

4 policemen suspended for bribery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

A sub-inspector (SI) of police and three constables of Sherpur Sadar Police Station were suspended for taking bribe from a college student Saturday evening, Sherpur Superintendent of Police (SP) office sources said.

The policemen are SI Nasiruddin, constable Abdul Hye, constable Abdus Sattar and constable Abdul Aziz, they said.

Jinnurain Chowdhury, a student of Sherpur Government College and his friend were heading towards Sherpur from Jamalpur by a motorbike on Friday. When they reached Balughat under Sherpur Sadar upazila at about 10 pm, a police team led by SI Nasiruddin wanted to see necessary documents of the motorbike including the driving licence.

Accordingly, Jinnurain showed police all the documents. But Nasir demanded Tk 1,000 from him as bribe. On refusal, they threatened to arrest him.

Jinnurain gave them Tk 500 as bribe. But returning home, he informed the matter to the superintendent of police (SP), Gazi Jasimuddin, who investigated the incident and suspended the policemen.

Obituary

BSS, *Gazipur*

Freedom fighter Haji Abdus Sattar died of old-age complications at his residence at Gazipura village under Tongi of the district on Sunday morning.

He was 70. He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was laid to eternal rest at his family graveyard with state honour after namaz-e-janaza.

DEATH OF SCHOOLTEACHER IN 'CROSSFIRE'

9 Rab members face murder charge in Chuadanga

AMANUR AMAN, *Kushtia*

Family of a 'crossfire' victim lodged a case with a magistrate court in Chuadanga Sunday against nine members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) including a Sub-Assistant Director of Rab-6.

A civilian was also accused in the case.

In the case, complainant Nabis Uddin, father of Delwar Hossain Dilu, alleged that Rab men killed his son Dilu to satisfy vengeful desire of a Rab member.

The accused Rab men are Sub-Assistant Director of Rab-6 Masudur Rahman, Sub-Inspector (SI) Asaduzzaman, Amzad Hossain, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Nurul Islam Lance Naik Abu Sayeed Mia, constables Jahid, Bachhu Mia, Ruhul Kabir, Askar Ibne Sayeed alias Tyfoon and civilian Masum of Bonbil village in Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga.

Magistrate Diponkar Kumar ordered the officer in-charge (OC) of Alamdanga Police Station to submit a report investigating the matter within two weeks.

According to the case, Delwar Hossain Dilu, a primary school teacher who was killed in 'crossfire' on January 21 (as claimed by Rab) was rather a

victim of Rab member Tyfoon's vindictiveness.

Terming Dilu's death a "cold-blooded murder" Nabis Uddin in his allegation said the Rab member had enmity with Dilu over the murder of his elder brother three years ago and so he killed Dilu to take revenge.

Residing at Bondbil village in Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga, Delwar Hossain Dilu was a teacher of Radhanagar Non-government Primary School in Sadar upazila in Kushtia. Dilu had enmity with Askar Ibne Sayeed alias Tyfoon, a neighbour, over murdering Tyfoon's elder brother Bokul Hossain.

Unidentified criminals killed Bokul, a night guard of the Agrani Bank Kumarkhali branch on March 26, 2002.

Tyfoon, who served as a soldier in Bangladesh army, filed a case with Islamic University police station on March 27, 2002, without naming Dilu. Dilu's name was also not included in the charge sheet of the case.

It all started when a relative of Bokul mentioned Dilu's name during the hearing of the case at a magistrate court in Kushtia.

Dilu was then picked up but granted bail and he appeared before the court regularly---last time on January 16 just five days before his death in 'crossfire'.

Dilu's family members alleged, Tyfoon used to threaten them with dire consequence. Later Tyfoon joined to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

On the night of January 21, a Rab team came to the house of Dilu at midnight and asked Dilu to come out of the house. They picked up Dilu with his friend Dalim Hossain, family sources said.

Later, the Rab team arrested one Zahir of the same village. They released Dalim and Zahir but took Dilu to an 'unknown place'.

Afterwards, a Rab press release said Dilu, 37, was killed in 'crossfire'.

Rab told local journalists that they had information that a group of criminals were holding a secret meeting behind petrol pump near Bondbil rail gate. When they reached there, the "criminals" opened fire on Rab team. The law enforcers retaliated and a gun-fight ensued which continued for half an hour.

Later Rab found Dilu's dead body on the spot.

The law enforcers described Dilu as a top cadre of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) and an accused in 12 cases including that of Tyfoon's brother Bokul murder.

The family of Dilu in the case

claimed that Tyfoon was in the Rab team when it raided their house and he provoked Rab to kill Dilu.

Killing of Dilu in 'crossfire' evoked strong reaction in the area. Different organisations including human rights bodies protested the killing and demanded judicial probe.

At a press conference, Dilu's colleagues at Radhanagar Non-government Primary School alleged that Dilu was never engaged in any criminal activities. His death was just a mindless revenge for killing Tyfoon's brother Bokul.

Later, Odhikar, a human rights watchdog launched an investigation into the incident. The rights body took interview of Dalim and Zahir who were released by Rab on the day. Quoting them, Odhikar described the death as a cold-blooded murder and a sequel to the feud between Tyfoon and Dilu.

Odhikar also found that Dilu was not accused in any other cases in any police station.

Rab had mentioned three witnesses to 'gun battle' and gave their addresses but Odhikar found no person in those places.

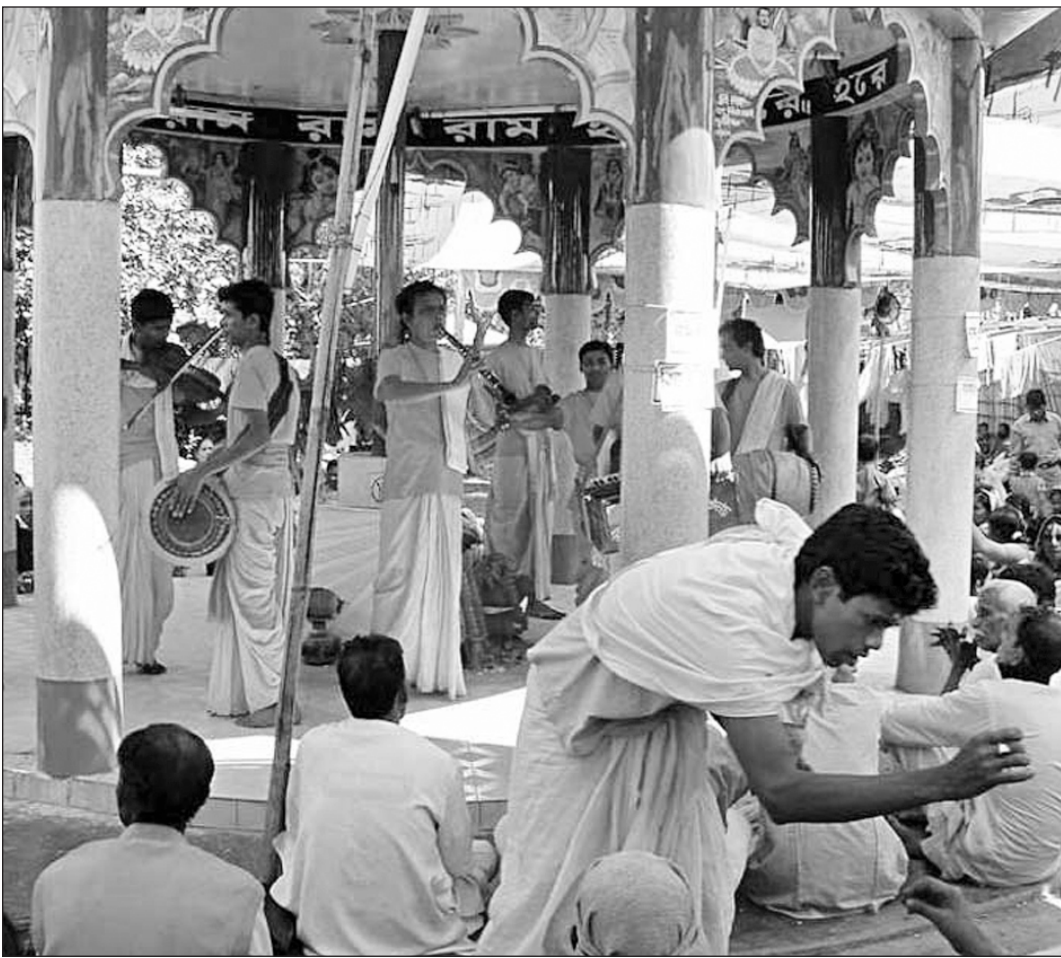


PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Hindu devotees at a fair organised on the occasion of Shiva Chaturdashi in Sitakunda, Chittagong. Hundreds joined the three-day fair.

6x3

Schoolboy rescued in Kushtia,17 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Police on Sunday rescued a nine-year-old schoolboy and arrested 17 persons allegedly involved in his abduction.

Police said they raided a house at Ramnagar in Sadar upazila and rescued Ekram Zakir, son of Dr. Zakir Hossain, an associate professor of Islamic University,

Youth stabs schoolgirl to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

A young man stabbed a schoolgirl to death for refusing his love proposal at Dharabarisha of Gurudaspur upazila in Natore.

Parvin Sultana Shikha, a student of class X at Dharabasha High School died Sunday morning on way to the local health complex.

Sujon, a rickshaw-van puller of the village waylaid her while she along with her friends was going to her school at around 7 am.

As she refused his repeated proposal an angry Sujon tried to drag her to the school compound.

At one stage, Sujon stabbed her repeatedly and fled the scene.

A case was filed with Gurudaspur Police Station.

Kushtia.

Ekram was a student of class four at Islami Cadet Centre in the town. According to police, a gang abducted Ekram from the town's housing area on Friday when he was returning home after playing at about 6.30:pm.

Later, the abductors talked to Ekram's family and demanded Tk. 10 lakh as ransom.

Zakir Hossain, father of the victim filed a case with Sadar Police Satiation. Police placed the alleged abductors before court on Sunday after interrogation and the court sent them to jail.

5x3

8.5x4

6x4