

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

Mob ransacks

FROM PAGE 1

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.

Manan 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.

Samsuddauza 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."

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

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.

The constitution guarantees every citizen the right to a fair trial and self-defense, regardless of guilt or innocence. Articles 27, 31, 33, and 35 ensure equal protection under the law, stating that no one can be considered guilty unless proven guilty in the eyes of the law.

WFP halves food ration for Rohingyas

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trying to raise funds to keep the ration 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 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.

Millions of students still without textbooks

FROM PAGE 1

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 Bhatai 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."

Sharmi 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,

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

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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."

The risk of history repeating itself.

"Political interests must never overshadow fundamental human rights. Symbolic gestures are not enough. The government must strengthen domestic justice systems."

He said that accountability is not just about addressing past crimes. It is about shaping a future where such violent acts are never tolerated again.

"If we fail to act, we send a message that impunity is acceptable."

"We don't stop when we are tired. We stop when we are done."

Farhana Sharmin, an architect who had managed a group of 650 volunteers to care for injured protesters, spoke about the need to have long-term solutions to care for the injured.

"One of the greatest challenges we

encountered throughout the last seven months was deep-rooted inequality.

One bullet, one injury, does not just

harm one individual. It devastates

an entire family. Over 90 percent of

those affected come from poor, lower-

middle and middle-class backgrounds.

Compensation alone cannot address

their sufferings or secure their futures,"

said Sharmin.

UN Human Rights Spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani moderated the event.

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.

International law also condemns

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY Sheikh Mujibur Hall renamed Shah Azizur Hall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtha*

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 Mummin 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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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."

"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 Rohingyas 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.

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aid, the Rohingyas would attempt to

break out of the camps and snatch the

locals' jobs," he said.

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 Migrant 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.

With extensive expertise in

telecommunications, he has worked</