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প্রিয়জনের পয়েন্টে...

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No arrests yet over killing of rape victim's father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Four days after the killing of a rape victim's father in Barguna, police were yet to arrest the perpetrators as of yesterday.

Family members said with each day that goes by without an arrest, their sense of insecurity grows.

Meanwhile, locals have taken to social media, demanding swift justice.

Barguna Deputy Commissioner Md Shafiqul Alam visited the victim's family yesterday and assured them of justice while handing over financial assistance.

On Thursday, Barguna Superintendent of Police Md Ibrahim Khalil also visited the victim's home, promising to bring the killers to justice.

Following the murder on March 11, the victim's wife filed a case with Barguna Sadar Police Station against unidentified assailants the next day.

Earlier on March 7, the man filed a case with the same police station over the rape of his schoolgoing daughter.

According to the case statement, a neighbour, Sajeeb Das, 25, abducted the seventh-grader on her way back to school. He then raped her and later

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United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited the newly established UN Common Premises in Gulshan yesterday morning, where he viewed a photo exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh-UN relations.

PHOTO: PID

Interim govt's performance key to voter turnout Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The successes and failures of the current interim government are crucial ahead of the upcoming election, said Dhaka University teacher Samina Luthfa yesterday.

Given the current state of law and order, marginalised people might feel fearful or hesitant about voting, she said, adding that this issue requires serious attention.

She made these remarks while attending a roundtable discussion virtually at the BDBL building in Karwan Bazar of the capital.

The event, titled "People's Election Pulse: Feb-March 2025," was organised by the citizen's platform "Voice for Reform," consulting firm Innovision, and the Bangladesh Research Analysis and Information Network (BRAIN).

"If the interim government fails, voter turnout may decrease. However, if it succeeds, the election dynamics will change significantly. If the government is only partially successful, the public may lean towards the party that has demonstrated some level of success and effectiveness," said Samina Luthfa.

Activist Sayed Abdullah said young voters, particularly those who belong to Gen Z, tend to change their decisions quickly. Their voting preferences are more individual-centric rather than party-based. In the past, young voters showed reluctance to participate in elections. In 2024, a dummy election was held, but young voters did not participate at all.

He added that young people have been disengaged from voting for a long time, developing a sense of detachment from the political landscape. They want to

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Release full text of SC verdicts in 6 months

Proposes Judiciary Reform Commission

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Judiciary Reform Commission has proposed new provisions requiring the full text verdict of Supreme Court judgements to be signed and released within six months of the delivery of a verdict.

It also recommends barring judges from signing verdicts or orders after retirement.

Currently, there is no such provision. This led to controversies, such as former Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque and his colleagues signing the judgement on the caretaker government case 16 months after its delivery, in September 2012, after his retirement.

Similarly, in February 2016, former Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik, now in jail, submitted 65 judgements and orders written after his retirement as an Appellate Division judge, sparking widespread debate.

The commission's 351-page final report, submitted to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on February 5, says, "A Supreme

Court judgement must be signed and published within six months of its announcement. Judges must finalise and sign all orders and judgements before retirement. No judge, including the chief justice,

The judiciary reform body also suggests decentralising the judiciary by establishing permanent HC benches in divisional cities and courts at the upazila level, limiting the president's power to pardon convicts, restricting mobile courts to imposing only financial penalties, and creating an independent criminal investigation agency.

should sign any judgement or order after retirement. If these time limits are not met, the judge will be held accountable by the Supreme Judicial Council."

The commission proposes

amending High Court rules to ensure that initial orders in any case of the High Court Division must be signed and published within five working days after the declaration. It also proposed that interim orders must be signed and published within 10 working days after the announcement.

The judiciary reform body in its report also suggested decentralising the judiciary by establishing permanent HC benches in divisional cities and courts at the upazila level, limiting the president's power to pardon convicts, restricting mobile courts to imposing only financial penalties, and creating an independent criminal investigation agency.

Other significant proposals include appointing the most senior Appellate Division judge as chief justice, fixing the number of Supreme Court judges at seven, raising the retirement age of judges to 70, and requiring judges to disclose their property details online every three years to ensure transparency.

STAR REPORT

The Daily Star, in collaboration with Grameen Danone Foods Limited, yesterday concluded its social business idea competition for university students, Socio Biz 2024, with Keeron and Campus as partners.

The champion title was awarded to Team Middrop from the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), while Team Pritilata from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) was recognised as the runner-up.

The primary goal of this competition was to inspire young innovators to create and launch social enterprises that extend beyond the traditional profit-centric business approaches.

More than 250 teams from 69 universities across

Socio Biz 2024 grand finale held

STAR REPORT



Participants of Socio Biz 2024, a social business idea competition for university students, with the judges at the Grand Finale event held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The Daily Star, in collaboration with Grameen Danone Foods Limited, organised the event, with Keeron and Campus as partners.

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Withdraw 'false case' against protesters Demand eminent citizens, condemn recent police attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 210 eminent citizens yesterday condemned the recent police attack on demonstrators protesting rising attacks on women, escalating mob violence, and the deteriorating law and order situation in the country.

In a joint statement, they denounced the "false case" filed against the protesters and demanded its immediate withdrawal, along with the prosecution of police officers responsible for the attacks.

"We are outraged by the brutal police assault on peaceful demonstrators, the lodging of fabricated cases against them, and the increasing violent and hate-driven activities of certain groups. This is happening while attacks on women and mob violence continue to rise," the statement said.

According to the statement, on March 11, a rally was organised under the banner "Bangladesh Against Rape and Impunity," with nine demands.

Despite the absence of female police officers at the scene, police allegedly attacked female participants, who were marching towards the Chief Adviser's Office for submitting a memorandum.

The following day, police filed a case naming 12 individuals and listing 70 to 80 unnamed protesters.

Among the accused was Mashirul Rahman Richard, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, who, according to the signatories, was not even present at the protest site, the statement added.

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