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JU failed to make campus women-friendly

Says UGC probe report

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Despite repeated incidents of sexual harassment on Jahangirnagar University campus, the authorities are yet to take any effective steps to make the campus women-friendly, finds a UGC probe body.

The three-member committee of the University Grants Commission recommended taking exemplary punishment against all the teachers and students involved in sexual harassment incidents.

The committee was formed after a woman was raped on campus on February 3 night. Her husband was confined to a room of Mir Mosharrif Hossain Hall during the incident.

Six people, including at least four members of JU Chhatra League, were involved in the incident, according to a case statement.

At least two of them, including key accused JU BCL leader Mostafizur Rahman, 28, had been staying in the dormitory illegally. Another accused Mamunur Rashid Mamun, 44, was an outsider.

In the report, the probe body mentioned that the university authorities on several occasions issued notices asking those who illegally stayed in dorms to vacate, but failed to take necessary action against them.

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Brick traders occupy a large section of a road next to the Sultana Kamal Bridge in Demra. Commercial vehicles illegally parked there further narrows the road.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Shakib 'opts out' of SL series

Aliss the new face in T20Is

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan rested from the upcoming multi-format series against Sri Lanka at home as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced squads for the white-ball series with a number of changes.

The squads were named for the three T20Is and the first two ODIs, with the squads for the third one-day and the two-match Test series to be announced later.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, BCB cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus said, "Shakib had asked to be rested from Sri Lanka's tour of Bangladesh. He said wanted to focus on domestic cricket at the moment."

Shakib, who has been troubled by an eyesight issue lately, showed form with the bat as he blasted a 31-ball 69



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PREETI URANG'S DEATH

Ashfaque, wife placed on 4-day remand

ASK, MSF call for justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Executive Editor of The Daily Star Syed Ashfaque Haque and his wife Tania Khondoker on a four-day police remand for questioning over the death of a teenage house help, who fell from their residential building in the capital's Mohammadpur last week.

Metropolitan Magistrate Saifur Rahman passed the order after police sought a 10-day remand for the couple.

Last Wednesday, when they were first produced before the court in the case, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasibul Haque rejected the police petition for a five-day remand, and asked the investigation officer to question them at the jail gates instead.

Mohammadpur Police Station Sub-inspector Nazmul Hasan quizzed both suspects on Monday, and submitted a report before the court yesterday along with a 10-day remand petition.

In his submission for the remand, the IO said the couple has a CCTV camera inside their house but police have not found any memory card, and that they need to further interrogate the accused to trace the memory card.

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CONFLICT IN MYANMAR

Bangladesh needs to handle the situation smartly

Say experts, warn of regional players going to extremes to protect their interests

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka should not fall into the trap of global and regional players over the Myanmar conflict, which has caused casualties inside Bangladesh, said foreign policy and security analysts.

The government needs to have a multi-layered diplomacy in place, which includes engaging the

Arakan Army and Chin National Front that are dominating in Chin and Rakhine states bordering Bangladesh, alongside engagement with the Myanmar military, they said.

It should form an advisory group for consultation on the Myanmar issue for formulating strategies, they said at a discussion titled "Myanmar Spillover: How worried should Bangladesh be?" organised by The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

The fighting between the Myanmar military and Arakan Army has forced some 330 Myanmar security forces and their family members into Bangladesh, while stray mortar

shells and bullets landing in Bangladesh have created panic among locals.

Thousands of Myanmar nationals, including the Rohingya, were displaced, and there is a risk of new influx. Against this backdrop, the Border Guard Bangladesh has strengthened its capabilities along the border.

Bangladesh has sheltered over a million Rohingyas.

No repatriation has taken place. The situation would be complicated due to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar, they said.

Security analyst Sakhawat Hussain said Bangladesh made mistakes in past by engaging with Myanmar bilaterally on the

Rohingya repatriation. "We can see clear possibilities of Arakan Army taking full control of Rakhine state by the year end, and the Myanmar military is now in a bad state."

"At this stage of time, we should go for diplomacy at track-2, track-3, and track-4 levels. We should engage the National Unity

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FARMERS' PROTEST

Indian police trying to stop march to New Delhi

REUTERS, New Delhi

Police in India yesterday fired tear gas at hundreds of farmers and their supporters during a protest march towards New Delhi to pressure the government to honour a promise it made in 2021 to pay more for crops.

The march is the latest in a series of similar protests which began more than two years ago and comes months ahead of national elections in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will seek a third term, with farmers forming an influential voting bloc.

Farmers had headed south for Delhi a day after talks between farm unions and ministers failed to secure commitments to provide minimum prices for a range of crops.

"The government has not been able to make a strong decision on anything ... We thought that giving time is not suitable now," Sarwan Singh Pandher, the general secretary of Punjab Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh

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Intruders storm Grameen Kalyan, Telecom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two offices at the Grameen Telecom building, which houses some non-profit organisations founded by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, witnessed an unlawful entry by a group of people on Monday and yesterday, spreading panic among those who worked there.

Albeit for a short period, they had unlawfully taken control of the companies, said AKM Moinuddin Chowdhury, managing director of Grameen Kalyan.

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AKM Moinuddin Chowdhury
Managing Director, Grameen Kalyan

On Monday, he narrated, about 11 people in an SUV and a car first entered the reception hall of the building at 4:26pm, followed by another 24 at 4:32pm and 4:54pm.

As per rules, visitors are required to show their identities, state the purpose of their visit and name the persons they are going to meet at the reception area. Accordingly, the officer on duty requested them to furnish it with the information.

One of the people identified himself as someone affiliated with Grameen Bank and said they would go to the offices of Grameen Kalyan and Grameen Telecom. The front desk asked them to contact the offices of the two entities.

But without giving the officer any time, they

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Saraswati Puja today

BSS, Dhaka

Saraswati Puja will be celebrated across the country tomorrow amid festivity, and religious fervor.

This particular religious festival is an ode to Saraswati – the goddess of knowledge, music, art and culture.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate messages, greeted the Hindu community on the occasion.

Saraswati Puja or Basant Panchami falls on the fifth of the Bengali month Maagh every year, when Hindus worship the goddess to mark the coming of spring.

Traditionally, children are introduced to education and learning on this day – a tradition called "Hatekhor".

Major Hindu temples, schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions stage the festival with traditional gaiety and religious fervor.

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Campaign posters of candidates in the national polls, held on January 7, are still hanging over Washpur-Basila Buddhijibi Road in Dhaka. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

21 personalities to get Ekushey Padak 2024

A&E DESK

The government yesterday announced the recipients of Ekushey Padak 2024 upon 21 distinguished citizens in recognition of their momentous contributions in various fields of the nation.



The Ekushey Padak – the second-highest civilian award in Bangladesh – is bestowed annually by the government upon individuals who have made noteworthy contributions in the fields of literature, culture, social service, journalism, and other sectors of national significance.

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs revealed the names of the awardees this year, which include Language Movement martyr Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chowdhury (posthumous), and freedom fighter Hatem Ali Mia (posthumous).

Meanwhile, Jalal Uddin Khan (posthumous), freedom fighter Kalyani Ghosh, Bidit Lal Das (posthumous), Andrew Kishore (posthumous), and Shuvro Dev were awarded for music.

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