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Man sent to jail for assaulting woman on Dhaka bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The man seen in a recently-viral video assaulting a woman on a Dhaka bus – reportedly over the clothes she was wearing – has been arrested and subsequently sent to jail.

A team from Rab-4 detained Md Nizam Uddin, 45, from the Mohammadpur Bus Stand area on Thursday night, said Major Md Abrar Foyzal Sadi, operations officer at Rab-4.

“The suspect is a bus [driver’s] helper of Ramzan Paribahan,” Sadi told The Daily Star.

Rab later handed Nizam over to Mohammadpur Police Station, where he was shown arrested in a case filed by the victim yesterday.

Kazi Rafiq, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station, said the arrestee was produced before a court which sent him to jail.

The assault of the young woman sparked outrage after the footage went viral on social media. The video shows the man arguing with the

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Mourners bid farewell to 15-year-old Palestinian Yamen Hamed, killed by Israeli forces, during his funeral in Silwad, near Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel launches more strikes on Gaza Strip

Three killed; Palestinians fear a return to full-scale bombing

AGENCIES

Israeli warplanes and artillery continued to strike Khan Younis in southern Gaza yesterday, killing three people despite Israel’s claim that it rejoined the ceasefire two days earlier.

Gaza residents say they fear a return to full-scale bombing as they struggle to find food and shelter amid the supposed truce.

One Palestinian was killed by Israeli shelling and another was shot dead by Israeli forces, WAFA said yesterday. A third Palestinian died of wounds sustained from previous Israeli shelling.

The military also bombed the Shujayea and Tuffah neighbourhoods of eastern Gaza City.

Various foreign ministers will meet on Monday to discuss the Gaza ceasefire and next steps there, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said yesterday, adding that Turkey was concerned over whether the ceasefire will continue.

Palestinian group Hamas handed over two bodies of deceased Israeli hostages later on Thursday. Hamas agreed to hand over the remains of all 28 dead hostages in exchange for 360 Palestinians killed in the war. Up to Thursday, it had handed over 15 bodies.

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Govt to blame for ongoing political crisis

Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday blamed the interim government for the country’s ongoing political crisis, accusing it of deepening divisions instead of resolving them.

“The crisis we are facing today has been created by the present interim government,” he said at a programme organised by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) to mark its 53rd founding anniversary at the Jatiya Press Club.

Later, at a programme organised by Ganashonghati

“In 1971, you opposed our Liberation War. Please don’t oppose the election the people want.”



Andolan, Fakhrul urged the government to end the debate over the July National Charter and its implementation recommendations and focus on holding parliamentary elections.

“What has happened, has happened. Please resolve these issues so that together we can move towards the elections, and by solving these problems, work for the welfare of the people. Move forward on that path,” he said.

At the JSD-Rob programme, Fakhrul, without naming any party, urged those demanding a referendum to stop their agitation and refrain from creating chaos.

“In the past, you opposed the independence of Pakistan’s provinces, and in 1971, you opposed our Liberation War. Please don’t oppose the election the people want,” he said.

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CHALLENGES IN POLICING 4 FINAL PART

Burnt stations hinder probes



Khilgaon Police Station

FILE PHOTO



Jatrabari Police Station

FILE PHOTO

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Following the filing of a rape case on April 9 last year, Adabor police launched an investigation. Forensic and DNA tests were conducted at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

But the probe suffered a major setback when the test reports, along with 76 case documents, evidence relating to around 100 cases and registration books, were destroyed in a massive fire started amid protests on August 5 during the mass uprising.

“The destruction of evidence delayed the submission of charge sheet in the case. The delay allowed the accused to secure bail from court, much to the frustration of the victim and the investigators,” said Sub-Inspector Rakibul Islam of Adabor Police

Station.

“We are trying to gather all related documents, but it’s proving to be a difficult task,” he added.

Not only Adabor, 12 other stations under Dhaka Metropolitan Police were set alight between August 5 and 6 last year, resulting in the destruction of 1,200 case documents and 1,100 pieces of evidence, including forensic and DNA reports.

These stations are located in Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Badda, Jatrabari, Khilgaon, Paltan, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Shyampur, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Bhatara, Wari, and Khilkhet areas.

When asked, SN Nazrul Islam, additional commissioner at the DMP headquarters, said, “We have managed to collect copies of almost all case documents lost in the fires. But we are facing problems in retrieving the pieces of evidence.”

“If police fail to recover a piece of evidence in a case, the investigation team has to file a general diary and then submit its copy to the court concerned,” he added.

The police faced intense public backlash for its role in the violent crackdown including indiscriminate firing and excessive use of force against protesters during the uprising. Many police officers have been accused of suppressing dissent through arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearance during the tenure of the Awami League government.

REELING FROM DAMAGES

Among the affected stations, the worst-hit was Jatrabari, where a devastating fire not only destroyed vehicles, case records, and evidence but also claimed the lives of at least six law enforcers.

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US signs 10-yr defence pact with India

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

The United States has signed a 10-year defence framework agreement with India, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said yesterday.

The framework is considered a cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence, enhancing coordination, information sharing and technological cooperation between the two nations, Hegseth posted on X after a meeting with his Indian counterpart, Rajnath Singh.

Hegseth yesterday spoke with counterparts from China and India, beginning a series of face-to-face meetings at an Asean defence summit in Malaysia, as Washington seeks to boost regional security ties.

“It’s a significant step for our two militaries, a roadmap for deeper and even more meaningful collaboration ahead,” Hegseth told reporters after the signing.

Hegseth and Singh were meeting for the first time since the United States imposed tariffs of 50 percent on Indian goods in August as punishment for New Delhi’s purchases of Russian oil.

The tariffs prompted India to pause purchases of US defence equipment, with the two sides expected to discuss yesterday a review of India’s plans to buy the military hardware.

Hegseth said on X he told China’s Dong Jun the United States would “stoutly defend its interests” and maintain the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, while voicing concern about Chinese activities in the disputed South China Sea and around Taiwan.

Hornless rhino roamed Canadian Arctic 23m yrs ago



REUTERS

About 23 million years ago, a species of rhinoceros – similar in size to the modern Indian rhino but lacking a horn – made its home in the challenging environment of the Canadian High Arctic, which at the time was warmer than it is now but still experienced snow and months of wintertime darkness.

Fossils of the polar rhino, named *Epiatheracerium itjilik*, were found on Devon Island, a landscape underlain by permafrost, in Canada’s Arctic archipelago. With about 75 percent of its skeleton intact, scientists gained a good understanding of the animal. Its remains were discovered in Houghton Crater, one of Earth’s northernmost impact craters, about 14 miles (23 km) wide.

The polar rhino lived early in the Miocene epoch, a time of diversification of many mammalian groups. Until this discovery, no rhinoceros was known to have lived in such a high latitude. The fossil site is in Nunavut, Canada’s northernmost territory.



As part of this year’s Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony, Buddhist devotees carry robes they had woven overnight to be formally presented to the monks, marking the end of their three-month rains retreat, known as Vassa. The ceremony, which began on Thursday, included a series of religious rituals, with monks offering prayers for global peace and harmony. The photo was taken yesterday at Rajbana Vihara in Rangamati.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

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BESTINET’S AMINUL Malaysia cops looking into extradition request

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Royal Malaysia Police Headquarters, in collaboration with the authorities of Bangladesh, is handling Dhaka’s request to extradite Bestinet founder Aminul Islam Abdul Nor and his associate, Ruhul Amin, both linked to money laundering activities.

Bestinet is an IT company that operates the centralised management system used by the Malaysian government to process the entry of foreign workers into the country.

Aminul is a Bangladesh-born Malaysian citizen, while Ruhul is the owner of Dhaka-based recruitment firm Catharsis International.

Malaysian Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said the matter is being managed on a government-to-government (G2G) as well as a police-to-police (P2P) basis, predicated on bilateral cooperation,