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Fifth accused held in Bhola rape case

Survivor's family accuses police of inaction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Another accused has been arrested in connection with the rape of a woman in Bhola's Tajumuddin upazila on Sunday.

Rab-8 arrested Md Manik, 30, the fifth accused in the case, yesterday afternoon from the Elisha Launch Terminal area.

Lt Shahriar Rifat Abhi, company commander of Rab-8 Bhola camp, said Manik had initially fled to Dhaka after the incident. He returned yesterday and was planning to escape to a remote char area when Rab arrested him by tracking his mobile phone.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

RIYA GOPE'S DEATH

Police file case after 11 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police have filed a case in connection with the death of Riya Gope, 6, around 11 months after the incident in Narayanganj during the anti-discrimination student protests in July last year.

Abu Raihan, a sub-inspector of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station, filed the case on Tuesday night, accusing some 150-200 unnamed individuals.

OC Nasir Ahmed of the station, said, "The case was supposed to be filed by the victim's family, but since that did not happen even after a long time, police took the initiative."

On July 19 last year, Riya was playing on the rooftop of a four-storey building in Nayamati area. Hearing gunfire nearby and sensing danger, her father Deepak Kumar Gope went to bring her down. Just as he lifted her into his arms, a bullet struck Riya in the head.

She later died while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

696 killed in road accidents in June

37.15% of crashes involve bikes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 696 people were killed and 1,867 injured in 689 road crashes across Bangladesh in June, according to Road Safety Foundation.

Among them, 228 people died in 256 motorcycle crashes, accounting for 32.75 percent of the total fatalities while motorcycles were involved in 37.15 percent of the total crashes, the foundation said in a report yesterday.

At least 120 pedestrians were killed, which is 17.24 percent of the total deaths while 106 drivers and their assistants lost their lives, making up 15.22 percent of the fatalities.

Road Safety Foundation prepared the report from nine national dailies, seven online news portals, electronic media, and its own data.

The report estimated the economic loss from human resource casualties in road accidents at around Tk 2,463.20 crore.

Reform proposals have become BNP-centric

Says IAB ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) Ameer Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim yesterday said reform proposals have become BNP-centric, especially after the meeting between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman in London.

He said proposals that BNP disagrees with are not moving forward.

"The enthusiasm and commitment with which the government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus began its work now appears to be fading."

He made these remarks in a statement issued on the occasion of the first anniversary of the July mass uprising.

Without mentioning BNP by name, Rezaul Karim said although most

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



A woman motions a car to stop as she crosses a road amid oncoming traffic in the capital's Bangla Motor area yesterday. Such risky jaywalking not only endangers pedestrians' lives but also poses risks to motorists.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Goal behind fall of 'fascist regime' yet to be achieved

Says BNP leader Nazrul Islam Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday said the goal behind the "fall of the fascist regime" in Bangladesh has still not been "achieved".

"The people have not yet been able to elect their government by using their right to vote," Nazrul said.

He made the remarks after paying tribute at the grave of the party's founder Ziaur Rahman in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Nazrul said to build a democratic, progressive, and modern Bangladesh, it is necessary to establish the rule of the people.

"That is only possible through elections," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

BURNING BODIES OF 6 PROTESTERS IN ASHULIA

Ex-MP, 14 cops charged with crimes against humanity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five protesters were already dead and one was barely alive when police, acting on orders from senior officers and political leaders, piled their bodies and set them on fire in Dhaka's Ashulia on August 5 during the July uprising.

Before that, police shot them.

The six men, including the lone survivor, were first thrown onto a rickshaw van and later onto a police pickup truck. A cop then poured

a flammable substance over their bodies and lit a matchstick, setting them ablaze as the only man still alive moved his hands while the fire caught.

Another officer, who was smoking, threw his burning cigarette onto the flames, while a third one added a wooden bench to the fire, intensifying

the inferno that reduced the six to ashes.

These horrifying details emerged before the International Crimes Tribunal 2 yesterday, as the prosecution formally charged 16 individuals, including former MP Muhammad Saiful Islam and ex-Dhaka Range DIG Syed Nurul Islam, both of whom are absconding, with murder, torture, and attempting to erase evidence -- classified as inhuman acts under the relevant law.

The victims were identified as Sajjad Hossain (Sajal), AS Sabur, Tanjil Mahmud Sujoy, Bayezid Bostami, Abul Hossain, and one unidentified man.

The 16 accused, 14 policemen and two civilians, have been charged with superior command responsibility, conspiracy, incitement, facilitation,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

"The attacks were widespread, systematic, and aimed at targeted killings."

Dengue cases cross 11,000

DNCC launches anti-mosquito drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 416 new dengue cases reported yesterday, the total number of cases this year has crossed the 11,000 mark, painting an increasingly alarming picture of the outbreak.

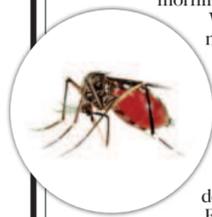
According to the DGHS, one more dengue patient died in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, while 416 were hospitalised.

With the latest figures, the total number of dengue deaths rose to 44, and the total number of cases reached 11,098.

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City Corporation launched a three-day special integrated mosquito control campaign yesterday in wards identified as high-risk for dengue infection.

Earlier, the DGHS and the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) identified wards 2, 8, 12, 13, 22, and 34 as high-risk due to high concentrations of Aedes mosquito larvae.

The campaign, organised by the DNCC's Health and Sanitation Department, was inaugurated at Mirpur-1, Paikpara Government Officers and Staff Quarters.



The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) has honoured Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiuur Rahman for receiving the prestigious INMA Global Media Award 2025. The felicitation ceremony was held on Tuesday at the Times Media Building in Dhaka's Tejaan. Among those present were NOAB President AK Azad and Vice-President Shahidullah Khan Badal; Director of Jugantor and Jamuna Television Shamim Islam; Financial Express Editor Shamsul Huq Zahid; Bonik Barta Editor and Publisher Dewan Hanif Mahmud; Samakal Editor Shahed Muhammad Ali; and Counterpoint weekly Editor Zafar Sobhan.

PHOTO: STAR

'Journos facing unprecedented repression'

Claim 88 expats in statement, slam govt for 'inaction'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighty-eight expatriate Bangladeshis yesterday condemned and expressed deep concern over the "continued torture of journalists and suppression of free speech" in Bangladesh, saying such incidents have "frustrated and disheartened" them.

In a joint statement, the signatories -- including journalists, writers, teachers, researchers, and cultural and rights activists -- said repression of journalists has persisted since the August 5 uprising last year, which saw the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government and the consequent assuming of power by an interim government led by Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

They alleged that attempts are on in present-day Bangladesh to gag freedom of speech by "imposing various official and unofficial controls" on mass and social media -- steps they described as "shameful and repulsive". They claimed that as per information gathered by them, in the past 11 months, at least 412 journalists have been implicated in various harassing cases, including murder charges.

Meanwhile, 39 journalists were arrested, and over 300 have had travel restrictions imposed against them. Bank accounts of more than 100 journalists were frozen, and corruption cases were filed against several by the Anti-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7