

Five held on rape charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested five people from Dhaka and Bhola in a case filed over the gang rape of a woman in Mohammadpur's Bosila area on January 26.

The arrestees are Billal Hossain, 25, Al-Amin Hossain, 26, Sabuj, 26, Rasel alias Molla Rasel, 24, and Shafiqul Islam 26.

Deputy Commissioner of Tejgaon Division Police, HM Azimul Haque, briefed reporters at his office in the capital in this regard yesterday.

According to the police official, the 29-year-old victim travelled to Bosila from Jashore on January 25 to meet her children. However, failing to locate them or her ex-husband, she took a rickshaw from the area around 9:00pm. She was abducted by the rickshaw-puller and his associates who then raped her, the DC said.

The victim was admitted to One-stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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Booklovers, especially those with a keen interest towards graphic novels and mangas, were seen flocking towards the stall Source by Fournetsha -- who made their debut appearance at the Ekushey Boi Mela this year. Besides, China book house also garnered a lot of attention due to their pop-up book for kids and books focused on Chinese politics, religion and culture. This photo was taken in Bangla Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



AMAR EKUSHEY BOI MELA

Welcoming new cultures around the world

DIPAN NANDY

Besides local books, readers are getting the scope to know about the language, history and culture of foreign countries at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela this year.

Two stalls in particular -- China Book House and Source by Fournetsha -- are garnering a lot of attention from visitors.

There are various types of books at China Book House, but a 3D cut-out book called "Happy Chinese New Year: The Irised Kingdom" for children is probably the most interesting.

Abdur Jabbar, who took a look at the book for his nephew, said, "I want our new generation to know more about literature all around the world, which is why, I bought this book for my nephew."

China Book House also has a series of books of on the speeches of Chinese President Xi Jinping. The name of the book series is "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China". They also have book series on Chinese seasons, food culture and religions.

The books are written in English.

Sun Kangning, attaché of the Cultural Section of Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, said, "We received a warm welcome from the visitors. But, selling books isn't our top priority. The relations between Bangladesh and China are developing day by day. That's why we want Bangladeshi readers to know more about China."

Source by Fournetsha is the stall where one can find

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Proposed data protection law may bring down FDI

Say US, UK envoys

STAR REPORT

The US and British envoys in Bangladesh yesterday expressed concern over the flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) into Bangladesh if the proposed Data Protection Act is enacted, as the law may negatively affect business.

Foreign and local investors may have trouble using data freely through international tools if the DPA is enacted, they said at a discussion on "Online Freedom and Business Investment in Bangladesh", organised by the US embassy in Bangladesh and held at Dhaka's EMK Centre.

The Bangladesh market is very attractive to US investors, said American ambassador in Bangladesh Peter Haas. "For this very reason, we recently opened a Foreign Commercial Service office at the embassy."

"But at the same time, we hear apprehension from businesses that new laws and regulations will make it more difficult for them to do business here," Haas said in his written speech.

The US has concerns about the regulations on digital, social-media, and over-the-top platforms introduced by the authorities and the DPA. "Because we value our partnership with the government of Bangladesh, we have voiced these concerns directly with the government," he said.

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**We are concerned the latest draft of the DPA does not provide for an independent data oversight authority and that it includes criminal penalties.**

**PETER HAAS**  
American ambassador

**New technologies have the potential to create new markets and drive prosperity in Bangladesh... These need to be regulated in the right way.**

**ROBERT CHATTERTON DICKSON**  
British high commissioner

Youth held over killing of 10th-grader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth along with his wife have killed his girlfriend and tried to stage it as suicide, according to Rapid Action Battalion.

Rab came up with the information yesterday after arresting Bijoy Rahman, 19, from Dhaka's Wari area, in connection with the murder of a 10th-grader in Munshiganj.

Earlier, law enforcers arrested Bijoy's wife, who studied at the same school as the 10th grader.

Bijoy had developed a relationship with the 10th-grader while being married to his wife, said Rab's media wing director Khandaker Al Moin at a press briefing in the capital.

After the girl found out about it, she sent screenshots of her conversations with Bijoy to his wife, said the official.

According to Rab, Bijoy and his wife planned to "teach her a lesson". Bijoy's wife called the girl to the

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Identify culprits, ensure punishment

Rights defenders denounce attack on Rizwana Hasan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR), a regional network of human rights defenders, through a press statement yesterday expressed deep concern over the alleged assault targeting environmentalist Syeda Rizwana Hasan and her team in the Akbarashah area in Chattogram on January 23.

Rizwana, the chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), and her team including Aliur Rahman, an environment journalist, were allegedly attacked by the followers of Jahurul Islam alias Jashim, a councillor of Uttar Pahartali ward, under Chattogram City Corporation on that very day, it mentioned.

The statement, signed by SAHR's co chairperson Dr Roshmi Goswami and bureau member Dr P Saravanamuttu, urged the government to ensure an independent impartial and prompt investigation into the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice, and ensure reparations for those affected.

The organisation also called on the authorities to guarantee that environmental activists are able to carry out their work freely and without interference or harassment, given the crucial importance of work in ensuring climate justice, and the survival of



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DELIMITING CONSTITUENCIES

EC in dilemma over using latest census

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission on Tuesday will finalise its decision on whether it will use population data of the 2011 census or wait for the final report of the latest one to delimit parliamentary constituencies.

The commission is yet to begin delimitation of constituencies, a vital job ahead of the next national election, due to unavailability of the final report.

According to the delimitation law, boundaries of Jatiya Sangsad constituencies should be redrawn considering administrative convenience, each constituency should be geographically intact, and population be distributed as per the final census report.

A top EC official said the election commissioners will sit in a meeting on Tuesday to discuss how to delimit areas. At the meeting, they might take the decision to use 2011's data, as they want to complete the process by June.

If they wait for the final report, they will not be able to complete the job by June, officials said.

EC sources said the commission might put emphasis on maintaining administrative convenience and keeping areas intact while redrawing constituencies this time.

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir yesterday said they will hold a meeting of commissioners on Tuesday for primary discussion on finalising how delimitation work would progress.

"The law first cites administrative convenience and then talks about keeping geographical areas intact. It puts less emphasis on population



distribution," he said.

Alamgir said it is tough to redraw constituencies aiming for equal distribution of population for each constituency.

Referring to delimitation ahead of the 11th parliamentary election, Alamgir said, "You will see that there were three lakh people in one constituency and 12 lakh in another. If we want to distribute the population equally, then it will be tough for us to maintain administrative convenience."

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BANK EXAM QUESTION LEAK  
Court accepts charges against Buet teacher

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted the charges against Buet Prof Nikhil Ranjan Dhar in a case filed over the question paper leak of bank recruitment exams in November 2021.

After accepting the supplementary charge sheet submitted against Nikhil Dhar, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shahidul Islam issued an arrest warrant against him.

The magistrate directed the officer-in-charge of Keshobpur Police Station of Jashore to submit by March 9 the progress report on the execution of the arrest warrant.

On January 31, Prof Nikhil was charged with involvement in bank recruitment question paper leak even though the investigation officer (IO) had earlier dropped his name from the charge sheet.

IO Shamim Ahmed, a sub-inspector of the Detective Branch (DB), on November 16 last year submitted a charge sheet, excluding Prof Nikhil as an accused.

Prof Nikhil was charged after a Dhaka court summoned IO Shamim to show cause why and how

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BANGLADESH JUTE CORP

64pc of its land grabbed

RASHIDUL HASAN

Sixty-four percent of the total land of Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) remains grabbed by different individuals and organisations, a parliamentary body was informed yesterday.

BJC informed the parliamentary standing committee on the textile and jute ministry that the total amount of land of BJC is 295.17 acres. Of the total land, 190.04 acres of land remain grabbed, while 105.13 acres of land remain under the jurisdiction of the government organisation.

At least 863 persons, including a former state minister, have grabbed these properties.

This information was obtained from a report

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Waiting for justice even after a decade

Say organisers of Gonojagoron Mancha about activists killed by militants

DU CORRESPONDENT

The organisers of Gonojagoron Mancha yesterday expressed disappointment, as they did not get justice for the murder of their fellows by militant outfits even after a decade.

They demanded the killers be brought to justice immediately during a rally in front of the capital's National Museum to commemorate the platform's tenth anniversary.

They also called for banning religion-based politics in Bangladesh.

"It is deeply regrettable that many free-thinking activists of the mass awakening have been brutally murdered. However, the killers have yet to be apprehended. This culture of injustice hurts us," said freedom fighter Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu.

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A woman squints her eyes in discomfort, as many like her, desperate to get daily essentials at a subsidised rate from an OMS truck, push her from the back. With the rising prices of essentials, many have to go to great lengths to get these goods to ensure their family's survival. This photo was taken near the capital's Mohammadpur Bus Stand yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON