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SEXUAL HARASSMENT

JnU student writes to the president for remedy

Seeks action against teacher, dept head

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jagannath University student yesterday appealed to the president to ensure exemplary punishment to the teachers and their accomplices who allegedly sexually harassed her, threatened her and then failed her in an exam for filing a complaint in this regard.

In a letter to President Mohammed Shahabuddin, who is also the university's chancellor, the student also demanded that a special committee be formed to investigate the incident and hold the university accountable for it.

She wrote that in December 2021, she was sexually harassed by a teacher of her department and when she filed a complaint, she faced retaliation from the department head and others. They threatened her with expulsion from the university and even death.

The Daily Star has seen a copy of the

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The exit ramp of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway at the FDC Gate near the capital's Karwan Bazar was opened to traffic yesterday.

PHOTO: NAIMUR RAHMAN

SCBA POLLS VIOLENCE

6 SC lawyers get bail from High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to six Supreme Court lawyers, including Nahid Sultana Juthi, wife of Jubo League Chairman Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash, and Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, former Supreme Court Bar Association secretary, in a case filed over violence centring the recent SCBA polls.

Juthi and three others got eight weeks' anticipatory bail, while Kazal and Mohammad Osman Chowdhury, who are now in jail, got ad interim bail from different HC benches in the case.

Three other lawyers, who secured anticipatory bail, are former deputy attorney general Shakila Rawshan Jahan, former assistant attorney general Zakir Hossain Masud and Fatema Moushumi Kabita, their lawyer Sheikh Awsafur Rahman told The Daily Star.

He said his clients, who are practicing lawyers, were not involved in the violence.

The HC bench of Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman and Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolon delivered the orders of bail after the accused lawyers filed two petitions seeking anticipatory bail in the case.

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'Should I paint the vehicles?'

Says Quader about rundown buses on city streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said he sees no government negligence over rundown buses plying city streets.

"Should I paint the vehicles?" the minister said when his attention was drawn to such buses in the capital.

Quader, who has been at the helm of the ministry for over 12 years, was speaking at a programme organised for inaugurating the exit ramp of Dhaka Elevated Expressway at the FDC Gate near Karwan Bazar yesterday.

When a reporter asked him what steps they have taken to reduce congestion during Ramadan, he did not give a direct answer.

He said it takes only one to two hours to travel the entire Dhaka city after Iftar.

However, he admitted that some congestions

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Bangladesh 15th least happy country

AZMIN AZRAN

The World Happiness Report 2024 ranked Bangladesh 129th out of 143 countries.

Bangladesh is now the 15th least happy country in the world.

The report, jointly produced by Gallup, the Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and the WHR's Editorial Board, is based on the Gallup World Poll (GWP).

The happiness ranking is based on the response of around 1,000 individuals each year to this question: Evaluate your current life as a whole using the image of a ladder, with the best possible life for you as a 10 and worst possible as a 0.

Respondents answer with a numerical value, and this is called the Cantril Ladder. Data is collected from around 1,000 people each year for three years, and then averaged using weights to reflect national population patterns. The average score on this Cantril Ladder is the basis of the world happiness ranking. This year, Bangladesh scored 3.886 out of 10.

To put this into context, the happiest country in the world—Finland—scored 7.741. Afghanistan, the unhappiest country in the world scored 1.721. Our neighbours India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Myanmar scored 4.054, 4.657, 3.898, 5.158 and 4.354 respectively.

The World Happiness Report also includes six variables to explain every country's relative standing in the ranking. The report clarifies that these variables

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Boycott Indian products: Rizvi Joins 'movement' by throwing away his Indian shawl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday expressed solidarity with the movement for boycotting Indian products.

Throwing away his Indian shawl in front of BNP's Nayapaltn headquarters, Rizvi said boycotting Indian products means boycotting the Awami League government as the party is an "Indian product".

He alleged that the ruling party made a mockery in the name of election on January 7 with the help of India.

"Realising this, people of Bangladesh are now boycotting Indian products in protest. We think boycotting Indian products is logical," he said at a press briefing at BNP's central office.

Reading out a statement, Rizvi said at least 63 parties, including BNP, have expressed solidarity

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Blinken in ME as famine looms in Gaza

US top diplomat aims to secure truce as fighting rages in the besieged territory

REUTERS, Cairo

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken embarked on a Middle East mission yesterday as strain showed in the relationship between President Joe Biden's administration and the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In Gaza, where hopes were dashed for a ceasefire in the nearly six-month-old offensive in time for Ramadan last week, residents of Gaza City in the north described the most intense fighting for months around the Al Shifa hospital.

The international hunger monitor, relied on by the United Nations, warned this week of mass death from famine in Gaza without an immediate ceasefire.

More than 31,923 Palestinians have been killed and 74,096 have been injured in Israel's military offensive on Gaza since October 7, the Gaza health

ministry said in a statement yesterday. Blinken landed in Saudi Arabia yesterday and is due to travel to Egypt today to talk to regional leaders about efforts to secure a truce. In Saudi Arabia, he was expected to meet the ruling crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman.

Blinken is scheduled to visit Israel tomorrow, his sixth visit since the offensive began.

Recent days have seen an intensification of fighting in northern parts of Gaza captured by Israeli forces early in the offensive, including Al Shifa, once Gaza's biggest hospital, now one of the few partially functioning in the north.

The Israeli prime minister on Tuesday rebuffed a plea from Biden to call off plans for a ground assault of Rafah, the city on the southern edge of Gaza sheltering more than half the enclave's 2.3 million people.

- Israeli troops kill 90 Palestinians in Al Shifa hospital
- Relations between Biden, Netanyahu under strain
- Death toll in enclave now 31,923

Khaleda won't be allowed to go abroad

Says law ministry, extends suspension of her sentence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law ministry yesterday refused to allow BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to go abroad for treatment but recommended extending suspension of her jail sentence by six more months.

"I have given my opinion for extending the suspension of Khaleda Zia's jail sentence for six months on two conditions — she cannot go abroad and that she will receive treatment in Dhaka," Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star.

He said he has sent back the relevant file to the home ministry for necessary steps in this regard.

The law ministry made the decision after an application was filed.

The government released the BNP chief after suspending her jail sentence as per section 401 (1) of the Criminal Code of

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Jamurki's Sandesh: A hidden gem of Tangail

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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 21

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:47	12:45	4:45	6:13	7:45
JAMAAT 4:57	1:15	5:00	6:23	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
10	21		6:13
11	22	4:41	6:14
12	23	4:40	6:14



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

ALL set for historic series: Australia captain Alyssa Healy and her Bangladesh counterpart Nigar Sultana Joty smile as they look at the trophy at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, ahead of today's first ODI of a historic first-ever bilateral series between the two countries. The three-match ODI series will be followed by a three-match T20I series — all in Mirpur. Story on page 11.

INDOMITABLE MARCH

Bhutto faces mass protest in Dhaka

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

March 21, 1971

MUJIB-YAHYA UNSCHEDULED MEETING

In an unscheduled meeting, Yahya told Mujib and Tajuddin that Bhutto had been informed that the representatives of Awami League and the government reached an agreement on the formation of the central cabinet and that Bhutto should be present for the discussion on the interim constitutional instrument and cabinet formation.

In reply, Mujib said that if Bhutto were going to become a part of the discussion, the AL no longer wanted a cabinet at the national level. However, Mujib added that Bhutto's involvement in the appointment of a council of presidential advisers would be acceptable. He also indicated that Bhutto's participation in the cabinet formation would be an insurmountable obstacle given the extreme opposition in AL to his being a part of the government. The AL leaders also remained skeptical about the relationship between Bhutto and the martial law authority.

[Richard Sisson and Leo E Rose, War and Secession: Pakistan, India, and the Creation of Bangladesh, UCP 1990, pg 120]

BHUTTO ARRIVES, MEETS YAHYA

Bhutto and his advisers arrived in Dhaka. The entourage was met by a police escort wearing black

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