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Verdict in 11-yr-old child's rape case on Nov 11

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrokona*

A Netrokona tribunal yesterday set November 11 to deliver its verdict in a case over the rape and impregnation of an 11-year-old girl in Madan upazila.

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal fixed the date after concluding arguments from both sides, said state counsel Advocate Nurul Kabir Rubel.

Rubel expressed hope that the court would impose the maximum punishment. The accused, madrasa teacher Aman Ullah Mahmudi, alias Sagar, has been in jail since his arrest on May 6. A court later granted police three days to question him in custody.

On May 10, the court allowed DNA testing as part of the investigation. A Criminal Investigation Department report subsequently found a 99.99 percent DNA match between the newborn and Aman, according to investigation sources.

The charge sheet also names Aman's brother, Maimun, alias Mamun Mia, 32.



Loader tractors remove vendors' goods during an eviction drive near Mirpur-1 roundabout yesterday as Dhaka North City Corporation clears footpaths of illegal structures.

PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

IN FOCUS

Constitution guarantees protection against disappearances

Says Salahuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Existing constitutional safeguards are sufficient to protect people against enforced disappearances, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said yesterday, noting that Article 32 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the special committee on constitutional amendments, he said the government had also enacted legislation to prevent enforced disappearances and provide remedies for victims.

At the meeting, the committee heard accounts and demands from victims' families, including relatives of those still missing, and survivors who returned after years of enforced disappearance and torture. The families sought state recognition and support, while survivors called for justice and safeguards to prevent such abuses from recurring, Salahuddin said.

Asked whether an agency accused of involvement in a disappearance could investigate the incident, the minister said the law provides for investigations by a force other than the one facing allegations.

No grading system for recruiting agencies yet

Speakers call for accountability, migrant protection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has yet to introduce an effective grading system for recruiting agencies, leaving prospective migrant workers without an official way to assess recruiters before paying for overseas jobs.

State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Nurul Haque Nur acknowledged the shortcoming yesterday at a dialogue titled "Fair and Ethical Recruitment: Accountable Sub-agents".

Supported by The Asia Foundation and funded by FCDO, the event was organised by Witness Foundation at a Dhaka hotel.

Workers often lacked receipts or other payment evidence, making complaints against intermediaries difficult to pursue.

PERVEZ SIDDIQUI
Director of Witness Foundation Executive

Nur said he could not confidently recommend a recruiting agency even to people from his own constituency seeking jobs abroad. Although the issue had been discussed with the prime minister, little progress had been made, he said.

He added that the software for recruiting agencies to submit

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

The growing toll of uncontrolled diabetes

Speakers warn 92% of patients fail to control diabetes; stress early screening and better healthcare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uncontrolled diabetes increases the risk of dying from heart disease eightfold, accounts for about 60 percent of dialysis patients, and can reduce life expectancy by up to 6.5 years, healthcare experts said at a roundtable yesterday.

They called for urgent national action, as well as early screening, lifestyle changes, improved access to treatment and universal health coverage to prevent complications.

The roundtable, titled "World Diabetes Day 2026: Acting Early to Prevent Diabetes and Improve Care in Bangladesh", was jointly organised by The Daily Star and Nevian Life Science Limited at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Dr Fazila Tun Nesa Malik, professor of cardiology and chief consultant at the National Heart Foundation, said cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among people with diabetes.

Uncontrolled diabetes increases the risk of heart attacks, abnormal heart rhythms, and heart failure, she said, calling for early screening and integrated management of diabetes and cardiovascular risks.



PHOTO: **STAR**

Speakers at a roundtable jointly organised by The Daily Star and Nevian Life Science Limited at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

Dr Shamim Ahmed, professor of nephrology at Kidney Foundation Hospital and Research Institute, said diabetes is the leading cause of chronic kidney disease in Bangladesh, accounting for about 60 percent of dialysis patients.

A lack of playgrounds for children, excessive screen time, fast food and sugary drinks, and widespread physical inactivity are contributing to rising obesity and diabetes among younger people, he said.

Advanced kidney disease requiring lifelong dialysis or a transplant could devastate families financially and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Landlords must build septic tanks, soak wells

Rajuk sets Nov 15 deadline, warns of mobile court action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) has set November 15 as the deadline for owners of buildings with approved provisions for septic tanks and soak wells to begin construction, warning of mobile court action against violators.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting of a technical committee formed to reduce pollution in lakes under Rajuk's jurisdiction and ensure sustainable environmental management at the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.

The committee decided to send residential societies lists of 1,269 buildings that have received final notices to install septic tanks, soak wells and sewage treatment plants (STPs).

It also decided that Rajuk must approve the structural designs of septic tanks and soak wells within three days of receiving applications.

Owners who fail to start construction by the deadline will face mobile court action under the Building Construction Act, 1952, and the Dhaka Metropolitan Building Construction Rules, 2025.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Ahammad Sohel Monzoor attended the meeting, along with Rajuk Chairman Md Reazul Islam, Additional Secretary Md Abdul Matin, Additional Secretary Md Sarwar Alam and Rajuk Member Eradul Haque.

Six killed in two road accidents

Two siblings, father, son, among deceased

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and at least 22 others injured in two road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Rangpur, four people were killed and 17 injured when a bus rammed into a sand-laden dump truck parked beside the Dhaka-Rangpur highway in Mithapukur upazila early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Mozaffar Rahman, 44, and his younger sister Golapi Begum, 36, of Chandrakhana Talukdar Para village in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila; Alamgir Hossain, 40, of Kurigram Sadar; and Apel Mia, 26, the bus driver's helper.

Moazzem Uddin, OC of Baradarga Highway Police Station, said the truck had been parked in front of a mosque, opposite Shah Amanat Petrol Pump in Bairagiganj, after Fazr prayers.

The Khan Enterprise bus, travelling from Dhaka to Bhurungamari in Kurigram, hit the truck from behind. Locals, police and firefighters rescued the injured and took them to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Dr Abdul Mokaddem, the hospital's deputy director, said one person died at the scene and three others at the hospital. At least 17 injured passengers were receiving treatment.

In Narayanganj, a man and his four-year-old son were killed and at least five others injured when a bus collided head-on with a cement-laden truck on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Bandar yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Shafiqul Islam, 35, a brick kiln worker, and his son Bipul, from Uttar Khagura village in Gaibandha.



PHOTO: **COLLECTED**

Locals gather at the accident site in Mithapukur of Rangpur yesterday.

SI Shafiul Alam of Kanchpur Highway Police Station said the bus was heading towards Chattogram when it collided with the truck travelling on the wrong side.

Police from Kanchpur Highway Police Station and Bandar Police Station took the injured to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.



Farmers harvest early Aman paddy in Bhatera, Kulaura upazila, Moulvibazar, yesterday. While Aman is traditionally harvested in Agrahayan, farmers in the region's high and hilly areas are harvesting their crop early this year, with good yields.

PHOTO: **SHEIKH NASIR**