

College student escapes from abductors

Drug trader kidnapped in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

A college student made a daring escape from his abductors yesterday morning after the gang kept him confined to an abandoned house at Daulatkhal village in Daulatpur upazila.

In another incident, a drug trader was kidnapped from Bittipara Bazar on Sunday night.

Armed criminals abducted Shafayetullah Sweet, 19, a class XII student of Khas Mathurapur People's Degree College, from his house at Farakpur village in the early hours of Sunday after looting valuables from the house.

The gang was led by one Amirul and one Soleman of the area, police said.

They also demanded a ransom of Tk 5 lakh from his family for his release.

Shafayet escaped from the abandoned house when a member of the gang opened the door to give him food.

"As soon as the abductor put his gun on the floor and untied my hands and legs, I grabbed the gun and ran out

of the house and took shelter to a house nearby," said Shafayet, younger brother of Dr Shamim Reza, owner of a diagnostic centre.

Local people and his family took him to Daulatpur Police Station and handed over the gun loaded with three bullets.

In the other incident, Abul Kalam Azad, 34, a quack, was abducted from his drug store at about 10.00pm.

A gang of five abductors came to the shop in two motorcycles and told Azad to go with them to attend a patient. He went with them but did not return.

Two hours later, the gang called his family over cell phone and demanded Tk 2 lakh for his release.

As many as 110 people, including 42 school and college students, were abducted in the district in the last nine months, according to police records and newspapers reports.

Of them, 12 were killed, six rescued by police, eight are still missing and the rest bought their freedom.

4 get life for raping girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Rajshahi Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday sentenced four people to life term imprisonment for raping an 11-year-old girl in Belkuchi upazila, Sirajganj.

Judge AFM Aminul Islam also fined the rapists -- Sohel Fakir, Al Mahmud, Ibrahim and Haran -- Tk one lakh each and acquitted one person.

According to the prosecution, the four convicts kidnapped Shilpi, daughter of Moijhan Ali of Majjhail village, from near Shamsherpur bridge on August 11 last year when

she was going to her cousin's house.

They took her to a paddy field at a neighbouring village and raped her. Later, villagers found her lying in a pool of blood.

Nurul Islam, brother-in-law of Shilpi, filed a case with Belkuchi Police Station against five people.

SI Saiful Islam pressed charges against the accused on September 12, 2003 and the case was transferred to the speedy trial tribunal.

PP Katabuddin and Sarwar Jahan appeared for the state while advocates Mansur Rahman and Abdur Razzak defended the accused.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show

Jahangirnagar Film Society, in association with Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies, will screen an Italian film titled 'Umberto D' directed by Vittorio De Sica, and a Japanese film titled 'Tokyo Story' directed by Yasujiro Ozu. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm and 5.00pm.

Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film from Hong Kong titled 'Empress Moon' (1996). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Muldhara discussion

Weekly discussion meeting of Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will be held. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

Discussion on Buddha

Bangladesh Buddhist Federation will hold a discussion on 'The philosophy of Lord Buddha and the world peace' on the occasion of Modhupurnima. Venue:

International Buddhist Monastery, Merul Badda. Time: 4.00pm.

Scientific seminar

Bangladesh Institute of Child Health organises a seminar on 'Varicella infection and prevention'. Venue: Institute Auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 11.30am.

Buet seminar

Institute of Water and Flood Management of Buet will hold a seminar on 'Hydrodynamics of Hyporheic Exchange of Pollutants in Rivers'. Venue: Institute seminar room. Time: 3.00pm.

Installation ceremony

The installation and induction ceremony of Lions Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Tajmahal Restaurant, Karwan Bazar. Time: 7.00pm.

Rotary meet

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Discussion



Save the Children (USA) supplies safe drinking water to water-logged people near Mohammadpur embankment in the city recently.

Safe water for flood victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save the Children (USA), an international NGO, has been supplying safe drinking water to the flood-affected and water-logged people in Dhaka.

It installed a modern water treatment plant in Beri Bandh area of Mohammadpur on 17 September to supply water to water-logged people.

Another such plant has been operating at Trimohoni under Sobujbagh thana since September 1. In both the areas, water from natural water body is being used for the purpose.

Save the Children is decontaminating 24,000 litres of water every day and supplying to as many as 8,000 people.

It has supplied 348,000 litres of safe drinking water to the flood-affected and water-logged people in the city till September 27. This humanitarian effort will continue for the next few days depending on the emergency need.

Free country from clutches of fundamentalists

Motia Chowdhury urges pro-liberation forces

UNB, *Dinajpur*

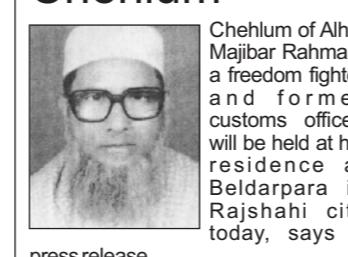
Awami League presidium member Begum Motia Chowdhury yesterday called upon all pro-liberation forces to get united to free the country from the clutches of "fundamentalists and communal forces".

Addressing a meeting organised by the district unit of the party, Motia said the country is not safe in the hands of the present alliance government as they want to make Bangladesh a 'Talibani state'.

She said the grenade attack on August 21 on Awami League rally was to eliminate Sheikh Hasina and other party leaders. She expressed concern about the process of trial and punishment of the attackers who took the lives of 22 people, including Ivy Rahman.

Dinajpur district unit President Adv Amjad Hossain presided.

Chehulum



Chehulum of Alhaj Majibar Rahman, a freedom fighter and former customs officer, will be held at his residence at Beldarpura in Rajshahi city today, says a press release.

He died on August 25 at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.



Concert in aid of flood victims

A daylong concert in aid of flood victims was held at the Fantasy Kingdom, a theme park, at Ashulia on September 24, says a press release.

Sponsored by Pepsi and Shahnor Electronics (TCL), the concert drew huge crowd.

Seven prominent musical bands -- Shomoy, Parthib, Bangladesh, Dalchut, Shaptak, Souls and LRB -- enthralled the audience with their performance for over eight hours.

Adv Zainul new BNP law secy

BSS, *Dhaka*

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia appointed former general secretary of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association Advocate Zainul Abedin as one of the law affairs secretaries of the BNP National Committee.