



Phulpori gets to stay in a dorm room

IU suspends 5 Chhatra League students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Phulpori Khatun, who was tortured by Chhatra League leaders and activists at the Islamic University, has sought residency at a dormitory of the university.

She wants to stay in room 501 of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Hall.

“The process to allocate her the seat may take a day or two,” said Prof Miah Rashiduzzaman, provost of the dormitory.

The university authorities yesterday suspended the five students who tortured Phulpori.

Of them, Sanjida Chowdhury Antora was the Chhatra League vice president at the university while Halima Akhtar Urmi, Ishrat Jahan Mim, Tabassum Islam, and Mawabia Jahan were activists.

The decision was made after the High Court on March 1 ordered the university to suspend them and to withdraw the provost at Deshratna

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With their sick children, parents wait at the outpatient department of Khulna Shishu Hospital yesterday morning for doctors to return to work following the postponement of their strike in protest against the attack on a fellow physician.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Doctors of Khulna resume work, puts strike on hold

STAR REPORT

Physicians in the Khulna district yesterday postponed their strike and rejoined hospitals after observing three days of work abstention in protest of the attack on a fellow doctor.

Leaders of the Khulna unit of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) said they decided to put the strike on hold for a week after receiving assurances from the relevant authorities that action would be taken over the incident.

The strike caused immense public suffering as physicians halted services at all government and private hospitals in the district, except for emergency care.

On February 25, Dr Sheikh Nishat Abdullah, head of the Burn and Plastic Surgery Department of Sheikh Abu Naser Specialised Hospital, was assaulted, allegedly by a patient’s relatives including Assistant Sub-Inspector Naim at a nursing home in Sheikhpura of Khulna city during a surgery.

In a press conference at the Khulna Press Club on Thursday, ASI Naim alleged that the physician had tried to “seduce” his wife while she went to him for their child’s treatment. His wife also lodged a case against the physician at Sonadanga Police Station.

Talking to reporters on the same day, Dr Sheikh Nishat Abdullah, dismissed the allegation, demanding proof.

He also lodged another case accusing the ASI Naim, his wife, and their collaborators.

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Five held for murder, rape of teen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Police have arrested five men in connection with the rape and murder of a teenage girl in Mymensingh’s Phulbaria.

A team of the Detective Branch arrested Shahid Mia, 38, Alamgir Hossain, 28, Shahjahan, 26, Masum Billah alias Fazar Ali, 22, and Rasel Mia, 19, in Mymensingh and Tangail on Friday, said police.

All of them are workers of a local brick kiln, said Masum Ahmed Bhuiyan, superintendent of Mymensingh police, at a press conference yesterday.

On February 24 evening, the 14-year-old victim went out of her home but did not return. Her body was found hanging from a tree adjacent to her home on the next day.

Her mother Hasna Begum lodged a case with Phulbaria Police Station against unnamed persons.

Of the arrestees, Rasel and Alamgir recorded their confessional statements before a Mymensingh court yesterday afternoon. The court then sent them to jail, said Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of the Detective Branch of Mymensingh police.

Police produced the rest of the arrestees before a court with a seven-day remand prayer, but the court granted two-day remand each. They were taken to police custody, the OC further said.

10 die on roads

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people, including two students, were killed and scores injured in six road accidents yesterday.

In Chakaria of Cox’s Bazar, five people were killed and four others injured when a bus of Border Guard Bangladesh collided with a pick-up yesterday morning.

The dead are Mohammad Hamid, 32, and Jahangir Alam, 25, and Nazrul Islam, 34, Nargis Akhter, 13, and Mohammad Russell, 30.

Eyewitnesses said the Cox’s Bazar-bound bus collided head-on with a pick-up around 9:45am at Jangalia gate, a border area between Chakaria of Cox’s Bazar and Lohagara of Chattogram.

Three people died on the spot and all the victims were passengers of the pick-up, they said, adding that Nargis and Russell died on their way to hospitals in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, UNB reports, the accident took place when the pick-up was trying to overtake a motorcycle and collided with the bus.

Emon Kanti Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Chiringa Highway Police Station, confirmed the incident. “Both the vehicles are in our custody. After completing the legal procedures, the bodies were handed over to families.”

In Boda and Debiganj upazilas of Panchagarh, at least three devotees were killed in two road accidents when they were returning home from congregations.

At least 77 were injured in the accidents. Of them, 15 were sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition, said police.

Tamiz Uddin, 60, of Baragach area, and Hasibul Islam, 32, of Pitha Khawa area in Tentulia, were killed and 51 others injured

when the front wheel of a bus burst in Chandanbari area of Boda, said Boda Police Station OC Sujoy Kumar.

Swapan Ali, 25, of Tentulia, was killed and 26 others injured when a truck hit their bus from behind in Laxmirhat area of Debiganj, said Debiganj Police Station OC Jamal Hossain.

They were returning home by bus from Debiganj yesterday afternoon after



The pickup truck involved in the accident in Cox’s Bazar that left three dead.

attending the final prayers of the three-day congregation, the OC added.

In the capital’s Arambagh area, a college student was killed after a microbus hit his motorcycle yesterday morning.

The dead is Arafat Islam Tanvir, 20. He was a first-year student at Abudharr Ghifari College.

He died while undergoing treatment at

Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 9:30am yesterday.

Assistant In-Charge of DMCH Police Outpost Masud Mia said the body was kept in the morgue for autopsy.

Tanvir’s elder brother Salman Islam Sakib said, “Tanvir and two others were returning from an event early yesterday on a motorcycle. Tanvir was driving the bike. They fell off the motorcycle after being hit



Japan just found 7,000 islands it didn’t know it had

CNN ONLINE

Japan has recounted its islands – and discovered it has 7,000 more than it previously thought.

Digital mapping by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) recently found there to be 14,125 islands in Japanese territory, more than double the figure of 6,852 that has been in official use since a 1987 report by Japan’s Coast Guard.

However, the GSI this week stressed that the new figure reflected advances in surveying technology and the detail of the maps used for the count – it did not change the overall area of land in Japan’s possession.

It said that while there is no international agreement on how to count islands, it had used the same size criterion as the previous survey 35 years ago.

That entailed counting all naturally occurring land areas with a circumference of at least 100 meters (330 feet).

The new number does not include any artificially reclaimed land.

The islands surrounding Japan have been at the heart of several territorial disputes.

Japan lays claim to the Russian-held southern

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DARING NIGHTLONG ROBBERY

Six highway robbers arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six men have been arrested over last month’s shocking robbery incident, in which criminals held hostage the staff of a bus and drove it around Dhaka all night, picking up passengers – whose pockets they emptied along the way.

A team of the Detective Branch of police (Gulshan division) apprehended them from different parts of Savar on Friday, DB Chief Harun or Rashid told a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre yesterday.

They are – Fakhrul Kabir Shanto, 29, Monir Hossain, 30, Imran, 22, Mujahid alias Babu, 28, Rajib alias Asif, 21, and Sunny, 26.

According to the DB chief, a bus of Risat Paribahan left Khulna’s Sonadanga with passengers on the morning of February 12 and reached Gazipur’s Shibbari in the afternoon.

From there it went to Nabinagar for a return trip. Due to lack of passengers, the driver parked the bus close to Parbata Cinema Hall and fell asleep in the back with his assistant and supervisor.

Around 12:30am, a group of 8-10 robbers entered the vehicle and beat up the staffers with iron pipes and stole their valuables. They were gagged, blindfolded, and had their limbs bound before being put in the back seat.

One of the gang members then took out the bus and drove it through Gabtali-Asadgate-Newmarket-Ajimpur-Jatrabari-Kachpur posing as passengers and staffers. They picked up passengers and robbed them along the

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A Ukrainian armoured personnel carrier (APC) rides by a road in Bakhmut, in the Donetsk region, on Friday. The head of Russia’s Wagner mercenary group said its forces had “practically encircled” the eastern Ukraine city, which has seen the fiercest fighting of Moscow’s invasion.

PHOTO: AFP

Fight at wedding leaves groom’s father dead

UNB, *Nilphamari*

A man was killed in Nilphamari on his son’s wedding day after a fight broke out between two sides of the wedding parties due to a shortage of meat dish served at the feast.

The incident happened in Jaldhaka upazila’s Bagulagari Ershad Bazar area under Nilphamari district.

The deceased, Nuru Mia, was a resident of Hajirhat area of Rangpur.

Police have arrested two people, including the bride’s father.

According to locals, the bride’s family invited a total of 100 guests, but 250 people attended the ceremony from the groom’s side, which led to a food shortage.

Quoting witnesses, police said that an argument started between the two parties due to a “shortage of meat” that escalated into a serious fight.

Nuru Mia fell to the ground at one point and died on his way to the hospital.

Firoz Kabir, officer-in-charge of Jaldhaka Police Station, said the body was sent to the morgue for an autopsy.

“Legal steps will be taken based on the results of the autopsy,” he said.

Both sides are preparing to file cases.