

Motorbike thief handed over to cops by family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CIG

A woman handed over her son to police on Saturday night in Chattogram's New Market area, after finding out he lifted a motorcycle.

The incident took place at Askar Dighi Par area under Kotwali Police Station.

The arrestee was identified as Tuhin Bhuiyan (22). His mother Mamta Begum is a peon at a local primary school.

The arrestee is a drug addict, said police.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammed Mohsin of Kotwali Police Station said one Ashfaq Uddin entered Tamakundi Lane mobile market on Saturday night, keeping his newly-bought motorbike on the road, under lock and key.

"When he came back, his bike was missing and local hawkers said a youth picked the bike up on a rickshaw and went away. Following the matter, Ashfaq informed the matter to a patrol police where police started looking for the rickshaw," said the OC.

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Shops have flourished under the stairs of this footbridge on both sides of the road at the capital's Shahbagh, illegally encroaching all available spaces, some even spilling over to the footpath. Vendors are comfortably running their businesses like this for ages, as authorities seem to turn a blind eye to this open violation. This photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RAPE OF 6-YEAR-OLD IN CTG A mother's weary quest for justice

FM MIZANUR RAHMAN

Last week, a woman was seen sitting in front of Chattogram Press Club. She did not have any banner or poster with her nor a group of people to express solidarity. All she had was pain in her eyes, which had become weary seeking justice.

When approached by this correspondent, she said she wants justice for her six-year-old daughter, who was raped by their neighbours in 2018.

Though she had filed a case in this regard, two years after the incident, the case is yet to be resolved, with the perpetrators -- out on bail -- roaming free.

"I have nowhere else to go, that's why I came to seek help from the media," she wailed.

She said on April 18, 2018, her daughter was home alone at their rented tin-shed house at CNB area's Hamidchar.

She, an apparel factory worker, and her rickshaw-puller husband were both out on work.

When the mother came back home, she found her daughter writhing in agony. She said two men had come in and hurt her. Distressed over what might have happened, she checked her daughter's body and found blood around her genitals.

She informed her neighbours. A crowd then gathered and the girl was asked to identify who had hurt her.

She pointed at their neighbour Abu Nasser alias Jamal (50). It was later found that the other person was Jasim Uddin (40).

She said her husband was visiting Sylhet at the time and she could not take up the issue immediately. On top of this, she fell ill with chickenpox soon after.

It took around 10 days before the family could lodge a case with Chandgaon Police Station accusing Jamal and Jasim of raping their daughter.

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Pubail 'shooting village' coming back to old self



Actors and crew have started returning to Bhadun, after months of closure.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

For many celebrities of the big and small screen and the creative people behind their success, the 'shooting gram' on the outskirts of Dhaka has been almost like a second home, if only by the sheer amount of time they spend there.

The entire village -- dedicated to year-long shooting of TV plays and films -- is Bhadun, under Pubail union of Gazipur, known for multiple shooting spots interspersed across it.

The economy of the village -- almost completely dependent on shooting -- took a big hit when filming of all kinds was off for close to five months due to the coronavirus outbreak. All shooting houses were forced to lay shut. Stripped of their rent income, the owners of the houses had a hard time coping with the "new normal", like many others who make a living off the entertainment industry.

But things are getting back to normal again. As the shutdown has been eased and fear of the virus is gradually

subsiding, the houses have started to bustle once again. Filming is going on all day, and sometimes even into the night, but business is yet to pick up to previous levels.

"We have been bearing a lot of losses over the last five months," shooting house owner Musa Miah lamented. "Though filming has resumed, it's yet to reach normal levels. We also have to bear the cost of buying masks and sanitisers for the staff."

The costs of the pandemic isn't limited to just the house owners of Bhadun. A case of all eggs in one basket, almost the entirety of Bhadun's economy is dependent on filming. When schedules are off, the whole community suffers.

The list of beneficiaries of Bhadun's unique disposition stretches long. Alongside shooting houses and the staffers they employ, there are households that rent out their farm animals for "acting", generator service providers, dining staff, and even shopkeepers.

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Biman to resume flights to India Oct 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will resume regular passenger flights to India from October 29 after a recess of seven months due to suspension of air communication between the neighbouring countries following the pandemic.

The national flag carrier will operate flights on Dhaka-Delhi-Dhaka route from October 29, Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka route from November 1 and Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka route from November 15, Tahera Khondoker, deputy general manager, (public relations), Biman, said in a release.

Biman has requested interested passengers to purchase tickets through Biman Sales Center, mobile app, website and travel agents.

Conditions, instructions and flight schedule regarding Covid-19 can be found on Biman's website, Tahera added. Meanwhile, US-Bangla Airlines will resume its flight on Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka, Chattogram-Chennai-Chattogram and Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka route from October 28.

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RAYHAN'S 'DEATH IN CUSTODY'

1 more arrested, cop remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Salma Begum, mother of Rayhan Ahmed, who was allegedly tortured to death in Sylhet city's Bandarbaraz police outpost, went on a hunger strike yesterday, demanding justice for her son.

She, along with other relatives, started the fast unto death in front of the outpost at 11am. The family demanded prompt arrest of all responsible police personnel and highest punishment for them.

The mother became ill in the afternoon.

With Sylhet City Mayor Ariful Haque Choudhury, several councillors and concerned citizens assuring her of continuing protest till she gets justice for her son, she broke her hunger strike at 4:45pm.

Meanwhile, Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) yesterday arrested another person in connection with Rayhan's death.

Saidul Sheikh has been arrested under Section 54 for his involvement in the case, said PBI Special Superintendent in Sylhet Muhammad Khaled-uz-Zaman.

Law enforcers are also looking for one of his associates, who is on the run, he added.

In another development, arrestee Titu Chandra Das, a suspended constable, was placed on a three-day remand yesterday after he was produced before the court of Sylhet Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ziadur Rahman.

Before he was put on a five-day remand in the case after his arrest from Sylhet Police Lines on October 20.

Constable Harunur Rahman -- arrested on October 24 -- is on a five-day remand.

Rayhan (33), of Sylhet city's Neharipara, died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital at 7:50am on October 11 after being admitted by police.

Makeshift casino busted, 21 held

STAR REPORT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested 21 persons on Saturday night, while they were gambling at a makeshift casino in Dhaka's Ashulia area, on the outskirts of the capital.

The casino was active at Bypile's Kaichabari area, said Mozammel Haque, commanding officer of Rab-4, at a press briefing at his office in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

The two supposed owners of the casino were not found during the drive, he added.

The elite force seized one electronic casino board imported from Malaysia, 100 yaba tablets, 12 cans of beer, 22 mobile phones and Tk 38,000 from the detainees during the four-hourlong drive.

The arrestees are Azadul Islam (50), Habibur Rahman (47), Liton (45), Billal (38), Abdul Alim (35), Ekhas (35), Rubel Mia (33), Maidul Islam (32), Sohel Molla (32), Asadul Islam (30), Jewel (28), Sabuj Miah (28), Sharif (28), Moin Miah (28), Roni Bhuiyan (25), Rabiul Molla (24), Fazle Rabbi (22), Abu Taleb (20), Didarul Islam (20), Shipon (20) and Masud Rana (20).

According to Rab-4, during primary interrogation, the arrestees admitted to their

involvement in gambling. Cases are being filed against them under the gambling act.

Replying to a question, Rab-4 Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Sajedul Islam claimed that two persons, Biplob and Hasan, were running the casino. Their houses were raided on Saturday too, but they were not there. The search for them will continue.

While visiting the site yesterday noon, this correspondent talked to several locals to know who ran the operation, but no one agreed to speak openly.

Amir Hossen, owner of a rickshaw garage next to the gambling spot, told The Daily Star that the perpetrators rented the spot from one Harun Mondol.

Eklash, one of the arrestees, built a tin-shed room there, after getting permission from the landlord. They had been running a business surrounding the tabletop game carrom for the last one year. Fifteen days ago, two unknown persons brought the casino board to the tin-shed room.

Contacted, Harun Mondol confirmed that the property is their paternal land, but he did not know about the gambling.

ICCB president Mahbubur Rahman on elite global list

CITY DESK

Mahbubur Rahman -- president of International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh (ICCB) -- is among the 150 high-

impact leaders in business and social enterprise from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, who have been interviewed under the "Creating Emerging Market Project (CEMP)" at Harvard Business School (HBS) recently.

The interviews address pivotal moments of transition throughout these regions with emphasis on entrepreneurship, innovation, family business and globalisation of firms and brands, says HBS while explaining CEMP, which is viewed as a unique teaching and research resource in business leadership.

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Road crashes kill four, injure eight

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and eight injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports, two people were killed and five injured when a truck hit a Chuadanga-bound microbus from behind on Dhaka-Khulna highway in front of Arpara High School in Madhukhali upazila around 1:30am.

All the victims were passengers of the microbus, said police.

Mosharaf Hossain (75) from Alandaga upazila and Momena Khatun (60) from Rail Colony area in Chuadanga died on the spot, said Abdur Rahman, sub-inspector of Karimpur Highway Police Outpost.

Of the injured, four were taken to Faridpur Medical College Hospital and the other to Madhukhali Upazila Health Complex, said the SI.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to flee the scene.

Our Mymensingh correspondent adds, a woman died on the spot and three people were injured when two CNG-run auto-rickshaws collided head-on on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road at Gangasram in Gouripur upazila yesterday.

Police said identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

The injured were taken to Ishwarganj Upazila Health Complex, said Gouripur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Borhan Uddin.

Meanwhile, Afroza Akter (9) was killed when a battery-run auto-rickshaw hit her on Nandail-Tarail road at Darilla, said OC Md Mizanur Rahman of Nandail Police Station.

The accident occurred while the girl was returning home from a local madrasa around 9am, according to the police official.



Yesterday marked the Nobomi of the Durga Puja celebrations. It is the final day of worship before the Bijoya Dashami. On this day, the goddess Durga defeated the evil buffalo demon Mahishashura. To mark the day, devotees at the capital's Dhakeshwari Temple lit up candles.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

34th span of Padma Bridge installed

BSS, Munshiganj

The 34th span of the Padma Bridge was installed yesterday, bringing a total of over 5.1km of the structure into view.

The span number "2A" was installed between pillars 7 and 8 at Mawa point, six days after the last one was set up.

Executive Engineer (Bridge) Dewan Md Abdul Quader confirmed the matter and said a crane ship started work around 4pm on Saturday to lay span on the pillars from the Mawa construction jetty, but it was too dark to work smoothly when it reached near the pillars. That's why installation was completed yesterday morning, he added.

With this, a total of three spans have been placed on the bridge this month.

The 35th span is to be set up on the banks of Padma river in Mawa on October 30. The other 6 spans will be installed on the pillars by December this year.

A total of 42 pillars are being constructed for the 6.15km long two-storey Padma Bridge.