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DU SEXUAL HARASSMENT Student yet to get justice as probe drags on

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

A Dhaka University student, who brought an allegation of sexual harassment against a teacher in December last year, is yet to get justice as the university's anti-sexual harassment cell could not finish its probe eight months on.

An initial fact-finding committee found proof of the allegation made against Muhammad Sazzad Hossain Siddiqui, an associate professor of the peace and conflict studies department. The committee was headed by the dean of the social sciences faculty upon the vice-chancellor's direction.

Meanwhile, the anti-sexual harassment cell, which was reformed on February 23 according to the VC's orders, is yet to draw a conclusion.

Prof Zeenat Huda, of the sociology department and provost of Ruqayyah Hall, has been heading the cell.

The victim alleged the members of the cell are prolonging the investigation since she will be done with her studies in a few months. She also raised allegations of misbehaviour against them.

Speaking to The Daily Star, she said, "A few months ago, the teacher [against whom the allegation was brought] told some students that he 'would see where this investigation goes' once my studentship is over. It seems I will not get justice..."

As per the 2009 sexual harassment protection

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The city dwellers buying warm clothes from a roadside vendor in the capital's Rajabazar area as the winter season is knocking on the door. The photo was taken this week.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Qatar pays for fans' flights and hotels

REUTERS, Amsterdam

The organisers of the World Cup in Qatar are paying groups of soccer fans to travel to the tournament next month, saying on Monday they are asking them for positive comments on social media in return.

The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) confirmed the policy of inviting groups of supporters to the finals as guests after reports by Dutch public broadcaster NOS, who said on Sunday that Qatar was paying for flights and hotels for a group of 50 Dutch fans.

In return these supporters have had to

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GRAFT CASE Tarique, Zubaida face arrest warrants

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants for BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after accepting the charges brought against them in the case.

The judge also directed the officer-in-charge of Cantonment Police Station to submit a progress report on the execution of the arrest warrants by January 5.

On June 26 this year, the High Court declared Tarique and Zubaida as "fugitives" and rejected their writ petitions challenging the filing of the graft case.

The couple has been in London since 2008.

The HC also withdrew the stay order on the case filed during the caretaker

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Ministries, depts owe Power Division Tk 1,893 crore

State Minister Nasrul tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As of September this year, ministries and their departments owed the Power Division Tk 1,893 crore, State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid said yesterday.

Responding to a lawmaker's query in parliament, he also said considering the average daily gas production of 2,300 million cubic feet (mmcf), the country will be able to extract gas for the next 10.8 years.

About the arrears, Nasrul said the Local Government Division owes the Power Division the most, Tk 905.21 crore, and the ministry of disaster management Tk 395.68 crore.

Replying to a query from Awami League lawmaker Md Mozaffar Hossain, he said the authorities were able to reduce the electricity bill arrears in the last few years by strengthening supervision and carrying out various activities at the field level.

The state minister said the government has taken initiatives, including setting and monitoring annual bill arrear reduction targets in the Annual Performance Agreement, holding inter-ministerial meetings on collection of bills from different government organisations, preparing lists of defaulters and taking steps for collecting the arrears, and snapping electricity connection if necessary to collect the arrears.

He said all electricity consumers were being brought under prepaid or smart meter billing system in order to reduce the arrears.

GAS FOR 10.8 YRS

Answering a question from AL MP Shahiduzzaman Sarker, Nasrul said according to the latest estimate, July 1, 2022, the volume of proven and potential

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NOV 5 BARISHAL RALLY

AL shows strength as BNP event nears

SUSHANTA GHOSH

There is a great deal of tension over the BNP's rally in Barishal as the local Awami League men started staging showdowns ahead of the pre-scheduled event.

At least 19 BNP men were injured in the last two days after they were attacked, allegedly by the ruling party men, while campaigning for the rally scheduled on November 5.

Multiple groups of the Jubo League, the ruling party's youth front, brought out processions in the city's Sadar Road, Kashipur and Palashpur areas on Monday night.

Around 8:30pm on Monday, the AL men came face to face with the BNP men who were distributing leaflets for the upcoming rally.

"At one stage, the Jubo League men attacked us, leaving at least three of our partymen injured," said Moniruzzaman Faruk, convener of Barishal city BNP.

In a separate incident, a group of BNP men were attacked allegedly by AL men in Banaripara upazila bus station area around 2:30pm yesterday.

"A district-level senior leader and five other activists of our party were injured in the attack," said BNP's Barishal city unit member secretary Mir Jahidul Kabir.

Besides, four other BNP men were also injured in a separate attack in the upazila's Uttarpar area around half an hour later, Kabir claimed.

However, Masud Alam Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Banaripara Police Station, said he did not know anything about any such attacks.

On Monday morning, at least six other BNP activists were injured in an attack, allegedly by the Jubo League men, in Ujirpur upazila's Ichaldi Bus Stop area.

"Overcoming all the hurdles and obstruction of the Awami League, we will make our rally successful at any cost. We expect that thousands of people will join the rally," said Moniruzzaman Faruk.

The Jubo League central committee will hold a grand rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital on November 11 to mark its 50th anniversary. The organisation's leaders and activists from across the country are expected to join the programme.

"We [AL, Jubo League and Chhatra League] are bringing out processions and conducting campaigns to make our November 11 programme successful," said Gazi Naimul Hossain Litu, vice president of Barishal city AL.

"We neither obstructed the BNP, nor

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GAS PRICE HIKE Source taxes add to plight of consumers

CAB's petition to HC slams BERC

ZYMA ISLAM

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh took the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission to court to make them review their decision to hike gas prices and the High Court on Monday asked BERC why it was not doing so.

CAB, in its petition, alleged that Petrobangla was misusing its Gas Development Fund and the court asked the BERC why it was not taking action against Petrobangla.

Gas prices were hiked last June with everyone from gas stove users at homes to large factories having to pay a lot more.

According to CAB's petition, the BERC has been imposing source tax at two stages and shifting the burden of both onto consumers.

The commission's tariff order, dated June 4, 2022, states that there is a 2 percent source tax on LNG import, which adds up to 73 paise for every cubic metre of gas shipped in.

While converting the liquefied gas to gas at the stage of sales, a further 7 percent source tax is imposed. This tax adds up to Tk 3.53 per cubic metre to the price tag.

"[BERC] has applied source tax twice against the revenue requirement of Petrobangla for LNG supply. Double imposition of the same tax is illegal ...," said CAB in its petition.

It also said, "The responsibility of paying source tax is on the licencees [Petrobangla] and it should

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BUSINESS

Remittance drops to 8-month low

Despite a surge in the outflow of migrant workers, remittances to Bangladesh declined 7.4 per cent year-on-year to \$1.52 billion in October, the lowest in eight months.

Experts have blamed hundi, a cross-border illegal financial transaction system, for the drop in the remittance sent home by Bangladeshis living abroad.

STORY ON B1



A large number of people waiting in a queue in Sylhet's Companiganj UNO office as the Election Commission is collecting information on people to update its voters list. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Telescope captures the ghost of a giant star



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The ghostly remains of a giant star reveal a tapestry of colours and waves.

After a massive star's life ended in a powerful explosion some 11,000 years ago, the wispy structure of pink and orange clouds is all that remains.

When the biggest stars reach the end of their lives, they often go out with a bang, in an outburst called a supernova.

The explosions cause shockwaves that move through the surrounding gas, compressing it and creating intricate thread-like structures.

The gaseous tendrils are heated by the energy that is released, making them shine brightly, as seen in the image

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