

I awarded 10 yrs RI for making, possessing wine

From Our Correspondent
SATHKHIRA, Sept 26: Sudhendu Kumar Biswas, Additional District and Session Judge Sathkhira, convicted Abdur Rouf of village Hajipur under sadar thana on charge of making and possessing wine and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 10 years.

The personnel of Narcotics and Liquor Circle Sathkhira raided the house of A Rouf and recovered one litre wine and 46 litres of raw materials of wine on October 2, 1992 last. A case was lodged with Sathkhira police in this connection.

Depressed youth commits suicide

From CHT Correspondent
MATIRANGA (Khagrachhari), Sept 26: The absence of peace in the family led an youth to end his life recently at thana sadar of the district, sources said.

Abul Hashem, 20, a resident of the thana sadar took poison at 8.00 am at his rented house, adjacent to west of Matiranga police station, being fed up with family problem. The neighbours, on getting information, rushed him to Khagrachhari hospital, where he died at about 10.15 am, police and neighbours said.

An unnatural death case in this connection was lodged with Khagrachhari police.

3 children drown in Sathkhira

From Our Correspondent
SATHKHIRA, Sept 26: Three children drowned and met the tragic end of their lives in different villages under Assassuni thana during the period of two days.

It was reported that one Alam, 3, son of Mainuddin Gazi of village Keyargati under Assassuni thana while playing by the side of a pond near his residence, suddenly fell into the pond and drowned. Later villagers recovered his body from the pond.

On the same day, Hafizul Islam, 4, son of Khalek Gazi of village Chapra of the same thana while playing by the side of the river Marichap with other boys and all of a sudden slipped and fell into the river and drowned. Later the neighbours recovered his body from the river.

On the following day, Jahurul Islam, 3, son of Mafizul Islam of village Keyargati fell into the pond, near his residence and drowned. The villagers later rescued the body from the pond.



SIRAJGANJ: A damaged house in Charbel under Belkuchi thana. Photo shows a collapsed thatched house and a partly damaged kitchen along with the inmates of the house.

Jamuna erosion turns furious affecting huge areas in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Sept 26: With the fall in the water level of Jamuna, erosion has turned furious in Shahzadpur, Chowhali and sadar thana areas.

Twenty-four villages of the aforesaid thanas are worst affected by erosion, according to reports received here recently.

It is learnt that about three miles area from Monakasha to Sonatoni in Shahzadpur and Chowhali and Saidabad union in sadar thana are affected by erosion. During last two days 25 shops of Sonatoni Bazar and Dhampur government primary school were washed away by erosion. The existence of Sonatoni High School is threatened and the Brahmaputra flood control embankment here is only 150 yards from the erosion point.

In Chowhali thana, the villages Shamblindia, Bula-shuria, Sailzana, Umarpur and Amuria are affected by erosion in the eastern part of Jamuna. Vast tracts of croplands were eroded in Chaitantoli village under sadar thana. Newly constructed Goila union health sub-centre was also affected.

WDB embankment in Makra under Shahzadpur thana is also threatened by erosion. It is observed that a 1.5 mile long shoal (charland) have emerged near Jalalpur in Shahzadpur thana changing the channel of river towards the western part of Jamuna intensifying erosion in Jalalpur, Makra and Sonatoni under Shahzadpur thana.

Necessary steps to arrest erosion are urgently needed by the Water Development Board (WDB) to save croplands and homesteads in the affected areas.

3 lakh children do not have benefits of education

From CHT Correspondent
RANGAMATI, Sept 26: The communication hazards, continuous loss of faith of the parents towards education for absence of motivation, associating school-going children in income-generating jobs from their childhood, shortage of teachers accompanied with adoption of corruption by the people and officials entrusted in imparting education as well as the flopped monitoring system, failed to bring about 3 lakh children of school-going age to schools out of about 8.64 lakh children in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region.

According to a survey conducted recently by this Correspondent, it reveals that 1,99,389 children of school-going age got themselves admitted into primary schools in Rangamati hill district out of 2,98,784 in January, 1995. The rest 99,389 children were deprived of their right of getting the government committed compulsory free primary education in the district due to lack of expected initiative and motivation of the teachers, officials of the education department and the local leaders. The misappropriation of wheat allocated by the government under food for education programme by the teachers, education department officials and local leaders has aggravated the situation, concerned sources alleged.

Out of a total number of 2,76,935 children of school-going age, 1,79,804 have themselves enrolled their names in the free primary schools, whereas a total of 97,131 children were deprived of the compulsory free primary education in Khagrachhari hill district, the survey reveals.

A number of 1,89,263 were found deprived from the chance of getting themselves enrolled in the free primary schools in Bandarban hill district in the academic year 1995, which exceeded the number of education deprived children of two other hill districts of Rangamati and Khagrachhari. The number of school-going children was found in Bandarban hill district was 2,87,859.

The shortage of teachers, the increasing practice of the teachers to keep themselves aloof from the classes, lack of supervision of schools of the education officers, defalcation of foodgrain allocated for food for education programme and trend of engaging child labour by unscrupulous people in exchange of less wages were figured high for the sharp fall of number of school-going children in CHT, the survey says.

Patients seek treatment at the 'sick' hospital

From Delwar Kabir
JHENIDAH, Sept 26: Jhenidah sadar hospital itself has become ill for lack of some unavoidable facilities, it was learnt.

According to reports, the hospital was upgraded to sadar hospital and the number of beds were enhanced to 100 from 50 in January, 1994. But no extra building or space was arranged earlier. As a result the patients have been suffering badly.

Sources said, at least 120 patients rush for admission in this hospital weekly. A good number of them are compelled to prepare their beds on the corridor or on the ward floors which sometimes becomes difficult for proper treatment, it was reported.

Dr Dulal Chandra Chakrabarty, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) in-charge, Jhenidah sadar hospital informed that at least 300 patients rush in his hospital for outdoor and emergency treatment weekly. Due to shortage of sufficient medicines they are compelled to treat the patients with Tetracycline, Paracetamol, Cotrimoxazole, metronidazole, vitamin-B complex, iron, antacid and anti-cholinergic drugs. The indoor or admitted patients are treated with Penicillin, Amoxicillin, Gentamycin, Metronidazole or similar drugs.

In 1994, 7,431 patients were admitted and 41,701 patients were treated in outdoor. Drugs worth Taka 6,30,000 which was only 78 paise per head, was given, the RMO informed. He further informed that since January 1 until August 31 this year 5,104 patients were admitted and 25,159 patients were treated in outdoor from Jhenidah sadar hospital.

There is no isolated ward in this hospital. As a result the authority is compelled to treat the tetanus and diarrhoea affected patients together having no other alternative, it was informed.

It was also informed that there is only one consultant posted in Jhenidah sadar hospital instead of three consultants even for fifty bed hospital. Talking to the Junior Consultant, Surgery it was learnt that there is none to help him in surgery room which is throwing him in trouble frequently. At least three Medical Officers (MO) and three Medical Assistants (MA) are required to meet the necessity he informed.

The same condition is prevailing in medicine department, it was learnt.

There is no medical officer for medicine.

The RMO further informed that 12 posts of physicians including one Senior Consultant (Pediatric), Senior Consultant (Gynaecology), Junior Consultant (Surgery) and one RMO is stationed. But now the 100 bed hospital is running with only eight doctors which is too inadequate to meet the necessity. Posts of Radiologist, Dental Surgeon, and regular RMO are lying vacant.

While this correspondent visited the postmortem room of the hospital it was witnessed bushes were surrounding the morgue. There is no arrangement for lighting. The doctor engaged for autopsy works with a torch light or candle. There was even no water supply facility in the morgue, it was alleged. It was further learnt that there is no specialist for autopsy. As a result it is furnished by other physicians.

While there are three to four Medical Assistants in thana level hospital, no such posts were created for the district level hospitals though at least five Medical Assistants (MA) are required specially for the emergency room, it was learnt.

It was learnt from the source that bodies of 192 persons were brought for autopsy in 1991, 166 bodies in 1992, 172 bodies in 1993, 119 bodies in 1994 at Jhenidah sadar hospital morgue.

A mini ambulance was allocated for Jhenidah sadar hospital which can not meet the requirements of the district. Another ambulance is lying in front of the hospital without repairing, it was alleged.



JHENIDAH: Some female patients are seen flooring in the female ward at Jhenidah sadar hospital. — Star photo by Delwar Kabir

Commercial bank's role in extending soft loan to NGOs praised

From Our Correspondent
Sept 26: ASA, the only NGO which has cited an example by borrowing commercial credit from Agrani Bank is playing a pioneer role, team leader, Patrick Vath, of FSRP expressed in a delighted mood recently at ASA central office in a meeting, says a press release.

Agrani Bank has provided soft credit to the NGOs by observing ASA's cost-effective and Self-reliant Development Model, he added.

He encouraged the NGOs of Bangladesh to reduce dependency on donors fund and the banks to create broader opportunity for micro lending through banking deregulation.

He also said, the NGOs should have full autonomy to fix the interest rate on soft credit, but the interest rate should not exceed more than 20 to 25 per cent, the press release adds.

He suggested the NGOs to create reserve funds for their sustainability and security.

In the meeting Patrik exchanged views with ASA's chief executive and other senior officials. He also briefly highlighted on banking deregulation procedures being suggested by FSRP, the press release adds.

Decomposed body of youth found in river Chuna

From Our Correspondent
SATHKHIRA, Sept 26: A decomposed body of an unidentified youth aged about 22 years was found floating in the river Chuna of the Sundarbans for the last several days.

Eye witnesses said, the body of the ill-fated youth was found floating from Munshiganj ferry ghat to Chuna river gate during the period and none could identify the body. After killing, the killers threw the body into the river, it is believed.

Indian sares worth Tk 11 lakh recovered

From Our Correspondent
SATHKHIRA, Sept 26: The men of 21 Rifles Battalion, Sathkhira, recovered huge Indian sares worth about Taka 11 lakh from Sonatankati under Sharsha thana in Jessore district on September 11 last.

According to local BDR sources, acting on a secret information the BDR personnel led by Habildar Mamunul Haq of Jhrowdanga BOP recovered the Indian sares from the said place.

A case was lodged with Sharsha thana in the regard.

Weekly hat disrupts traffic movement

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Sept 26: Hundreds of vehicles and pedestrians have been suffering badly as the banana market has not been transferred from Dhaka-Khulna highway at Nimtala in Kaliganj thana headquarters, it is alleged.

According to reports, thousands of sellers and buyers rush on the road twice a week on Mondays and Fridays. As a result on those days vehicles including ambulance, medicine carrying vans, passenger coaches and other vehicles are compelled to remain stranded on the road for hours together, it is learnt.

Some local people and traders alleged that they had repeatedly appealed to the authorities to transfer the banana hat to nearest College Road instead of the existing place. But the authorities did not respond to the appeals.

Divorce rate high, most marriages unregistered

From Abu Ahmed
SATHKHIRA, Sept 26: The number of divorces in the rural areas has assumed an alarming proportion. More than 17,000 marriages were terminated during the last five years in seven thanas of the district.

According to the reports, the primary causes of divorces have been identified as dowry, polygamy and immoral activities. Poor women are the frequent victims. Due to non-registration of their marriages, they are not getting legal protection from harassment. If their marriages were registered, they could approach the court either to prevent the divorce or to obtain compensation from their husbands. Mentionable that more than 1000 cases, under women oppressed act have been lying pending in different courts of the district for long. These cases were filed by the divorced women for getting compensation from their husbands.

It is alleged that the marriage registrars in the remote areas demand higher fees which the poor parents are unable to pay. Despite legal restrictions taking of more than one wife in far-flung areas without the written permission of the first wife, is rampant.

It is felt that the government should take measures to ensure the registration of marriages at reasonable fees so that the oppressed women could get legal action against their husbands in the courts.

On the other hand, about 1,500 women die from pregnancy and abortion complications and about 30,000 women suffer from female diseases every year in the district.

A non-government organization recently disclosed following a survey that most of the abortions were performed by the untrained nurses who apply traditional methods. Usually the illiterate rural women get conceived due to ignorance of family planning methods and they become sure of their pregnancy after two or three months when surgical abortion turns risky.

Court bans private practice of gynaecologist

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Sept 26: Rajshahi Sub-Judge Court imposed ban on private practice of Dr Fatema Begum, Assistant Professor in Gynaecology and Obstetrics Department of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a verdict recently.

Meher Ali, on behalf of 'conscious people' filed a case with the Rajshahi Sub-Judge court urging permanent ban on private practice of Dr Fatema. The honourable court accepted the case and after hearing Sub-Judge S K M Anisur Rahman Khan in his judgement justified the allegation and imposed the ban.

According to the proceedings of the case, the plaintiff, Meher Ali alleged that Dr Fatema Begum had remained more busy with private practice than to serve her scheduled official duties in the government hospital depriving the patients of necessary treatment facilities which they deserved. Finding no other way the patients become bound to go to the private clinics to seek better treatment. This is causing harm to the status symbol of the government. The patients are also losing trust on the doctors and hospitals of the country and are going abroad for better treatment of their diseases in increasing number.

In his judgement, the honourable Sub-Judge stated that Dr Fatema had demanded that she deserved the right of private practice but her demand had gone against rules (S-9-1/3 TM 78/77, Dated, 15-6-78) of the Ministry of Health and Family Planning. He became convinced that Dr Fatema was doing private practice neglecting her duties and responsibilities as a registered medical practitioner. She was not entitled to enjoy such facilities as per Subsection 26 of Clause No. 16 of rules of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council of 1980. Her behaviour and conducts were also contradictory to the Subsections 5.6, 7 and 8 of Code of Medical Ethics.

It is mentionable that probably this is the first instance in Bangladesh of imposing ban on private practice of any doctor by a court for violating code of conduct.

Computer to be introduced for land management, recording system

GAZIPUR, Sept 26: Gazipur will be brought under computer network in land management and recording system during the current fiscal, reports UNB.

The computer system has already been introduced in the divisional headquarters, said State Minister for Land M Kabir Hossain while addressing the Revenue Conference at Rice Research Institute here on Thursday.

He said the Land Ministry has set up some 900 ideal villages for the landless people and undertaken two char development projects in Rajshahi and Noakhali districts.

Later, the State Minister distributed certificates among the officers and employees for realising 100 per cent land development tax.

State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan, Land Secretary A H M Hye and Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Nuruzzaman Miah also spoke on the occasion.

One commits suicide in Sathkhira

From Our Correspondent
SATHKHIRA, Sept 26: Kitab Ali, 25, son of late Samsuddin Mondol of village Ramhadrapur under Kalaroa thana committed suicide by taking liquid insecticide recently. Family trouble is the cause of his suicide, it was learnt.

An UD case was lodged with Kalaroa thana in this connection.

Rubber loaded truck seized, one held

From CHT Correspondent
KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 26: Khagrachhari police has here seized recently a truck, loaded with rubber, allegedly pilfered from the rubber plantation at Dighinala thana, police sources said.

Police arrested Abdül Momin, 32, who was on the truck, in this connection.

No case was lodged till writing of this report but the investigation is going on, the Officer-in-Charge of Khagrachhari Kotwali police said when contacted over telephone.

Advocate Khokan murder case Killers still at large

by Naimul Haq
FARIDPUR, Sept 26: The family members of a young lawyer who was murdered ten months ago have been passing their days allegedly in utmost insecurity as the principal accused of the case are not yet arrested, who have, reportedly been moving openly and threatening to withdraw the case.

Advocate A H M Mohiuddin (Khokan), 30, son of a bank officer Abul Kashem of Domrakandi in Kotowali thana of the district was murdered by an alleged identified group of terrorists on November 10, 1994 night. His chopped body was recovered the following day from the nearby ditch of his house.

Accusing seven, the deceased's father lodged a case with Faridpur police for the gruesome murder of his son, indicating identities, sources said.

Visiting the house of the deceased, the Awami League chief and the then leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina and the Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf along with others consoled the bereaved family after the killing of the young and promising lawyer and instructed the police to book the accused to ensure proper justice at an early date.

Prior to killing, the killers would threaten Khokan, failing to tease Shamsun Nahar, his 17 years old sister, a college student, as he was protesting and resisting it, the father of the victim said, adding that Shamsun Nahar was aboded in a safer place which made the killers furious. "At this stage I made a General Diary on October 5, 1994 and the killers, in retaliation, killed my son on November 10, 1994 after 44 days of GD entry," said Kashem, apparently the helpless father of the victim lawyer.

"The continuous tease and threat from of the killers threw out my daughter Shamsun, sons Manir and Liton from education lives," Kashem added.

The grief-stricken people of the Faridpur town failing to control the outburst of grief brought out a 'mourning procession' protesting the gruesome murder of a promising lawyer and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur district to arrange immediate arrest of the terrorists for their capital punishment, sources said.

"Keeping constant contact with the Superintendent of Police, Faridpur and informing him regularly the whereabouts of the killers, neither the killers are being arrested nor any investigation of the case is yet started," Kashem alleged. "The principal accused of the case is the younger brother of local influential leader and the vested quarter who has been nurturing the terrorism locally sheltering the criminals politically, trying to divert the case to some other direction," he added.

Syed Mahub Ali (Kutu), son of late Syed Musharraf Ali of Badarpur, Harun Mondal, son of Kuddus Mondal, Rubel and Borkat, sons of Salam Mondal of Brahmankanda, Polash, son of late Alauddin Mattabor, Matur Rahman (Mati) of Domrakandi as well as Kamal son of unknown were accused of the advocate Khokan murder case, now allegedly shelved with Faridpur police.

When contacted on phone the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Faridpur sadar police station denied the fact that the accused were openly roaming about in the town. The OC also believes that the killers have fled to neighbouring districts.

The Investigation Officer (IO) of the murder case, Rezaul Karim ASP Sadar Circle informed The Daily Star on phone that charge sheet of the case will be produced soon. He also said the case will be forwarded to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in about 15 days time.

Kamal, listed as accused number 7, whose statement under section 161, made to the police after his arrest, has allegedly been vanished from the court, the sources complained, adding that the vested quarter has done this misdeed to kill the merit of the case.

On the pressure of the vested influential quarter, the police was trying to submit the chargesheet without any investigation and rounded up the accuseds, the father of the victim complained. "On the other hand, the accuseds and their supporters have been pressuring hard to withdraw the case, if not, they have been threatening to kill us", Kashem added.

Abul Kashem, the father of the victim, who feels insecure of his and his family members' lives under constant threat of the opposition, has sought the mercy of the minister of Home Affairs to transfer the case to the Criminal Investigation Department for justice after proper investigation and arrest the accused criminals.

He also seeks the right to live secure life from the concerned authority.



Victim Khokan