

National

Housewife beaten to death, 3 held

SIRAGANJ, Nov 6: Police arrested three persons on charge of murdering a housewife in village Charrupsa under sadar thana early Thursday, reports UNB.

Roushan Ara Khatun, 25, a housewife was allegedly killed for dowry money of Tk 2000 by her in laws and husband Abdur Rahim when she refused to oblige them.

It has been alleged that Abdur Rahim along with his brother-in-law Abdus Salam, 37, sister Fatema Begum, 20 and brother Josmot Ali SK, killed Roushan Ara and hanged the body from a tree near their house.

Police later recovered the body. Abdur Rahim remains absconding.

Roushan Ara was beaten to death, doctors at the Sirajganj General Hospital said.

Lawyers demand removal of Mymensingh DC

MYMENSINGH, Nov 6: The District Lawyers' Association here today demanded removal of the Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh and a magistrate for alleged harassment of a lawyer, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference, the association president advocate Manjurul Huq warned of a tougher programme if the authorities did not remove DC A S M Matir Rahman and magistrate Jahanara Parveen immediately.

The association has already begun boycott of all the seven magistrate courts from Tuesday protesting the trial of a lawyer for contempt of court.

The lawyers earlier started boycotting the court of magistrate Jahanara Parveen after it had tried a case on October 23 asking the lawyer to pay a fine of Tk 200 or suffer 15 days' imprisonment.

Advocate Huq said bench clerks of the magistrate courts had filed several cases against the lawyers at the 'instigation of the district administration' to foil their (lawyers) programme.

This prompted the association to go for boycott of all the magistrate courts, he said.

Huq said they also demand the removal of DC as he had failed to take any action against magistrate Jahanara.

'Closure of industries won't be allowed'

KUSHTIA, Nov 6: Lutfar Rahman Khan, State Minister for Industries said here Saturday that the BNP government will not allow anybody to close down any industry, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the opening ceremony of sugarcane crushing of Kushtia Sugar Mills.

He said conspiracy is going on to close down industries. He also said that no loss on the part of the industry will be tolerated by the govt. If there is any loss the government will be compelled to hand over industry to private sector.

Migratory birds start coming in coastal areas

PATUAKHALI, Nov 6: Migratory birds have started coming in the coastal areas of the district from cooler regions, including Siberia, reports UNB.

Like previous years, thousands of migratory birds of different species are assembling here in search of food and shelter.

Being chased by shivering cold, aves of numerous colours, shades and tunes, fly towards the countries of tropical zone for their survival, and return home when the chilly wave of winter is over.

Usually, many species of migratory birds are seen in the coastal areas of Kalapara and Dashmina thana of the coastal district. Such birds also take shelter are also available in the *char* areas of Barguna.

However, some cruel hunters are active with the appearance of these birds and victimise some of these guests birds ignoring international ban on it.

Contraband seized in Feni

FENI, Nov 6: The District Task Force has seized Indian turmeric worth Tk one lakh from a godown at Takia road in the town last week, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, the police raided the godown and seized the contraband item. One Manik, owner of the godown, managed to escape arrest.

The seized goods were deposited to the district Customs office and a case was filed with the sadar police station.



SYLHET: Iranian Ambassador Mahmud Bayat speaking at the publication ceremony of the mystic Poet Rakib Shah's poetry 'Kabitar Desh' held at Sylhet auditorium recently.

— Star photo

Dispute over distribution of khas land in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Nov 6: Disputes, murders, cases, counter-cases in civil, criminal and revenue courts have been continuing unabated for about long 33 years over distribution, possession and determination of title of 461.43 acres of *khas* land in Beelkurulia under Chatmohar thana of Pabna district.

As a result, the government decision of distribution of *khas* land among the landless peasants is being frustrated.

It is learnt that a section of local influential persons, made forged and illegal *kabuliatismas* and other documents from the original zamindars and, on the basis of those forged documents and titles created thereby were occupying a vast portion of the Beelkurulia's disputed lands.

Authorities and in view of the situation, as the above distribution was rendered impossible, the then SDO (Sub-Divisional Officer) who, exercising his magisterial powers under CrPC, imposed section 145 CrPC and appointed a receiver for looking after the land.

It is learnt that a section of local influential persons, made forged and illegal *kabuliatismas* and other documents from the original zamindars and, on the basis of those forged documents and titles created thereby were occupying a vast portion of the Beelkurulia's disputed lands.

Meanwhile, there is no proper accounts of collection of money from the said land by the receiver during long 32 years, it is alleged.

In 1992, about 2,000 landless peasants of the area, organised by the Jatiyo Krishak Samity led by the Workers' Party of Bangladesh, took possession of the entire 461.43 acres of land following this, new incidents of murders, loot, rioting, cases and counter-cases were filed started afresh.

New administrative problems cropped up meanwhile over the said lands. Out of the entire 461.43 acres, an area of 300 acres have been recorded as government *khas* land during the recent RS operation and the remaining 158 acres of land

have been recorded in the names of different *jotdars* who allegedly claim title over them on the basis of false and forged documents. But the possession of these lands were still with the landless peasants. The *Bhumibhun Unnayan Sangstha*, an organisation of the landless peasants, have filed objections against the illegal recording of *khas* land in name of so-called private owners during the RS operations.

To resolve the above complication over the Beelkurulia, the *Bhumibhun Unnayan Sangstha* has submitted the following recommendations before the appropriate authorities, it is learnt.

The recommendations are: 1) the entire land should be recorded as government *khas* land; 2) stay order issued in view of actions taken under section 145 CrPC should be vacated; 3) quick disposal of the civil suits filed by *jotdars* and 4) distribution of the entire *khas* land among the landless peasants who were in possession.

The project was initiated by the then govt in the backdrop of the unilateral withdrawal of water of the river Ganges in the upper stream by India through Farakka barrage. The aim of the project was removal of water scarcity for irrigation, flood control and improvement of irrigation in 25 south western districts of the country.

The districts are Pabna, Rajshahi, Kushtia, Natore, Nawabganj, Naogaon, Sirajganj, Meherpur, Narail, Chuadanga, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Bhola, Pirojpur, Barisal, Jhalokati, Sylhet, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Rajbari and Madaripur.

In 1980-81 Project Implementation Cell was formed under the auspices of Water Development Board and later in 1984 a separate office was established under the name of Ganges Barrage Project for its implementation.

At present progress of work of the project is negligible. Till now about four crore taka has been spent and only a portion of survey work is done. To complete the first phase of the pro-

ject an amount of Taka six core is required, an informed source said.

Surprising by no substantial progress is done so far and no fund has been allocated. The future of the project remains uncertain with small water in the river Ganges and as a result process of desertification has already begun in the northern regions.

The Farakka issue has already been discussed in many forums including Zia Parishad where speakers blamed India for economic and environmental aggression on Bangladesh and demanded increase of supply of Ganges water.

On the other hand, local leaders through public meetings raised their demand for construction of Ganges Barrage Project. Late President Ziaur Rahman initiated it to overcome and face the adverse effect of Farakka.

The work of the project began in 1980-81 through laying of foundation stone at four kilometre downstream of Hardinge Bridge near Talbaria at a cost of Taka 1131 crores.

The three proposed pump houses will ensure adequate water lifting for irrigation. These will also be helpful for the Ganges Kobadak Project area which suffers a setback every year during dry season for want of adequate water. The total expenditure of Taka 1131 crores includes Taka 220 crores in foreign exchange.

The project includes the

Multiple use of molasses can play vital role in our economy

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Nov 6: Multiple use of molasses can play a vital role in our national economy, it is hoped according to a source related Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), about 90 thousand metric tons of molasses is produced in 16 sugar mills in the country.

These molasses are being used as only animal feeds. But Ethyl Alcohol, Lactic Acid,

Oxalic Acid and Cytric Acid may be produced if molasses can be used as raw materials, source said.

fuel procured from molasses, it was told.

Carew and Company a sugar mill possess an independent unit but Lactic Acid Oxalic Acid or Cytric Acid is processed from molasses here the source added.

As a result government has been spending huge amount money to import related chemicals for alcohol production. The independent unit might not meet the necessity of alcohol required in the country.

An expert of BCIC expressed hope that if multifarious use of molasses can build a valuable Ethyl Alcohol production unit in government sector on commercial basis. Substitute use of petrol may be installed on the basis of molasses which might play role in national economy, the source said.

Higher authorities have been urged to take necessary initiatives to utilise properly 90 thousand metric tons of molasses in 16 sugar mills in the country.

Regional confce of SCEMRB**'Mentally retarded should enjoy equal human rights as others'**

COMILLA, Nov 6: Forest and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain recently emphasised the importance of upholding rights of mentally retarded persons in society and work out realistic programmes for their welfare and rehabilitation, says BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the regional conference of the Society for Care and Education for Mentally Retarded, Bangladesh (SCEMRB), the minister said the mentally retarded are unfortunate victims of fate and are the most innocent persons.

The meeting, presided over by AKM Quamruzzaman MP, was addressed, among others, by DP Barua, President of SCEMRB, Karl Johan Haanes, NFP Adviser from Norway in Asia based in Dhaka and Dr Glasuddin Molla, Secretary General of SCEMRB.

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The keynote paper on 'care of Mentally retarded' was presented by Shafi Majumder, Treasurer, Comilla branch.

The minister in his speech said these unfortunate persons should enjoy the same human rights as other citizens of the country. He praised the work of SCEMRB which has been functioning as an important pressure group to champion the rights of education, training and rehabilitation of mentally retarded in

He assured that he would endeavour to allot a plot of land in Kotbari area of Comilla from his ministry for the SCEMRB.

Dr Quamruzzaman, MP, in his presidential speech said the rights of the mentally retarded could be upheld through formulating a national policy for universal education of all citizens by 2000 AD.

DP Barua, emphasised the importance of identifying the mentally retarded in rural areas and work out home-based programmes for them through its 27 branches. He said, the SCEMRB was endeavouring to incorporate the rights of handicapped including the mentally retarded in the national strategy for universal education of all citizens by 2000 AD.

He said that the finance minister had sanctioned Taka 20 crore for the distribution of ten lakh sanitary latrines among the people. Such a programme would help strengthen the primary health care system in the country, he added.

Originally Taka 500 was allotted for each of the distressed families in Narasingdi as gratuitous relief. But since it appeared that Taka 500 would not provide a permanent solution to the problems of the distressed families, the state minister for planning directed the district administration to distribute sanitary latrine instead of cash money. Building permanent infra-structure with gratuitous relief money would remain as gearing example in Bangladesh, Dr Khan said.

The state minister was distributing stipend money among the students of Panchdona High School and Alpara High School.

He said that the present democratic government was aware of the socio-economic condition of the people. So the government has undertaken the work of SCEMRB which has been functioning as an important pressure group to champion the rights of education, training and rehabilitation of mentally retarded in

said, the SCEMRB will participate in the forthcoming world congress on mental retardation in New Delhi from November 22 to 27.

Delegates from six branches of Sylhet, Feni, Chittagong, Comilla, Chandpur and Nangolok rural branch of Comilla district participated in the regional conference in addition to a large number of social workers, parents and teachers of the mentally retarded.

The second session of the conference presided over by DP Barua in the afternoon discussed the issues relating to care and rehabilitation of mentally retarded. Karl Johan Hanes, AKM Quamruzzaman, Dr Glasuddin Molla, president of SCEMRB branches from Sylhet AFM Kamal, from Chittagong Mohammad Moslem, from Feni Kamal Hasan Chowdhury, from Comilla, Ashraf Ali Chowdhury, from Dhaka Metropolitan branch, Aminur Rasul and First Vice-President from Chandpur Zakir Hussain Majumder took part in the discussion.

Among others who took part in the discussion included GWH Chowdhury, vice President of SCEMRB, AJM Hamed Hossain, First Joint Secretary General of SCEMRB, JI Mamun, Second Joint Secretary General, M Faizullah.

Tungra, majra destroy huge aman crops

BARISAL, Nov 6: Standing aman crops on vast tract of land in six southern districts of Barisal Division have been attacked by tungra, majra pests, says BSS.

According to an official source, pests locally known as tungra damaged standing aman crops on 9,932 hectares of land.

On the other hand, majra attacked aman paddy on 10,194 hectares of land in these districts.

According to an official source, tungra attacked aman paddy on over 30 thousand hectares of land while majra insects damaged crops on over 50 thousand hectares of land.

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BAGERHAT, Nov 6: President Abdur Rahman Biswas Sunday urged the Lawyers to play their due role to strengthen the protection system of law to ensure human rights and individual freedom in society, reports BSS.

Our constitution guarantees the rights of people and therefore wherever justice is hampered law must take its due course to redress that and uphold the rule of law, he said.

The President said this at the foundation laying ceremony of the Bagerhat District Bar Library Building here, to be built at a cost of Taka 35 lakh.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

President Biswas, himself a noted lawyer and jurist, said the basic foundation of rule of law is respect towards law. He cautioned all concerned to be alert so that no one can use law to serve his vested interest.

He said in a democratic society the lawyers hold very important responsibilities to shoulder.

The President urged the lawyers to make the people aware of laws to ensure the rule of law effectively.

Everybody is presumed to know the laws of the land as the country is run by law, President Biswas said adding, "It is the noble responsibility of the lawyers to help the people learn about the laws of the country."