

National

Follow Sakina Khatun

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 7: A husband was awarded three years' imprisonment on charge of demanding dowry from his wife recently.

The case in brief. Sakina Khatun, 21, daughter of Ibadat Munshi of village Kalamankhali was married to accused Mizanur Rahman of village Bashtoli in Magura district five years back.

Rahman was given Taka seven thousand as dowry at the time of wedding and Sakina's father assured his son-in-law that dowry money for the rest seven thousand would be handed over to him later on.

But the ill-fated father could not pay the money in time. On Feb 6, 1993 Mizanur Rahman tortured his wife Sakina Khatun and sent Sakina along with her three-year old daughter to her father's house.

Finding no other alternative, Sakina Khatun lodged a case against her husband in the court of Thana Magistrate in Jhenidah.

After thorough investigation Nalini Ranjan Basak, class one Magistrate awarded the accused, Mizanur Rahman to suffer three years in jail. Another accused Madhu Mollah was released from the charge.

Lathials swoop on farmers : 20 persons injured

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 7: At least 20 persons were injured, eight of them seriously following a clash between farmers and *lathials* at Balipara char under sadar thana of Pirojpur district on Monday.

Police and witnesses said, a gang of *lathials* numbering around one hundred swooped on the landless farmers of Balipara char. The farmers resisted them and a clash ensued.

During the hour-long clash, at least 20 persons including women were injured. Eight of the critically injured were identified as Abu Taleb, 33, Chandrapur, 30, Saburjan, 45, Obab Khan, 60, Sajeda Khatun, 60, Zohara Khatun, 35, Parul Bibi, 35, and Nesar Farazi. They were admitted to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital.

Mentionable, to grab the *khans* land of over one thousand acres at Balipara *lathials* with the help of local landlords frequently attack the helpless farmers who number about one thousand families.

Cross border dacoits held in Sundarbans

From Staff Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 7: Forest guards in the Sundarbans arrested four Indian nationals on Saturday after a gunbattle while they were committing dacoity, reports UNB.

The dacoits were identified as Joydev, Tahazzaq, Azirur and Rezaul. All of them hailed from Surupkhali thana of 24 Pargana district of West Bengal.

Forest guards sources said the dacoits entered into the Bangladesh water and attacked a fishing boat near the Sundarbans area.

On getting the information, the guards swooped on them and caught them. They were trying to escape by jumping in the river after exchanging gunfire.

About 2.5 lakh families do not use latrines in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 7: About 2 lakh 50 thousand families in Gaibandha district do not use any kind of latrines which contributes to the pollution of social environment and caused health hazard.

The inmates of these families use bamboo groves adjacent to dwelling houses, crop fields and river side during the call of nature. Even they use water from nearby river, pools and ponds. This practise has sharply increased intestinal diseases.

According to a statistics a total of 3,72,467 families live in Gaibandha district. Of them 3 lakh 47 thousand live in village areas and the remaining 25,467 families are town dwellers.

Most of the village dwellers do not possess any latrine in their homes. In town areas, about 7 per cent dwellers do not have any latrine of their own. They either use neighbour's latrine or river side during the early hours of day.

In many residences of town dwellers a trend of using open latrine is still in practice. This system multiplies the pollution of local environment. These *kutcha* latrines should be replaced by sanitary latrines through the initiative of local pourasava.

Electricity bills worth Tk 26.19 cr remain unrealised in greater Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 7: A total amount of Taka 26 crore 19 lakh and 57 thousand has been lying unrealised in the four districts of greater Sylhet region as electricity bill. The Powers Development Board (PDB) has got its Sylhet circle comprising with five divisions in the region with four districts.

Of these, the Distribution Division Sylhet is comprised of eight electric supply areas in different thanas of Sylhet district and five electric supply areas of Sunamganj district. The Distribution Division, Moulvibazar is comprised of four electric supply areas in the district and three electric supply areas in Habiganj district. The Sales and Distribution Division-I, Sylhet covers, Ambarkhana, Subidbazar, Zindabazar and the area upto Shahjalal Upashahar, of Sylhet town. The Sales and Distribution Division Sylhet-II covers the area from Shahjalal Upashahar, Shibganj and the upto, the Jalalabad Cantonment, while the Sales and Distribution Division Sylhet-III covers the south Surma area of Sylhet Sadar.

During the month of April, an amount of Taka 5 crore 45 lakh 73 thousand were realised from the electricity consumers as electricity bills.

Besides, an amount of Taka eight crore 79 lakh 36 thousand has been lying unrealised in the Sales and Distribution Division-I, Sylhet where there are 20709 subscribers. The system loss here was 27.29 per cent during the month of April, this year. The amount of arrear bill stands at Taka 3 crore 30 lakh and 27 thousand in the Sales and Distribution Division Sylhet-II where the number of subscribers is

13931. The system loss there was 22.71 per cent. The Sales and Distribution Division-III Sylhet has an arrear electricity bill worth Taka 3 crore 55 lakh 16 thousand. There are 11229 subscribers in this division. The system loss was at 27.95 per cent in April, this year.

The system loss in the Sylhet circle is yet to be brought down as per directives of the higher authorities of PDB. Though some of the officials of the department are claiming that, it had been brought down, but the targets fixed by the authorities in this regard are yet to be achieved.

The Superintending Engineer, Sylhet Circle had issued official warning letters to a number of Resident Engineers of the circle for their failure in reducing the system loss.

Meanwhile, the authorities launched mobile courts and special teams for disconnecting the illegal users of electricity and for realising outstanding bills. As many as 1389 connections were disconnected in the Month of April while 1353 were disconnected in May.

Helping them to stand on their own

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, June 7: Now I can lead my family life smoothly as poverty has been driven away from the family, said Samasta Begum, 38, a housewife of village Chatura in Sylkupa thana of the district.

Samasta Begum who is a mother of three children took Taka three thousand from Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Sylkupa unit on February 28 in 1993 for paddy husking. She repaid the amount in 50 instalments and again received Taka four thousand against small business. Now Samasta Begum earns Taka about 12,000 per month. She also deposits weekly instalment of Taka 88.

Farida Perveen, 33, mother of four children of village Kurniradah in Sylkupa thana received a loan of Taka four thousand from the same organisation against project of small business. With the money she runs a small trade in her locality and earns Taka between 55 and 60 daily. Talking to this correspondent, Perveen said, her husband is physically unfit for running business as he had been suffering from various diseases and that is the reason she (Perveen) runs the business herself. It changed her family life. Now she is self-sufficient to run her family.

Abdul Jalil, 22, a young unemployed boy of village Chatura was passing his days in great hardship for want of money. BRDB sanctioned a sum of Taka four thousand to purchase a rickshaw-van to him. After receiving the amount he purchased the same. After repaying weekly regular instalments of Taka 88 he earns Taka between seventy and seventy-five daily. Now he has become a real earning member in the society. Jalil claimed. He expressed that earlier due to poverty he faced hunger for days together. He is now able to afford meals for three meals a day.

Dowry: Still a common practice

From Our Correspondent

MEHERPUR, June 7: The demands for dowry have been creating obstacles to the marriages of girls in Meherpur district.

According to reliable sources, there are about ten thousand unmarried girls in the district. Most of the girls come from peasants families, who are quite unable to fulfil the demands of bridegrooms.

Moreover, the economic condition of the farmers have deteriorated due to routine natural calamities like droughts and cyclones which destroy the crops. The enhancement of development tax, price hike of agricultural and farm imputes, as well as fall in the prices of cash crops are also making the farmers of the district economically vulnerable.

The low-income farmers are the worst victims of the price-like of the daily necessities.

New RU Proctor take charge

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY.

JHENIDAH, June 7: Prof Nazrul Islam, chairman of accounting department has been appointed as the Proctor of Rajshahi University and has joined on Monday at a simple ceremony. He succeeded Dr M Keramat. After his resignation Prof Nazrul took over the charge at Proctor Office in presence of the student adviser provost and few other teachers and journalists in a very cardinal atmosphere. Islam is a member of executive committee of RU Parishad.

Mother, son killed in road mishap in Habiganj

From Our Correspondent

HABIGANJ.

JUNE 7: A mother and her son were killed by a speeding truck near Chunarughat thana parished on Dhaka-Sylhet highway recently.

The victims were identified as Ujali Sutradhar, 40 and her son Okhil Sutradhar, 10 of village Lakhair of the thana.

Police and witnesses said a Sylhet bound truck ran over them while they were crossing the road. They died on the spot.

The bodies were sent to sadar hospital morgue for postmortem. A case has been filed with the police.

BKB to give Tk 10cr loan in 10 S-dists this year

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 7: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has taken a plan to distribute Taka about 10 crore among the farmers of 10 southern districts this year.

According to a BKB source, they will distribute Taka 78 lakh in Jhenidah district, six in Jessor district ten in Kushtia district, six and six roads are being constructed in Magura district.

Another report says, construction work of 15 primary schools are going on in Jhenidah district at a cost of Taka 70 lakh.

The sources said Facilities Department of Education Department has completed about 25 per cent of the work so far. The rest of the work is expected to be completed by July this year, sources added.

Income generating projects being implemented in CHT

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI.

JUNE 7: The income generating project for the indigent people of the district with a amount of Taka 19.34 lakh allocated by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) which has implemented through Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) will expire by the end of June next.

With a view to develop the socio-economic condition of the indigent people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region, the CHTDB had taken a phased-base full length projects on during cattle, and other small scale business with an amount of Taka 3 crore 80 lakh in 1993-94.

The repayment of the disbursed loan was satisfactory with a return of 90 per cent, the official sources said.

Established in 1976, CHTDB has been operating its multi-type performances in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban for the development of the socio-economic condition of the people of this region especially the tribal community.

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