

Man arrested for harassing female DU student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a man on charges of harassing a female student of Dhaka University in Shahbagh.

The arrestee, Arnob Sardar, works as a bookbinder at the DU library.

He was handed over to Shahbagh Police Station in the evening by the university authorities after he allegedly verbally abused the woman for not having her “scarf” in the right place.

Khalid Mansur, officer in charge of Shahbagh police, confirmed the arrest to The Daily Star.

The student had earlier made a post on Facebook, detailing the incident.

She shared a photo of a man in the post and wrote, “This man harassed me today on my way from Shahbagh. He suddenly stopped me on the road and told me that my clothing was ‘inappropriate’, among other things... When I said I will call the proctor, he ran away.”

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CR Abrar being sworn in as the new education adviser by President Mohammad Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY Sheikh Mujibur Hall renamed Shah Azizur Hall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushia*

The authorities of Islamic University have changed the names of its four dormitories and an academic building that were previously named after ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her family members.

The IU yesterday issued a notification, signed by the university’s assistant registrar, in this regard.

The decision was made at the 267th syndicate meeting held on February 28, according to the notification.

As per the new names, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall has been renamed Shah Azizur Hall, while Sheikh Russel Hall has been renamed Shaheed Anas Hall, Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnessa Mujib Hall Ummul Muminin Ayesha Siddika Hall, and Sheikh Hasina Hall July-36 Hall.

Besides, the name of Wazed Miah Science Building has been changed to Ibn Sina Science Building.

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Mob ransacks

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said a former caretaker of the building Shakil Ahmed, 28, instigated the mob by spreading rumours that Tk 200-300 crore might be stashed in the flat.

Police arrested Shakil and two others in this connection. Incumbent caretaker Abdul Mannan filed a case with Gulshan Police Station.

The two other arrestees are Shakil Khandakar, 24, and his father Jewel Khandakar, 48.

The vandalism began after the intruders, identifying themselves as locals, carried out a “search” around 11:30pm on Tuesday.

They told reporters that they had information that apart from illegal firearms and cash, people involved in killing student protesters were holed up there.

As the crowd gathered in and around the building near Shahabuddin Park in Gulshan 2, journalists and YouTubers followed. Some of the intruders said they called the media to cover their search.

They chanted anti-Awami League slogans. At one stage, they broke open the door of the flat. The entire incident was broadcast live by some TV channels.

On information, police and later army personnel rushed there and intervened.

Before leaving the building, journalists talked to some of the intruders who said they did not find any illegal firearms, cash or any suspects.

One youth, who identified himself as Shakil Ahmed, told reporters, “We are locals and we entered the flat to see if any illegal firearms or money was kept there.”

When a journalist asked whether they have any permission to conduct such a search, he said, “We did it on our own.”

Shakil said they had informed the law enforcers about their suspicion, but they did not take any action.

Talking to reporters, caretaker Mannan said the flat was owned by one Rahman, who was Tanvir’s father-in-law.

The couple was divorced long ago, possibly in 2001.

Mannan said the people broke the door and entered the flat. “We tried to resist but failed. They ransacked the flat.”

Meanwhile, the chief adviser’s press wing yesterday said another group attempted to enter the house on Monday night under a similar pretext but was dispersed by police.

The home ministry has reiterated that no individual should take the law into their own hands, said a statement of the press wing.

Fear of hunger grips camps

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“A conflict between locals and Rohingyas may emerge in this situation. It’s a major humanitarian crisis. The international community must step in to ensure the basic human rights of the Rohingyas,” Suza said.

Samsuddauzza Nayan, additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, said, “This decision will impact the community, and refugees may turn to crime to meet their basic needs.”

119 killed by mobs in 7 months

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League leader and Rajshahi University student Abdul Wahab Al Masud was killed on suspicion of murder, theft and other crimes.

Such incidents have been reported across the country, including Bogura, Madaripur, Tangail, Chattogram, Khulna, Mymensingh, Narayanganj, Tongi, Rajshahi, and Barishal. While some have led to murder charges or police cases, proper investigations and punishments remain elusive.

As the perpetrators have not

WFP halves food ration for Rohingyas

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trying to raise funds to keep the rations at \$12.50 per month but had failed to find donors.

A cut in rations to anything less than \$6 would “fall below the minimum survival level and fail to meet basic dietary needs”, it said.

The WFP said it accepted that “given the refugees’ complete reliance on humanitarian aid”, the cut would strain families struggling to meet basic needs and heighten “increasing tensions within the camps”.

It said it had appealed to multiple donors for funding and that cost-saving measures alone were not enough.

“I have come to know that the UN is going to cut food ration for the Rohingyas – this is shocking and very unfortunate,” Khing Maung, a youth leader living in Kutupalong camp, told The Daily Star yesterday.

More than 1.1 million Rohingyas live in Cox’s Bazar and Bhashanchar.

“I appeal to the world community not to ignore us. We are already stateless and our wish to return to Myanmar is not materialising anytime soon,” he said.

A previous round of ration cuts to Rohingyas in 2023 led to a sharp increase in hunger and malnutrition, according to the UN. The food rations were brought down to \$8 a month then.

Within months, they said, 90 percent of the camp population “struggled to access an adequate diet” and more than 15 percent of children suffered from malnutrition, the highest rate recorded. The cut was later reversed.

Nearly 50 percent of the total humanitarian assistance for Rohingyas comes from the US government, Jashim Uddin, an NGO official working for a humanitarian project in Cox’s Bazar, told this correspondent yesterday.

“Cutting this fund means a disaster for the Rohingya people,” he said,

adding that this will also impact the host communities in Cox’s Bazar.

The Rohingya food items include rice, lentils, pangas fish and poultry, which is the bare minimum, he said.

“Earlier, there were more non-food items provided to the Rohingyas, but recently those items like soap were also reduced. Rohingyas used to sell some of the non-food items for food. With food aid cut, the nutrition level of the Rohingyas will drastically worsen,” Jashim Uddin said.

With no job opportunities, many of the Rohingya youths go out of the camps for work, with some getting involved in drug and human trafficking, he said.

“I am afraid that with limited food aid, the Rohingyas would attempt to break out of the camps and snatch the locals’ jobs,” he said.

The Bangladesh authorities should take up the issue with the international community immediately, said an official of the RRRC office.

Millions of students still without textbooks

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Jahid Hasan, an eighth-grader at Gaibandha Government Boys’ High School, has received only four out of 14 textbooks.

“Teachers are assigning chapters from books we haven’t even received yet. How are we supposed to study?” he asked.

A teacher at Bhatat High School in Jhenidah, speaking on condition of anonymity, admitted, “We’re trying to follow the academic calendar, but without books, we’re struggling. If we don’t assign tasks, it will lead to significant learning gaps. That’s why we printed PDF copies of some of the more important books and distributed them to certain classes.”

Sharmin Sultana, the mother of a ninth-grade student at Rajdhani

High School in the capital, said, “The delay in January due to national issues was understandable, but February has ended, and some books are still missing. Now, with Ramadan, Eid, and SSC exam holidays, half the academic year will be lost. How will students catch up?”

The situation has also forced many parents to bear additional costs.

Liton Karmaker, the father of a ninth-grade student at Dinajpur Zilla School, said, “My son’s teachers told him to print out PDFs and complete assignments. I may be able to afford it, but many parents can’t. Some don’t even know where to find these PDFs. This is an extra burden on parents, caused by the government’s failure.”

NCTB member (Textbook) Riad Chowdhury claimed that, as of Monday,

around 84 percent of all textbooks were ready for distribution.

He stated that approximately 98.25 percent of primary-level books and 80 percent of secondary-level books were completed and ready for delivery. “The remaining books will be ready soon and will be delivered in the coming weeks.”

When contacted, NCTB Chairman Prof Reazul Hassan said, “It’s true that we aim to print all the books by March 10. However, we need help from the printing industry owners. As far as we know, there is a scarcity of paper, which has contributed to the delay.”

He acknowledged the learning gap that may result from the delay but claimed it would not exceed a month. “If we can cut short some holidays and if teachers take more responsibility in their classes, we can catch up.”

Focus should also be on healing

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“I had a chance to meet a number of the victims. I went to one of the hospitals in Bangladesh, and I could see and witness myself how many people, and particularly young people and children, have been affected by what happened. They were still in treatment when I was there in November, and some of them have life-altering injuries.”

“We need resources for victim-centered reparations programmes, for compensation, long-term medical treatment, rehabilitation, care and livelihood opportunities for victims. We also need member states to support us in this effort.

“We need truth-telling about the fate of the disappeared people, because that brings closure for the families and the loved ones. It is a part of this victim-centered approach.”

He said the recommendations provided in the UN report were crucial for ensuring the country’s future stability, protecting human rights and strengthening democracy. He also said his office was in the process of finalising a physical presence in Bangladesh to provide support and technical cooperation on all the areas of reform.

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said, “The collective resolve of the people of

Bangladesh for a just, inclusive and functioning democracy with the promotion and protection of human rights at its core, should define Bangladesh of the future and place our nation as a responsive and responsible state in the global community.”

Mir Snigdho, the brother of Mir Mugdho who was shot and killed during the protests, said, “The international community must do more than just issue statements. International bodies must enforce accountability, and civil society must push for lasting change from this tragedy. Decisive action is needed, supporting independent investigations, enforcing consequences for non-compliance, and ensuring justice mechanisms.

“Justice is not a single act but a process, one that demands prosecution, truth-seeking, reparations and institutional reforms for victims. Justice means accountability, not just for those who pull the trigger, but also for those who gave the orders,” he said, adding that despite progress, gaps remain.

“Many victims still wait for their voices to be heard, while others have lost faith in a system that has failed them repeatedly. These gaps mean continued trauma, social divisions and

be more or less than the prescribed penalty for the crime

Additionally, section 59 of the Criminal Procedure Code requires that a criminal be handed over to the police upon arrest. Various punishments, including life imprisonment, are specified in sections 187, 319, 323, 335, and 304 of the Penal Code. In cases of mob beatings leading to death, all participants are equally responsible under section 34 of the Penal Code.

International law also condemns

mob beatings and killings as a human rights violation.

The HRSS called upon the police and other law enforcement agencies to play an effective role in preventing such incident. It also urged the interim government to play a responsible role in ensuring the safety of life and property of all citizens and to bring the culprits to justice.

The rights body urged all citizens to respect the rule of law and not to take the law into their own hands.

Leading the world from home

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“I dream of a future where our students can lead the world without having to leave the country. This won’t happen overnight, but we want to lay a strong foundation.”

Prof Abrar, who had worked at Dhaka University’s international relations department, is also a rights activist. He had served as the president of human rights group Odhikar, and as the executive director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU). His research focuses on the labour recruitment industry, social protection, and the rights of Rohingya refugees.

Prof Abrar has been vocal against enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, repression, and other human rights violations. He frequently writes columns in both local and international publications. He is also a vocal critic of the Digital Security Act and the Cyber Security Act.

Besides Prof Abrar, two more special assistants to the chief adviser were appointed to key government ministries with the rank of state ministers, according to a Cabinet Division notification.

Sheik Moinuddin has been assigned to the road transport and bridges ministry, while Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb will oversee the posts, telecommunications, and information technology ministry.

NZ crush SA to set up final

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Ravindra (1-20) had Aiden Markram caught and bowled for 31 while Glenn Phillips chipped in with 2-27 as South Africa crumbled against spin.

Earlier, Ravindra and Williamson set the foundations for a big total on a batting-friendly Gaddafi Stadium pitch after New Zealand won the toss and batted first.

Daryl Mitchell clubbed 49 off 37 balls and Phillips smashed a 27-ball 49 not out as the Black Caps plundered 110 runs in the last 10 overs and 66 in the last five.

South Africa’s bowling line-up struggled right from the start as Ravindra and Will Young (21) put on 48 for the opening stand.

It was followed by a magnificent 164-run partnership for the second wicket between Ravindra and Williamson that put the New Zealanders on track for a massive total, as the duo scored at will with

Moinuddin, a US expatriate, has extensive experience in public infrastructure. He is currently the chief of safety and operations at the California Department of Transportation.

With over 25 years of experience in leading multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects in Los Angeles, Moinuddin holds a BSc in civil engineering from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, a master’s degree from California State University, and a PhD in civil engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles.

He is also the president of the American Association of Bangladeshi Engineers and Architects (AABEA).

Faiz is an accomplished engineer and technologist. He holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical and electronic engineering from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (2005) and received an MBA from Dhaka University (2005–2007).

With extensive expertise in telecommunications, he has worked globally, including at Vodafone Ziggo Netherlands, Ericsson, and MTN Communications.

Faiz is also a member of Greenpeace Netherlands and a columnist for leading Bangladeshi newspapers. He was appointed as the ICT policy adviser in November last year.

some delightful strokes.

Ravindra completed his fifth ODI hundred – all coming in ICC events – from 93 balls with a two off Kagiso Rabada.

Williamson reached his 15th ODI hundred with a ramped boundary, his third three-figure score in as many matches against South Africa.

It was Rabada who finally ended the partnership by dismissing Ravindra caught behind. Ravindra hit 13 fours and one six in total.

Williamson chipped Wiaan Mulder into the hands of Lungi Ngidi in the 40th over after hitting 10 fours and two sixes.

Mitchell and Phillips added some late impetus after South Africa had briefly dragged things back to give themselves hope of limiting the score to under 350.

Fast bowler Ngidi finished with 3-72, while Rabada ended with figures of 2-70.

Perks, bonuses of MPO teachers set to increase

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or two budgets. Hopefully, it will be resolved within three to four budget cycles in the future,” he said.

He also recommended a forward-thinking commission to address the longstanding issues plaguing the education sector.

Speaking at the Secretariat, he questioned the effectiveness of past education commissions. The formation of five to six education commissions failed to solve the problems, he said.

“Can we solve problems just by forming a commission with a few people? It takes time to understand the issues at hand. We need a commission that thinks ahead,” he said.

Prof Wahiduddin also stressed the need for trained teachers to implement reformed curriculum effectively. “Without proper training, the reforms will be ineffective. It takes time for an education system to deteriorate, and right now, our education system is chaotic and disorganised,” he said, reports UNB.

Regarding delays in textbook

distribution, he said all students would receive their textbooks by March 10. “While the new books were supposed to be delivered by February, many students are still waiting. However, the issue will be resolved by the new deadline,” he said.

Addressing concerns over recent unrests in public and private educational institutions, he said while the situation had not fully returned to normal, it had improved to some extent.

Prof Wahiduddin was appointed as an adviser on August 16 last year. He was given the charge of both the education ministry and the planning ministry.

Newly appointed Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar took oath of office yesterday.

Earlier, Chief Adviser’s Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said Prof Wahiduddin had expressed concerns about handling two ministries simultaneously. Given Prof Wahiduddin’s responsibilities at the planning ministry and his advanced age, CR Abrar was appointed to the advisory council.