

Drug addict kills wife for money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was killed by her drug addicted husband allegedly for money in Joypurhat Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

Being informed by the villagers, police recovered the body of Monika Rani Mohanta, 26, wife of Anukul Chandra Mohanta of Belamla village, and sent it to Joypurhat Modern Hospital for autopsy.

Culprit Anukul, however, fled the house with his five-year-old son, keeping Monika's body lying on the floor.

Locals said Anukul, a carpenter and son of Horen Chandra, often used to torture his wife for money since their marriage about eight years ago.

On Tuesday night, Anukul demanded money from Monika to buy drugs, but as she refused to give the money he beat her mercilessly and strangled her to death before fleeing the scene.

Villagers spotted Monika's body yesterday morning and informed the police.

Two years into building, nursing institute not opened

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Two years into construction of a nursing institute in the district town, it is yet to become operational, thanks to the negligence of the authorities concerned.

The Public Works Department (PWD) is not handing over the three-storey building due to lack of power and water supply, sources said.

The health ministry and Diabetic Association of Bangladesh in 2013 took a joint project to build the 200-seated nursing institute at a cost of Tk 17.97 crore. It is a public private partnership (PPP) project.

The government has funded Tk 14.29 crore while the rest of the amount was funded by Pabna Diabetic Association for construction of the nursing institute.

It was scheduled to complete construction work of the three-storey building in 2018. It ended in December the same year.

On January 15 in 2014, the Public Works Department issued work order to the contractor for construction of the nursing institute in Pabna Diabetic Association.

Later, Zinnat Ali Zinna construction firm got the work order.

According to the district health department and Pabna Diabetic Association, although construction of the nursing institute was completed in 2018, the building is still awaiting its



The nursing institute in Pabna town is yet to be opened, two years into building.

finishing touch. So, the institute is yet to be opened. Construction of the three-storey building

ended within the scheduled time but the PWD did not hand over the building in the last two years as the finishing touches

on the building are yet to be completed, said Md Baby Islam, president of Pabna Diabetic Association.

As electric and power supply lines to the building are yet to be connected, the PWD cannot hand over it, he said.

Meanwhile, the colour and decoration of the newly-built building are being damaged due to lack of maintenance, Baby Islam said.

The PWD has extended the time for the project till June, 2019 but they did not complete the work within the time. Later, the deadline for completion of the construction work was extended till June this year but one percent of the finishing touches on the building is yet to be completed.

Due to the negligence of the authority, the nursing institute is yet to become operational, said Baby Islam, adding that recently, a letter has been sent to the ministry of health, letting it know about the slow progress of the construction work.

Pabna PWD Executive Engineer Anwarul Azim said the work of electrical wiring and water supply to the building is yet to be completed. They are expecting to finish the work very soon.

They are expecting to hand over the newly-constructed building to Pabna Diabetic Association within this year, he said.

Missing baby found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The body of a 17-day-old girl child, who was stolen from her house allegedly by one of her neighbours early Monday, was found floating in a pond in Moreganj upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim, Sohana Akhter, was daughter of Sujan Khan of Gabtala village in the upazila.

Local people found Sanjida's body floating in a pond nearby her house in the morning and informed the police. Officer in Charge (OC) of Moreganj Police Station Mohammad Monirul Islam said, adding that they recovered the body and sent it to the hospital for autopsy.

Earlier, after having their meal on Sunday night the girl's parents went to sleep with the baby.

They woke up early Monday and found the baby girl missing from the bed.

Sujan alleged that his daughter might have been abducted and killed as a sequel to a conflict over land disputes with his neighbours.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bank recruitment exam. Includes logo, title 'বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক', and detailed exam information in Bengali. It lists various job categories like 'সিনিয়র অফিসার', 'জিপিএ', and 'সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ার' with their respective requirements and exam dates.

Volunteers step in to end misery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Over the last four years, the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) officials visited the two-kilometre dirt road -- in Shukurullahgaon village of Kamalganj upazila -- and took measurements three times, but did not repair it.

Fed up, the villagers finally took matters in their own hands and straightened out the road that is used daily by thousands in 10 villages of two neighbouring unions.

During a visit on November 14, at least 30 volunteers from Shukurullahgaon village were seen mending the road with whatever tools they had available. Some were bringing in dirt, while others were packing the dirt into large and small potholes that surfaced all over the road.

Sanjeeb Das, a retired teacher from the village said, thousands of residents in Adampur and Madhabpur unions have been suffering immensely as the Ghoramara-Shukurullahgaon road had been left unmaintained for four years.

The road was supposed to be paved a long while ago, but that did not happen either, he said frustratingly.

The impassable road not only became risky for children and the elderly, but it also had been affecting the local economy, said a number of villagers whose livelihoods mainly depend on agriculture.

Without a proper road, the farmers in the villages had been counting losses as they could not ensure timely delivery of their agricultural goods and produce to nearby markets, they added.

The makeshift repair work on the dirt road will last only till the next monsoon and the authorities should take immediate steps to pave it before the monsoon arrives, the villagers



A few of the villagers, young and old, who joined hands to repair the two-kilometre-long dirt road in Shukurullahgaon village of Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

demanding. One of the volunteers, Miraj Miah, said after seeing promises made by the authorities broken over the years, "we decided to carry out the repair work by ourselves."

"The dilapidated road has been a major cause for concern and we had our hopes up when the local UP chairman visited our area. But they broke all their promises too," said villager Anil Singha.

Babul Kumar Singh, a member of Madhabpur Union Parishad (UP), said after they informed LGED officials in Moulvibazar about the poor condition of the road, they came and took measurements of it three times over the past four years, but did not take any step to pave the

road. UP Chairman Pushpa Kumar Kanu said they asked the authorities to pave the Ghoramara-Shukurullahgaon road as well as other rundown roads in the union, but necessary funding was not available for the task.

When contacted, Deputy Assistant Engineer Mamun Bhuiyan of LGED in Kamalganj upazila said the Ghoramara-Shukurullahgaon road is the most important road in Adampur and Madhabpur unions.

Praising the villagers' efforts, he also said under a project proposal sent to the ministry, they included the name of the road in a list of roads that need to be repaired the upazila, but sufficient fund was yet to be available for it, he added.

He was in hospital, still made accused

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He said he had been getting treatment from LabAid since then but he had to get admitted on November 10 as his condition deteriorated due to blood-related problems.

"I was astonished to see my name in the bus-torching case. How could I torch a bus when I am so sick and having treatment in a hospital," Zakir, a resident of city's Malibagh area, said over phone.

Asked about Zakir's claim of being in hospital during the incident, SI Shaheen Mia of Paltan Police Station, who filed one of the 16 cases, said he will not talk about the matter then. Zakir is not the only one though.

Nazmul Alam Nazu, Rangpur district Jubo Dal president and joint general secretary of Jubo Dal central committee, claimed that he was also falsely accused.

He said he had a bypass surgery at a hospital in Dhaka on October 13 and had been on bed rest, as prescribed by doctors.

"I am on three months' complete bed rest as per doctor's suggestion after the surgery. Yet, I have been made an accused in a bus torching case filed with Motijheel police," he said over the phone.

Nazmul said he left Dhaka for

Rangpur on November 14 in an ambulance and could not return to Dhaka to seek bail.

He has been accused in two cases. Following the arson attacks on nine buses on November 12, 16 cases were filed against more than 500 identified leaders and activists of BNP, its affiliate bodies, and unidentified others.

Police claimed that the buses were torched by the accused at the directive of their central leaders with an aim to foil the Dhaka-18 by-polls held that day.

The charges include attempted murder by torching buses, sabotage attempt, exploding bombs, and possessing explosives. ARSONISTS STILL AT LARGE Police are yet to arrest anyone directly involved in the torching of buses.

They have, however, arrested around 50 people, mostly BNP and its front organisations' leaders and activists. The arrestees were quizzed on remand but police could not glean any information about the real arsonists, sources said.

A CCTV video clip found after an arson attack showed two young men throwing something inside a parked bus at Paltan causing a fire inside the vehicle in the blink of an eye.

The duo fled the scene quickly. The charges include attempted murder by torching buses, sabotage attempt, exploding bombs, and possessing explosives. ARSONISTS STILL AT LARGE Police are yet to arrest anyone directly involved in the torching of buses.

intelligence agencies have been scrutinising the video to identify them.

"We have been trying to identify the arsonists from the footage, but are yet to succeed," Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge (OC) of Paltan Police Station said yesterday.

A top official of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, however, said they have already identified the two in the video and drives were on to arrest them.

OC Abu Bakar said they arrested 11 people in the case filed with his police station and have quizzed some of them on remand. They were yet to get any information on the arsonists, he said, adding that they were hopeful getting information soon.

This newspaper also talked to the OCs of city's Uttara Purba, Airport, Bangshal, and Bhatara police stations. They too said they were yet to arrest anyone who was directly involved in setting the buses on fire.

Bangshal OC Shaheen Fakir on Tuesday said they arrested 16 people in a case filed over an arson attack on a bus. Some of the accused had been interrogated on remand, he added.

"We have gleaned some information but cannot disclose those as the investigation is going on," he said.