

ATTACK ON TV DRAMATIST
9 Jamaat men
sued in
Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

The president and secretary of Badarganj upazila unit of Jamaat-e-Islami and seven other party men have been sued following attack on a television (TV) dramatist and his brother at their house Saturday night, family sources said.

TV dramatist Nannu Chowdhury and his brother Mozammel Chowdhury were injured as Jamaat men led by their president and secretary Rustom Ali and Abdul Halim Khan manhandled them severely, they said.

When contacted, Nannu said the Jamaat men attacked and ransacked his house after a meeting at the Badarganj house of party secretary general ATM Azharul Islam at about 8:00 pm.

Later, a case was filed with Badarganj police station accusing nine Jamaat leaders and activists.

Badarganj police station officer-in-charge (OC) Produt Kumar Das said he registered a case after an investigation.

TORTURE FOR DOWRY

Mother kills
minor daughter,
takes life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

A mother poisoned her six month old daughter to death and took her life last night allegedly being unable to bear the torture by her husband for dowry.

The incident took place at Sreela village in Assasuni upazila in the district.

Police arrested the victim's father-in-law Nazrul Islam and mother-in-law Zobeda Khatun of Sreela village.

The deceased are, 20 wife of Shaha Buddin and her six month old daughter of village Sreela.

Quoting local people, police said, Shahana Begum Hira was married to Shaha Buddin of Sreela village two years ago. Her husband sued to torture her often for dowry.

On Sunday the husband beat her again. At night, dejected Shahana poisoned her daughter Sumaiya Parvin and then took the poison.

Local people rushed the mother and her daughter to the local health complex where they died.

The husband fled away after the incident. A case was filed with Assasuni thana.

On contact, officer-in-charge (OC) of Assasuni police station Humayun Kabir confirmed the incident.

HIDES AND SKIN

Supply falls by 30pc in Tangail markets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Supply of hides and skin after this year's Eid is at least 30 per cent less than last year in Pakutia in Ghatal, one of the biggest leather markers in the country.

Usually, hides and skin worth over Tk 100 crore were traded at the market during Eid-ul-Azha in previous years. Arrivals this year is lesser. But the turnover in terms of money would rally round the previous year's figure as prices are higher, wholesalers said.

The number decreased this year due to financial strain caused to people by floods and political situation, they said. Many political leaders who used to sacrifice cows in dozens earlier are either absconding or silent, they said.

Small trader Chinu Bepari said he bought only 300 pieces of hides this year against over 1,000 after last year's Eid.

"A medium size hides was sold at Tk 2000 this year against Tk 15,00 last year", he said. Trader Sujit Ali said he bought big size hides at Tk 3,500.

Goat skin was bought at Tk 250 to Tk 300 depending on the size.

The wholesalers and traders

said high prices of hides and skin this year may affect export of leather and leather goods, a prime foreign earning sector, unless the government takes appropriate steps right now.

They suggested import of hides and skin from neighbouring countries to retain Bangladesh's export market in the world. Once lost, others will capture the export market, they said.

Besides, government should promote goat farms to produce Black Bengal Goat skin, famous in the world for its quality, they said.

Pakutia market authorities said they leased the market at Tk 26 lakh but the local administration did not take any security measure. There is no power supply in the market, they said.

Contacted, Ghatal Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Moshin Jahan Rimi said the market authorities did not inform her about their problems.

She however said security measures would be taken immediately.

ALLEGED EXTORTION
Case recorded
against
Patuakhali
municipal
chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Patuakhali Sadar police recorded an extortion case against acting chairman of Patuakhali municipal ABU Zafar Shamsuddin on Friday, about a month after it was filed with a court.

Mizan Sikder, a day labourer at Nutan Bazar in the town, filed the case with Patuakhali Chief Judicial Magistrate court on November 11.

In the case he alleged that Shamsuddin realised Tk 10,000 from him on a false promise to give his son a job in the municipality.

Police said they recorded the case after probe.

After the case was filed, Shamsuddin went to the Mizan's house on November 12 and asked him to withdraw the case but the plaintiff refused, sources claimed.

On the same day, Samsuddin also went to the house of Khaleq, a witness in the case, and asked him not to testify against him in court. Khaleq also refused.

Mizan and Khaleq filed general diaries with Sadar police station on November 12 alleging that Shamsuddin threatened them as they disobliged him.

Newly-built church opened in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

The newly-built Pabna Baptist Church was opened at a function held on the church premises here Sunday night.

Square Group of Industries chairman Saman H Chowdhury inaugurated the new building of the church as chief guest.

This was followed by a colourful cultural programme. X-mas gifts were also distributed on the occasion.

Among others, Anita Chowdhury, president of Pabna Baptist Fellowship Salimon Pitar Chowdhury, and Hemanta Chokrabarti were present on the occasion.

The church was established at Ghoshpara village on Dhaka-Pabna highway in 1931.

2 Satkhira Jamaat men sued for cheating hajj pilgrims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Three separate cases were filed with Satkhira Sadar police station Sunday night accusing two Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and three others allegedly for cheating 55 Hajj pilgrims.

In the case they alleged that they took them to Dhaka on December 12, confirming their flight on December 14. This was an act of fraudulence because their flights could not be arranged.

After taking them to Dhaka, the two Jamaat leaders and travel agency officials fled away, they stated in the case.

On contact, Sadar thana officer-in-charge Abdul Kader Beg confirmed filing of the cases. Legal action will be taken if the allegations are proved during investigation, the OC said.

Talking to this correspondent, some other victims including Habibur Rahman and his cousin Abdur Rouf of Ghoshuri village, Abdur Rashid of Godara village in Kaliganj upazila and Abu Taleb and Abdul Khaleque of Gunakarkati village in Assasuni upazila echoed the same allegation against the Jamaat leaders. They said they were also present at the police station when the cases were filed.

RENEWABLE ENERGY
Foundation of
Khulna training
centre laid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

LGRD Adviser Mohammad Anwarul Iqbal laid foundation of a training centre for 'Promotion of Renewable Energy Project in Khulna Division' at Khulna City Corporation (KCC) park at Sonandaga in the city yesterday.

Construction of the training complex at an estimated cost of Tk 5 crore is expected to be completed in seven months.

KCC signed an agreement in May this year with Bremen University of Germany for implementation of the project with financial assistance from European Union and cooperation of Technology Transfer Centre of Germany and European Research Academy of Italy.

Presided over by acting Mayor Md. Moniruzzaman Moni, the function was addressed by, among others, chairman of the advisory board of the project and editor of Dainik Purbanchal Liakat Ali, coordinator of the project's Khulna office Prof Dr. Bibhuti Roy, Khulna Divisional Commissioner Md. Yunusur Rahman, KUET Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Nausher Ali and Khulna Deputy Commissioner SM Firoze Alam.

110 fishermen still missing in Sidr-hit Patuakhali, Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

About 110 fishermen of Barguna and Patuakhali districts still remained missing since the devastating Sidr that swept over the coastal belt on November 15.

Of them, 103 fishermen hauled from Pathorghata upazila in Barguna while seven others hailed from Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali district.

Barguna District Fishing Trawler Owners' Association president Golam Mostafa Chowdhury said '103' fishermen on board 13 trawlers were missing when they were fishing in deep sea during Sidr.

None of them returned although more than one month passed after the disaster. Local administration recorded them as missing but their family mem-

bers apprehended them to be dead, he said.

"We have sent a list of the missing fishermen to the higher authorities through Pathorghata upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) to take necessary action", he said.

Of the fishermen, 14 were on board FB Mayer Doa, 12 out of 15 on board FB Rashed Gani, eight each on board FB Bhai, FB Tazila, FB Sarwar Kibria, FB Mayer Doa-2, FB Khan and FB Nuru, 11 on board FB Allar Dan, nine on board FB Harls, three each on board FB Jaynal and FB Mayer Doa-3 and three were on board an unidentified fishing trawler. Seven fishermen hailing from Lalua union in Kalapara upazila are still missing, he said.

Later, prayers were offered for the departed soul of the Sidr victims.

Sidr victims was held yesterday at Subidkhali RE High School ground in Mirzaganj upazila.

The school authorities organised the meting.

MA Aziz, acting headmaster of the school presided the meeting.

Among others, Mobarak Ali Munshi, chairman of local Union Parishad (UP) Advocate Mojibul Rahman, former president of the school managing committee, school teachers Amlendu Huiyer, Samit Chandra Das, Local alit Mahbubur Rahman Nannu, Anisur Rahman and Advocate Chitta Ranjan Das addressed.

The church was established at Ghoshpara village on Dhaka-Pabna highway in 1931.

Warehouses to be built in all land customs stations in Sylhet

Finance adviser says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Warehouses will be built in all land customs stations in Sylhet region to raise the volume of export to neighbouring Indian states.

Steps in this regard will be taken soon, said Finance Advisor Mirza ABM Azizul Islam yesterday.

He was addressing government officials and business leaders at Sylhet Circuit House in the afternoon.

Mirza said the government is ready to extend all assistance to exporters. The government will no more continue subsidy in unproductive sectors. "Rather, we will stress on infrastructure development, which will benefit the private sector", he added.

Replying to a question, the advisor said, feasibility of starting air cargo service from Sylhet to increase export will also be studied soon.

"Without raising local production, it will not be possible to control market", he said.

The government will also initiate steps for proper utilization of foreign currency sent by expatriates in productive sectors, the advisor said. Compared to the other parts of the country, Sylhet region is richer in natural resources and we are sincere to ensure their best utilization, he said.

Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Aziz Hasan, Deputy Commissioner Harun Ur Roshid Khan, Chamber president Zunnun Mahmud Khan, Vice-president Nasim Hossain, Bar general secretary Ruhul Anam Chowdhury Mintu and real estate developer Golam Rabbani Chowdhury also spoke, among others.



Tahirkhola Association of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology accorded a reception to some meritorious students of the university on Jalalabad Public High School premises in Sylhet on Sunday.

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Brunei	673	7.5	7.5
Bahamas	1-242	7.5	7.5
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