

Visera report reaches police 17 yrs after murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police yesterday recorded an unnatural death case as a regular case 17 years after the incident.

Police said they turned the unnatural death case into regular case as they received viscera report of the victim after 17 years of his death.

Jibonnagar police station recorded the case.

According to police, Mominur Rahman of Abdulbaria village in Jibonnagar upazila beat his wife Memzan alias Monwara to death on November 20, 1989.

The killer husband later dubbed the incident as 'suicide' by pouring poison on Monwara's mouth.

Jibonnagar police had recorded an unnatural death regarding the incident on the basis of postmortem report done at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

The copy of postmortem report and other symptoms were sent to Dhaka for viscera test.

The viscera report reached Jibonnagar police station through the district police on Monday after 17 years. It said no trace of poison was found in the victim's body.

After getting the report, Sub-Inspector Jahangir of Jibonnagar police station recorded the case as a regular one.

When contacted yesterday, Jahangir said over phone that he will soon start a fresh investigation into the incident.

Another case against former Kushtia BNP MP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Daulatpur police have recorded a case against former BNP lawmaker Reza Ahmed Bachchu alias Bachchu Mollah after investigation.

The case, filed by one Abdul Malek on July 23, was investigated following a court order.

Bachchu Mollah, elected from Kushtia-1 constituency, faces three other cases filed with a Kushtia court since January 11.

Police said he is absconding. He is the son of late Ahsanul Haq Mollah, a former state minister for post and telecommunication.

Malek in the case alleged that after the BNP-led four-party alliance came to power in 2001, Bachchu Mollah led some party cadres who ransacked and looted at least 90 houses at Chatarpara in Daulatpur upazila between November 1 and November 22, 2001.

A large number of people including some Awami League activists and supporters were forced to flee homes following threats by the Bachchu Mollah, the complainant alleged in the case.

The victims went to Daulatpur police station after the incident to file a case but police declined to record a case against Bachchu Mollah as he was a ruling party lawmaker, Malek alleged.

Bachchu Mollah and 42 BNP cadres were sued in the case.

Bachchu was elected a lawmaker from Kushtia-1 constituency in a by-election in 2004 after his father's death.

Brac trains 65 sacked jute workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Brac, a major NGO, has undertaken a programme to conduct training to retrenched jute mill workers, their dependents to create job opportunities for them.

Under the programme, 65 persons took training on various trades and income generating activities. Training of the first batch ended on Monday.

Khulna Brac office counsellor Saidul Islam said 14 sons of retrenched workers and 38 wives and daughters have been undergoing training on computer operation and tailoring work to earn a living.

Brac has also conducted training to 10 retrenched workers on radio, refrigerator and cell phone servicing.

Make master plan to protect bio-diversity in coastal areas

Satkhira workshop on global warming, climate change urges govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a workshop yesterday urged the government to prepare a master plan to protect the bio-diversity in 39 coastal upazilas in south-western region and the Sundarabans from natural disasters caused by climate change due to global warming.

They also urged the government to demand compensation from industrialised countries in the West responsible for global warming.

Records show natural disasters like storm and tidal surge have increased manifold in last 30 years, affecting the costal areas of Bangladesh. This is due to global warming and rise in the sea level, they said at the workshop held at Shyamnagar.

It was organised jointly by the ministry of environment and a local NGO leaders.

Mirza Shawkat Ali, deputy director of the Department of Environment was the chief guest at the discussion, presided over by Shyamnagar Upazila Nirbahi

Officer (UNO) Dilip Kumar Banik.

The speakers included academics, journalists, Union Parishad leaders from different upazilas, officials and lawyers.

Gharami, Leaders' Executive Director Mohon Kumar Mondal presented the keynote paper.

Salinity now affects more areas in the mainland than before due to rise in the sea level and if this trend continues, millions of people will be bereft of their means of livelihood in coastal regions and the Sundarabans, a World Heritage Site, will be lost to the sea, they said.

Croplands will turn barren, fisheries will be destroyed and forests will disappear, they said.

The speakers said about one third area of the coastal belt with about 710 km coastline in 39 upazilas in 13 coastal districts will be worst hit by sea level rise and other impacts of climate changes if precautionary steps are not taken now.

The ecology and livestock in the

areas are already facing risks due to change in weather and climate.

As an immediate step, the government in cooperation with local NGOs and stake holders can launch a massive afforestation programme in coastal areas, build and reconstruct dams, train rivers and stop erosion. Cyclonic-resistant trees like coconut, palm and bamboos should be planted, they suggested.

The government will get spontaneous cooperation of all sections of people in the areas in any such programme, they said.

The speakers also called upon all local NGOs and socio-cultural organisations to launch a massive campaign to create public awareness in the coastal areas.

Though Bangladesh is committed to preserving the Sundarabans, it's bio-diversity is now at great risk due to climate change and rise of the sea level", Mondal said.

He said 10 to 17 per cent of the coastal land may be inundated in several years due to rise in the sea level, which will also increase

salinity in the mainland. This will have a catastrophic effect, turning several million people into 'climate refugees', he said.

The government and environmentalists should launch a worldwide campaign to seek help to protect the Sundarabans and urge industrialised countries to compensate the environmental effects caused by global warming caused by them, Mondal said.

He said climate also causes drought in Bangladesh affecting agriculture.

Bangladesh has already started experiencing effects of global warming which will be a threat to its people within 15 to 20 years, he said.

Unless a comprehensive plan is launched now, the climate change and rise of the sea level will create havoc in coastal areas in the country, the speakers said.

They also urged environmentalists to help create awareness about the problems.

Former Jhenidah BNP MP faces another extortion case

A CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Former BNP lawmaker Alhaj Shahidul Islam Master has been facing another extortion case.

Abdul Quddus of Teltupi village and a member of Ukri Beel (water body) Fisheries Association filed the Tk 30 lakh extortion case against him with a court here on Monday.

Shahidul Master was an elected lawmaker from Jhenidah-3 (Kotchandpur-Moheshpur) constituency.

Other accused are Shahidul Islam, brother-in-law of the former lawmaker, Jubo Dal leader Dabir Uddin, Rabiul Islam, Shamsul Islam, Rakibul, Ismail Hossain, Bablu and Asadul Haque.

Quddus said he took lease of Ukri beel during BNP rule in the 2002-'03 financial year. The former lawmaker called Quddus and others at his house to demand Tk 30 lakh extortion, alleged Quddus. Shahid Master threatened to prevent them from fishing in the water body for failure to pay them toll. Finding no other alternative, Quddus paid Tk 28 lakh to him on April 15, 2003.

Earlier, Sheikh Shamsul Islam, Kartik Halder and Abu Taleb filed extortion cases against the former lawmaker.

Extortion case against poua administrator

A CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabgonj

An extortion case was filed yesterday with a magistrate court in Chapainawabgonj against Nachole Pourashabha administrator Kamruzzaman, convener of upazila BNP.

One Hasan Ali Babu a lessee of Nachole market filed the case.

He alleged that Kamruzzaman took Tk 1,30,000 from him on June 16 for providing his nephew Jahangir Alam with a job of immuniser at the municipal office but he did not keep his commitment.

Meanwhile, Kamaruzzaman at a press conference at a press conference at Chapainawabgonj Press Club yesterday evening said that the case was fake. He said as Hasan Ali Babu did not pay the lease money of Tk 32,000, he filed a case with the court of Assistant Judge in Nachole in February this year. At this, Hasan Ali field the false case against him, the municipal administrator said.

Magistrate Khalekuzzaman ordered the OC of Nachole police station to probe the allegation.

AUG 17 SERIAL BLASTS IN BARISAL

Family of 5 accused allege police harassment, demand speedy trial

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Family members of five accused of 12 cases of the August 17 serial blasts here two years ago alleged police harassment and demanded judicial probe, speedy trial and punishment to real culprits.

They brought the allegation at a press conference held at Barisal Reporters' Unity here yesterday morning. They said all the accused were poor employees of Al-Ikram Samaj Kalayan Sangstha, an NGO founded by Zaur Rahman Zia of Jhalakati.

The accused were acquitted of charges by Barisal Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal in one of the cases through a verdict pronounced on December 20, 2006.

But they were not either released from jail or granted bail even after acquittal of charges by the court. They are now accused in the rest 11 cases.

Family members alleged that the trial of the cases are lingering for months together as the prosecution failed to prove charges against them. Witnesses are now being examined at the court of first additional district and session judge of Barisal.

Demanding speedy trial of the cases, they said they would accept any punishment if the court found

the accused guilty.

"Nothing was revealed to prove their involvement in the August 17 blasts even after 168 hours of interrogation during remand at Barisal Kotwali Police Station and Joint Interrogation Cell in Dhaka," they said.

"Without recovering any explosive, document or evidence, police hurriedly involved the five in 12 cases and are harassing poor innocent people like us", they said.

They sought interference of the chief advisor of caretaker government and the human rights organisations on humanitarian ground.

Afroza Sultana, mother of an accused, Golam Morshed Chowdhury Reza, a Chemistry honours student, read out the written statement in the press conference and Golam Kibria Chowdhury, father of Golam Morshed Chowdhury Reza, Bilkis Begum and Alal Arefin, mother and brother of Jalal Arefin, Sultan Ahmad Sikder, father of blind Abu Sulaiman Sujjan, a student of Higher Secondary Class (HSC) level, Aftabuddin and Marzina Begum, parents of Maruf Hawladar, Hashem Ali Howladar, students of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) level and father of Jasim Howladar were present at the conference.

Villagers join hands as appeals to govt ignored

Road repaired in Kushtia voluntarily

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

People of Dabirbitha village in Kushtia Sadar upazila have set up a good example by repairing a four kilometer road voluntarily.

They collected about Tk 2 lakh as donation and worked together to renovate the road as all appeals fell on feed wears of authorities.

People of all walks of life including women, children and school students joined hands in the work. More than 3000 people worked for about a month to complete the work.

The lone road, linking Dabirbitha village with the upazila headquarters, was badly damaged during last year's flood. People make repeated appeals to the authorities to repair it, but to no effect, villagers told this correspondent during a visit on Saturday.

Sarwar Hossain Sardar of the village took the initiative to renovate the road. Sarwar, a businessman and social worker, urged villagers to join him. But the response was poor as a good amount of money was needed for the work.

Sarwar then bought bricks and brick-chips in a cost of Tk 40, 000 and started the repair work alone on June 20.



PHOTO: STAR

Villagers repairing a road at Dabirbitha in Kushtia Sadar upazila

Sarwar's initiative charmed other villagers and they joined hands.

The villagers then called a meeting on June 17 where an appeal was made for voluntary contribution.

"We got an unimaginable response," Sarwar said.

The affluent people provided funds and the less poor gave labour.

The repair work was started in full swing on June 18 and the work was completed in the first week of this month, villagers said.

All the villagers joined the work

spontaneously. Day labourers worked without payment, students joined them after school hours and women helped them in whatever way they could.

Declaration of 19 Kushtia newspapers, periodicals cancelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The district administration has cancelled declaration of 19 newspapers in the district allegedly because those were not published regularly.

The newspapers included five dailies, 12 weeklies and two monthly publications.

The dailies are Sikol, Sutropat, Gramer Dak, Kushtia Darpan and Daily Teacher.

The weeklies are Simanta Katha, Kushtia Barta, Gorai, Lalon Bhumi, Janadak, Kushtia Bani, Mukur, Kushtia Parikrama,

Muktamanch, Daulatpur Barta, Kustiar Kantha and Droho.

The monthly publications are Gouro Prava and International.

A letter issued by district magistrate Nurul Islam on Monday reached offices of the newspapers and periodicals yesterday.

The letter said the action was taken as those violated section 9 (3) A (b) of Bangladesh Press and Publication Act, 1973.

Owners of some newspapers and periodicals, when contacted, said they were not issued any warning before cancelling their declaration.

Fertiliser seized, 3 held in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, PABNA

Police yesterday seized 26 bags of fertiliser and arrested three persons for carrying the bags from Charshadirajpur village to Banglabazar here, police said.

However, the main culprits managed to flee, they said.

A patrol team of Pabna Sadar police arrested Malek, son of late Monser Ali of Ramchandrapur village, Chunu, son of Ahaz Uddin and Md Aziz, son of late Dalbar of Charshadirajpur village in Sadar upazila.

Police said the arrestees were taking fertiliser from Charshadirajpur village in the same upazila.

Later, police informed the matter to both Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Upazila Agriculture Officer about this incident.

3 get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court here in Chittagong yesterday awarded life term to three persons in a murder case.

Metropolitan Additional Sessions Judge Shamsul Huda awarded the sentence to Alamgir, 25, Hiron Mia, 25 and Jahir, 20 and fined Tk 5,000 each, in default to suffer 2 years more.

According to the case statement, the convicts, staffs of a hotel at the city's Sadarghat area, chopped its owner Mansur Mia to death inside the hotel in July 2004.

Younger brother of the victim filed a case with Double Mooring police station in this connection.

Among the convicts Jahir remained absconding and 2 others are in jail.

8X3



PHOTO: STAR/FOCUS BANGLA

A portion of Gaibandha-Balashi road has been damaged badly by flood (left) and Brahmsgaon Multilateral High School in Munshiganj faces extinction due to erosion by the Padma.