

Baby roasted as FF's house torched in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A minor girl was burnt to death as miscreants set fire to the house of a freedom fighter at Koshorpur village in Sylhet Sadar upazila in the early hours of Monday. However, other inmates managed escape.

According to a delayed report, the house of Akbar Ali was set on fire at about 2 am by some miscreants when inmates were asleep while Akbar was in Sylhet city to join the Independence Day programme.

As the tin-shed house caught fire, the inmates came out in a hurry but Akbar's 5-year daughter Sohana was left behind.

Autopsy of the remains of Sohana's body was done at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College yesterday.

Police arrested three suspects. They are Babla, son of Mozammel; Sadique Ali, son of Arab Ali and Ilyas, son of late Wasik Ali-all hailing from the same village.

Police produced the accused before a court with a prayer for five days' remand.

Akbar Ali filed a case with Kotwali police station without naming any accused.

Police said the arson could be a sequel to land dispute.

2 BNP leaders arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Joint force yesterday arrested two BNP leaders from their business centers when they were mixing bleaching powder with turmeric at Khagrachhari Bazar yesterday.

The arrestees are Khagrachhari town BNP organiser secretary Mohammad Badsha Mia and his son Abdur Bashar, also party secretary of the ward.

Acting on a tip, joint forces raided the business center of Badsha at about 10 am and arrested the father and the son. They also recovered 85 sacks of turmeric mixed with bleaching powder, police said.

Bleaching power is very harmful for human body and it may cause fatal diseases like cancer, doctors said. The chemical is mixed to make turmeric brighter. A case was lodged against them, police said.

Sending rare Bengal treasures to Paris exhibition protested

Legal notice served on RU authorities

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

A decision of Rajshahi University (RU) to send 24 rare Bengal treasures from Barendra Research Museum (BRM) to Paris for a 'great global exposure' drew criticism from different quarters.

Advocate Ankur Sen served a legal notice on RU authorities yesterday demanding cancellation of the decision within seven days.

Sen pleaded that sending the rare treasures of BRM, one of the oldest research museums in the sub-continent, would hamper research work. It will be an irreparable loss to the nation's heritage if those are lost or not returned, it said.

A group of 326 RU teachers on Sunday submitted a memorandum to RU Vice-chancellor to press the same demand. The precious archaeological assets might not be returned they apprehended in the memorandum. The BRM is run by Rajshahi University.

Signatories to the memorandum included senior professors like Muhammad Shafi, Shafikunnabi Samadi, Abdus Sobhan, Mizzan Uddin, Dr AHM Zehadul Karim, Moly Kumar Bhoumik and Fakuzzaman.

The BRM Advisory Committee and the RU Syndicate in February decided to send 24 treasures to Paris following a government decision to help Bangladesh get a 'global exposure through an international display'.

RU VC Prof Altaf Hossain told newsmedia earlier that France's famous Guimet Museum, dedicated to Asian arts, will sponsor a four-month exhibition styled 'Sonar Bangla', scheduled from October 24 this year to March 3 next year.

Some 120 objects selected from Bangladesh National Museum, Mahasthangarh, Paharpur and Mainamati Archeological Museums and BRM will be displayed at Guimet Museum, he said.

The BRM assets include two 5th century manuscripts and 22 sculptures dating back to 7th to 12th century. These include a unique



PHOTO: STAR

A 7th century sculpture at Barendra Research Museum, one of the 27 rare Bengal treasures, likely to be sent to Paris for exhibition.

gold coated bronze statue of Manjusri, said BRM officials.

The 'Astasahasrika Prajnaparamita' manuscript is a rare collection of texts of Mahayana doctrine in 32 chapters and 8000 lines. It has 49 polychrome miniatures representing 'gods' and 'goddesses' of ancient Vajra family.

The sculptures include 7th, 9th and 11th century Surya, 10th century Bara Hawara and 12th century black-stone statues of Ganga, Ardh Nariswar (half female and half male god), Shiva, Shiva Ardhanari Nritta Ganapati and Kartiketa.

However, RU Syndicate in October last year denied transferring the treasures following street protests. It reasoned that any transfer or exchange of the treasures, donated by many for public interest, was prohibited by the Charitable Endowments Act of 1880.

Established in 1910 by Dighapatya Zamindar Kumar Sarat Kumar Roy, the BRM has a rich collection of 10,000 archaeological treasures. It draws an average of 300 visitors daily.

FF journos honoured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira Press Club yesterday accorded a reception to five freedom fighter journalists, one of them posthumously, marking the Independence Day.

Those accorded the reception are Shaheed SM Ala Uddin, former editor of daily Patradut (posthumously), Prof. Abu Ahmed of The Daily Star, Sheikh Abdul Wazed Kachi of Inqilab and Kali Das Roy of Janata.

The function was chaired by press club executive committee member Sheikh Masud Hossain.

Speakers at the function called upon professionals to strive to establish the spirit of the Liberation War.

The caretaker government should take initiatives to reveal the actual history of the country's liberation war so that the future generation is not misled. They also pledged to work for the well being of the country, upholding the spirit of the Liberation War.

9 sent to jail in Satkhira murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Nine accused including a Union Parishad (UP) chairman and central Juba Dal leader in the Azibar Rahman murder case were sent to jail as their bail petitions were rejected when they surrendered before a court yesterday.

Satkhira District and Sessions Judge Ashish Ranjan Das passed the order.

The accused are Dhulihar UP chairman and Jubo Dal central education secretary Modasserul Haque Huda, UP member Aminuddin, Biswa Nath Dhal, Bikram Gain, Indrajit Gain, Nikhil Gain, Raghu Nath Gain, Prabir Gain and Dipak Kumar of Khariandanga village in the Sadar upazila.

Court sources said, they were accused for abducting Azibar Rahman, Kashem, Khokon and Hasan from their houses at Matiadanga village in the same upazila and torturing them at a shrimp enclosure at Khariandanga on the night of January 5. Azibar Rahman died allegedly due to torture and three others were injured.

Victim Azibar's wife Mariam Begum filed a case with Sadar police station on January 6.



The victory memorial built at Satkhira collectorate compound awaiting inauguration for about two years.

Victory memorial not inaugurated in 2 years

No decision yet as Satkhira freedom fighters protest names of fake FFs, Rajaker on plaque

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

People including freedom fighters could not pay homage to the martyrs of Liberation War at the newly built victory memorial at Satkhira collectorate compound in the town on the Independence Day as it is yet to be inaugurated, about two years after construction.

The memorial built by the district administration was completed in 2005. Its inauguration is being delayed as freedom fighters and other pro-liberation forces protested distortion of history of the Liberation War by putting names of some fake freedom fighter and a Rajaker on its plaque.

Earlier, Satkhira district unit of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsads submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner on January 27 to erase names of fake freedom fighters and the Rajaker and to put names of genuine freedom fighters yet to find place on the plaque.

They requested the DC to correct the names before March 25 but no action was taken.

Local leaders of the Mukti Joddha Sangsads told this correspondent that the memorial plaque contains names of 31 freedom fighters.

Names of many more martyred freedom fighters are left out, said Hasanuzzaman secretary of Satkhira unit of the Sangsads.

He said the plaque contains at least names of five fake freedom fighters and a Rajaker. These are of Kazi Moshru Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam, Mozammel Haque and Syed Abul Hossain Dinar Bakht and Rajakar Golam Rahman.

"We urged the district administration to correct the names but our request went unheeded", said Enamul Haque district commander of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsads.

This is a conspiracy to distort the history of Liberation War, he said.

When asked, Deputy Commissioner Kefayetullah told this correspondent that the administration only engraved names given by

3.5X2

10X3

7X3

10X2