

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES University student sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A university student has been sent to jail on pornography charges for collecting nude images of an American underage girl.

Police arrested the 19 year-old Md Samir on August 21 from his Sonadanga house in Khulna. When produced before a court, he was placed on a two day remand. He was sent to jail after the remand period on Saturday.

Saiful Islam, additional deputy commissioner (transnational crime) of the CTTC, said on July 26, an official of the US Embassy in Dhaka filed a general diary with the Gulshan police station after the mother of the 13 year-old filed a complaint with Homeland Security Investigations about the incident.

The US authorities notified the US Embassy in Dhaka prompting it to file the GD.

According to the GD, a Bangladeshi "potential sex predator" collected child sexual abuse material (CSAM) or child pornography material from the child.

Acting on the GD, the ADC said police found 164 photos of at least 30 girls from three North American countries from the youth's laptop and cellphone. Samir, a student of computer science department at a university in Rajshahi,

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With no alternative employment opportunities in the region, around 27,000 stone crushers at Burimari land port in Lalmonirhat continue to risk their lives on a regular basis in exchange of meager wages. PHOTO: STAR

'We are starving'

Hosnabad tea garden workers continue strike for arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Around 470 tea workers from Hosnabad tea garden in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar district are continuing to strike and protest for the 10th day, pushing their demands for arrears and rations.

Malek Mia, general secretary of Hosnabad Tea Garden Panchayat, said the weekly wage and rations are paid to the workers every Thursday, but the payments have now been halted for two Thursdays in a row. "We are starving," he said.

"We wanted to protest in Sreemangal town today (yesterday). However, we wanted to give the authorities concerned more time. But if our demands are not met, we will take a position on the road," he added.

Lakshmi Karmakar, a

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Working hard, risking wellbeing... all for Tk 400

Daily struggles of stone crushers

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Despite going through the arduous task of stone crushing, along with loading and unloading, about 40,000 labourers at Lalmonirhat's Burimari and Kurigram's Sonahat land ports are deprived of fair wages.

Talking to The Daily Star, some workers said they receive a wage of Tk 400 for a day's work from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Their earnings are insufficient to provide for their families, contribute to their children's education, and meet other basic needs. On days when the work is stopped, they either have to starve

or borrow from others. Also, they do not get any additional benefits aside from their wages.

Sources from the Sangjukta Bramik Federation disclosed that the Burimari land port in Patgram upazila hosts 27,000 labourers engaged in stone crushing, while the Sonahat land port in Bhorungamari upazila employs 13,000 workers. At least 20 percent of these workers are women.

Monir Hossain, a 50 year-old labourer at Sonahat, told The Daily Star that they are toiling hard amid constant risk of "silicosis" disease.

"If there had been other job alternatives in the area, I would

not have worked here," he added.

Nazrul Islam, another labourer at the Burimari land port, echoed Monir, saying, "Stone dust enters our lungs through the nose and mouth while working, and it causes deadly silicosis among the workers."

"Many of our coworkers already died from silicosis, and many others are still fighting for their lives. Machine owners never help us financially with our treatment, and they ignore us when we demand fair wages," he added.

Nur Islam, owner of a stone-crushing machine at Burimari land port, said the number of workers in the region is higher

than the demand. As there is no alternative employment, they work there at low wages. More than 2,000 stone-crushing machines are operated there, each employing 12-25 workers.

"If other machine owners raise the wages, I will also do the same," he said.

Moniruzzaman Monir, general secretary of Sangjukta Bramik Federation in Lalmonirhat, said they are trying to unite stone-crushing workers on a platform in order to press home their demand for a daily wage of Tk 700.

If the demands are not met, the platform will launch a movement, he added.

2 die from electrocution in Munshiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Two electrical workers died from electrocution while cleaning electricity poles in Munshiganj yesterday.

Deceased Tula Mia (41) was the son of Gani Mia of Baudar village in Mymensingh, and Palash (40) was the son of late Sheetal Mia of Jalchatra village in Tangail.

The incident took place at a housing company called Nimtola Housing Ltd. in the Mirzakanda area of Kayin Union

around 5pm.

Kayin UP Chairman Ashraf Ali said that the two victims had been working at Nimtola Housing Company for about 5 years. They got electrocuted while cleaning an electricity pole on Sunday afternoon.

Later, they died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Officer-in-Charge of Sirajdikan Police Station, Md. Mujahidul Islam, said, "We will take legal action after talking to the family of the deceased."

BTRC official held over 'rape, blackmail'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a deputy director of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) after a woman filed a case against him alleging rape and blackmail.

BTRC Deputy Director Sunjib Kumer Singh was arrested on Friday night in connection with the case filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, said Parvez Islam, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station.

Sunjib was taken to court on Saturday with a remand petition, and the court permitted police to question him in jail for one day.

Sunjib lives in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area and worked for the BTRC's Legal and Licensing division.

According to the case statement, Sunjib had an intimate relationship with the complainant since 2013.

The victim alleged that the accused recorded some of their intimate moments without consent.

He blackmailed her with those videos and photos when she wanted to end the relationship, the case statement further reads.

Sunjib then raped her several times and tortured her, reads the case statement.

On August 15, Sunjib called the woman to his Dhanmondi home and hit her with a bottle with an intention to kill her, it added.

The woman managed to leave the house and filed a case with the Dhanmondi Police Station.

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Crumbling roads pose accident risks in Habiganj

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Continuous downpour over the past few days have left connecting roads of a concrete bridge in Ajmiriganj upazila of Habiganj in a dilapidated state.

Local residents expressed concerns about potential occurrence of a major accident at any moment.

Anamul Haque Milad, a journalist from the upazila, said several hundreds of vehicles – including motorcycles, buses, CNG-run auto-rickshaws, easy bikes, cargo trucks and pick-ups – use this bridge every day from upazila headquarters to Ajmiriganj-Banikachong via Jalsukha road and Shibpasha road.

Large potholes have developed on both sides of the road connecting the bridge following heavy showers, he added.

The same situation have been persisting since the last three years during the monsoon, resulting in accidents.

Although the link roads have been repaired several times, they have broken down yet again.



This correspondent visited the area and found several large potholes on those roads.

Mifta Mia from Shibpasha village said they travel to the upazila headquarters through the local road every day. In the present circumstance, they fear that accident may happen any time.

Abu Bakkar of Jalsukha and Haque Miah of Bhirat village said this is the only bridge to exit and enter Ajmiriganj upazila headquarters. They shared that now they have to use the road amid fear.

Similarly, Takbir Mia, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, said every day he takes passengers to and from the district and neighbouring upazilas through this road.

"We are afraid of accidents... specially during nights," he said.

Shakil Mohammad Faisal, executive engineer of the Roads and Highways Department, did not receive calls when this correspondent tried to contact him.

Ajmiriganj Upazila Parishad Chairman Mortuza Hasan said, "I informed the matter to the executive engineer of the Roads and Highway Department. Necessary steps will be taken soon."

"শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ"

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ

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পরিচালকের কার্যালয়

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