

Two HSTU students expelled for 1yr Probe finds involvement of sexual harassment

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

The authorities of Hajece Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur have expelled two students academically for a year and permanently from dormitory after a probe body found their involvement in sexual harassment of two girls on the campus.

The expelled students were Md Shakhwat Hossain Sohag, a student of Mechanical Engineering Department, and Rifuzar Rahman Roni, a student of Economics Department.

Two separate complaints were filed by the victim female students of the university against Sohag and Roni on August 2 and August 28 respectively, after the incidents occurred on the campus.

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Even though floodwaters surrounded the homesteads this year, they remained unaffected. Neighbouring flood victims also found shelter in these raised homesteads. The photo was taken from Talpatti Char in Khuniagach, Lalmonirhat recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Killed for Tk 5 lakh Nine-year-old girl found dead two days after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police recovered the body of a nine-year-old girl in Tangail's Sakhipur upazila yesterday, two days after she was abducted.

The deceased -- Samia, daughter of Ranju Miah from Diriyapur village -- was a student in third grade at Dariyapur Majhichhala Government Primary School.

She was found dead in a drain in a bushy area, half a kilometre off her house, around 1:00pm, said Ansar Ali, chairman of Dariyapur Union Parishad.

The girl's father filed a case with Sakhipur Police Station in this regard yesterday.

Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Sakhipur Police Station, told The Daily Star that they were working to trace and arrest the culprits.

According to the case report, Samia went to Rabindranath, the headmaster of the school, about a kilometre from her home, around 7:00am on Wednesday for private tuition.

After finishing the tutoring session, she was returning home with a few of her classmates. On the way, when her friends stopped at a shop, she continued her journey home.

As Samia was not back home on time, her mother Rupa Begum called the headmaster and was informed that her daughter had left long ago. Later, when she went out to look for Samia, she found the girl's shoes lying near their house.

After some time, she received an audio message on her phone, demanding a ransom of Tk 5 lakh for Samia's release.

The audio message said, "Your daughter is fine and in Tangail. You will get her if you pay Tk 5 lakh by today. Do not report the matter to the police or anyone in the area. If informed, we will harm your daughter."

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Two brothers -- Munna and Sajjadul -- return with smiles on their faces after a successful expedition at the beel. Due to rising prices of commodities, their mother had asked them to collect water lilies. The two were overjoyed with the task and now return with enough water lilies to eat for two days. The photo was taken yesterday in Khulna's Parhaji village.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DENGUE OUTBREAK

6-year-old girl dies as cases rise in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

A six-year-old girl died of dengue fever in Kushtia yesterday.

Tanha, daughter of Makhles Uddin from Satarpara village in Daulatpur upazila's Aria union, passed away while she was being transferred from Mirpur Upazila Health Complex to the 250-bed Kushtia General Hospital in morning.

"Tanha was admitted to the hospital on Thursday afternoon. Later, she was referred to Kushtia General Hospital after her condition deteriorated on

Friday morning, and she died on the way to the hospital," said Dr Piyush Kumar Saha of Mirpur Upazila Health Complex.

Kushtia is witnessing an increase in daily dengue cases. Yesterday morning, 30 patients were admitted to the 250-bed Kushtia General Hospital. Another 12 people were admitted in a span of 24 hours, said Dr Taposh Kumar Sarkar, resident medical officer of the hospital.

Every day, on average, 15 dengue patients are admitted to the hospital. The hospital authority is struggling to treat all these patients, he added.

Prime accused in Cox's Bazar gang-rape case arrested

UNB, Cox's Bazar

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) on Thursday arrested the prime accused in a case over the gang rape of two teenage girls at Kalatoli Cottage zone in Cox's Bazar district town, that took place on Monday night.

The arrestee is Monirul Islam alias Harbodol, 35, son of Nur Ahmed of Ghonapara area of Cox's Bazar municipality.

Earlier on Tuesday, police also arrested Riyad, 30, in connection with his alleged involvement in the crime.

Tipped off, a team of RAB-15 conducted a drive in the Rubber Garden area of Ramu Upazila on Thursday afternoon and arrested Monirul, Senior Assistant Director of RAB-15, Abu Salam Chowdhury said in a press briefing yesterday.

He said that the two teenage girls, who went to Cox's Bazar from Dhaka to perform dance at a programme, were reportedly gang raped by a group of miscreants at Rajon Cottage, in front of Kalatoli Cultural Centre in the Cox's Bazar district town.

On Tuesday, the

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FLOOD IN LALMONIRHAT

A relief for victims

Homesteads of 525 families elevated in two char unions along Teesta riverbed

SDILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Residents of two shoal areas along the Teesta riverbed in Lalmonirhat used to endure the hardships of flooding. This year, the situation is quite different. Floodwaters failed to breach their elevated homesteads.

Locals with the help of a NGO, elevated their homesteads by depositing earth ahead of this year's monsoon, which prevented them from being affected by floods.

Among the beneficiaries of this initiative is Hawa Begum from Talpatti Char in the Khuniagach union, Sadar upazila. The 40-year-old possesses no assets but a homestead on five decimals of land. Over the past couple of years, she, like others in her situation, endured significant hardships during flooding. Fortunately, this year, her raised homestead saved her from the troubles she endures every year.

Similar to Hawa Begum, this initiative has come to the aid of Rokhana Begum, 35, Rupali Begum, 40, Nasima Begum, 38, and Rabeya Begum, 42, all of whom own homesteads on the same char.

These homesteads were elevated

approximately four feet above ground level with the support of a non-governmental organisation (NGO). Fruit and vegetable gardens, as well as trees, were also planted on these. Even though floodwaters surrounded the plinths of these homesteads this year, they remained unaffected. Neighbouring flood victims also found shelter in these raised homesteads.

Hawa Begum expressed her



gratitude, saying, "We are now safe from floods thanks to this initiative. Previously, we had to abandon our homes and seek shelter every year during floods. Now, we can live safely at home during floods and even rear cows and goats."

Similar sentiments were echoed by Saleha Begum, 46, Rahima Begum, 40, and Jahana Begum, 45, who were also provided with elevated homesteads in clusters at

Rajpur Char in the upazila.

Mofazzal Hossain, chairman of Rajpur Union Parishad, credited NAZIR, the NGO, for their efforts in raising these homesteads. He emphasised the urgent need for more homesteads to be elevated to benefit the residents of the char.

Khairuzzaman Mandal, chairman of Khuniagach Union Parishad, echoed this sentiment, noting that approximately 60 percent of people in his union are flood-affected.

In these remote areas, there are no embankments to save the locals from floods, lamented the public representatives.

Through the Extended Community Climate Change-Flood project, a total of 525 homesteads in 20 villages of Rajpur and Khuniagach unions in Lalmonirhat have been elevated along the Teesta River shoal.

Each beneficiary received an investment of Tk 25,000 for raising their homesteads. NAZIR implemented the project with funding from the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). Beneficiary families were also

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Govt equipment neglected for years in Habiganj

Authorities accused of wasting public funds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Government equipment worth crores of taka are lying neglected, without adequate maintenance by municipal authorities in Ajmeriganj of Habiganj.

According to municipality sources, a road roller, a mini truck, and a second road roller were allocated by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development at different times, which have been left abandoned for a long time.

To make matters worse, many components of those machines have been stolen over time.

"In 2012, a road roller was used in the development works on the Ajmeriganj-Baniachong road for only a few days. At that time, the roller was damaged in an accident, and since then it has been left abandoned in a field in front of Shhibpasha Union Parishad," said Mifta Mia, a resident of Shhibpasha.

"The other road roller and a mini truck have also been left idle in front of the Ajmeriganj municipal office for a long time," he said.

The machines weren't used for anything over the years,

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Three killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three people, including a woman, were killed in a head-on collision between a van and a CNG auto-rickshaw in the Chanbhanga area of Chunarughat-Shyestaganj road of Habiganj. The incident took place on Thursday night, around 10 pm. Three others were injured in the accident.

The deceased are CNG driver Jasim Mia, 25, of Rajapur village of Deorgach union; Rumel Ahmed, 55, of Boro Ladia village; Najma Akhter, 40, wife of Abdur Rahim of Kalishiri village.



Chunarughat Police Station OC Md Rashedul Haque said the driver of the CNG auto-rickshaw was going to Chunarughat upazila Sadar with five passengers on Thursday night. The van's driver was going from Chunarughat to Olipur area of Habiganj Sadar Upazila. The two vehicles collided, leaving Rumel Ahmed and Nazma Begum dead on the spot. Jasim Mia died on the way to the hospital.

The three other passengers, who were injured, were rescued and taken to the hospital. Among them, a woman named Khadija Akhtar was sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital in critical condition. The other two are currently undergoing treatment at Habiganj's district hospital, he added.



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