea.

The July deal to unlock grain exports signed between Russia and Ukraine and brokered by Turkey and the UN, is critical to easing the global food crisis caused by the conflict.

The agreement had already allowed more than nine million tonnes of Ukrainian grain to be exported and was due to be renewed on November 19. The centre coordinating the logistics of the deal said in a statement that no traffic was planned for yesterday.

"A joint agreement has not been reached at the JCC for the movement of inbound and outbound vessels on 30 October," it said. "There are more than ten vessels both outbound and inbound waiting to enter the corridor."

On Saturday, Russia said it was halting its participation after its

army accused Kyiv of a "massive" drone attack on its Black Sea fleet, which Ukraine labelled a "false pretext".

US President Joe Biden denounced the move as "purely outrageous" and said it would increase starvation, while Secretary of State Antony Blinken said

"This is a completely transparent attempt by Russia to return to the threat of large-scale famine for Africa, for Asia,"
President Zelensky

Moscow was "weaponising food". The EU urged Russia to "revert its decision."

"Russia's decision to suspend participation in the Black Sea deal puts at risk the main export route of much needed grain and fertilisers to address the global food crisis caused by its war against Ukraine," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Twitter yesterday.

Ukraine's foreign minister said on Twitter that Russia was blocking "two million tonnes of grain on 176 vessels already at sea" that he said was "enough to feed seven million people."

He accused Moscow of having planned to "resume its hunger games" in advance and said the Black Sea explosions were "220 kilometres away from the grain corridor."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for a strong response from the UN and Group of 20 (G20) major economies to what he called Russia's nonsensical move on the grain deal, reports Reuters.

"This is a completely transparent attempt by Russia to return to the threat of large-scale famine for Africa, for Asia," Zelensky said in a video address late on Saturday, adding that Russia should be kicked out of the G20.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general, said: "It is vital that all parties refrain from any action that would imperil the Black Sea Grain Initiative which is a critical humanitarian effort."

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Longest passenger train breaks world record

AFP, Bergün

The world's longest passenger train – an assembly of 100 connected coaches measuring nearly two kilometres – wound through breath-taking scenery in the Swiss Alps Saturday.

The Rhaetian Railway (RhB) announced that it had beat the world record for the longest passenger train, at an event marking the 175th anniversary of Switzerland's famous railway system.

The 1,910 metre (6,266-foot) train, composed of 25 separable multiple-unit trains, or 100 coaches, travelled through the Alps in the eastern Swiss canton of Graubünden.

"For me, this is just Swiss perfection," RhB chief Renato Fasciati told the Blick daily's live feed of the event, as the long, red train snaked slowly through the mountainous landscape.

While there are freight trains that are longer, with some measuring over three kilometres, Saturday's event featured by far the longest passenger train ever run.

It was several hundred metres longer than a train that held the unofficial previous record, in Belgium in the 1990s, an RhB spokesman told AFP.

With dazzling sunshine reflecting off its shiny, silver roof and with a digital destination sign on the front reading "Alpine Cruise", the train carried

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AL factional clash leaves 40 hurt in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 40 people, including five journalists, were injured in a clash between two groups of the ruling Awami League in Barguna's Amtali upazila yesterday.

Supporters of the Awami League's Amtali municipality unit Secretary GM Musa and Amtali upazila unit Secretary Matiuur Rahman clashed during the party's triennial council.

The injured were admitted to Amtali Upazila Health Complex and Patuakhali Medical College Hospital.

The clash occurred as supporters of the two AL leaders started chanting slogans against each other in the afternoon, said witnesses.

GM Musa alleged Matiuur's followers launched

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Vehicles cannot smoothly pass the area under the Bhulta overpass in Narayanganj's Araihaazar, as a make-shift bazar has sprung there occupying a portion of the Dhaka-Sylhet highway. The authorities seem to have turned a blind eye. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

40 killed in India bridge collapse

Dozens injured; rescue ops underway in Gujarat

AGENCIES

At least 40 people were killed and dozens critically injured when a suspension bridge in India's western Gujarat state collapsed yesterday, government officials said.

"We can confirm that 40 people have lost their lives, many have been rescued from the river and some are still missing," said Amit Jhala, a senior administrator at the state-run hospital to where victims had been taken.

More than 400 people were on the bridge over the Machhu River in the town of Morbi at the time of the collapse, local TV channel Zee News said.

Footage broadcast by the TV channel showed dozens of people clinging onto the cables of the collapsed bridge as emergency teams struggled to rescue them, reports Reuters.

Emergency responders from neighbouring districts were sent to the scene to help with rescue efforts.

The death count could go up as several people are still feared trapped in the river, officials said.

The 230-metre historic bridge was built during British rule in the 19th century. It had been closed for renovation for six months and was reopened for the public last week.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in Gujarat for three-day visit, directed the Gujarat chief minister to mobilise teams on urgent basis for rescue work, reports The Hindu.

The Prime Minister has also announced an ex gratia

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