

Fresh probe into Udichi murder case soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A new investigation officer (IO) will be appointed soon to carry out fresh investigation into Udichi murder case...

He told this correspondent that fresh investigation into the case will now be supervised by monitoring cell of the Ministry of Home Affairs...

On March 6, 1999, a cultural function organised by Udichi Shilpi Goshthi at Jessore Town Hall came under bomb attack...

"CID is leaving no stone unturned to make a breakthrough in the investigation to track down real culprits who were involved in grenade attack on a cultural function in 1999," said ASP Kayyum.

The then Sub-Inspector (SI) Abdul Aziz lodged two separate cases--one under section 302 of BPC for murder while the other under Explosive Substances Act--with Jessore Kotwali Police Station as complainant the following day naming none as accused.

After investigation into the

cases, the then ASP of Jessore CID Dulahuddin Akand submitted a charge sheet to the court on December 14, 1999 against 24 people including BNP leader and former minister Tarikul Islam.

Tarkul was exempted from the charge by Supreme Court on August 12, 2003 after hearing his leave-to-appeal petition.

Jessore Special Court Judge Abul Hossain Bepari delivered the judgment on June 28, 2006 acquitting 23 other accused in the cases.

The judge while delivering

judgement made his observation that stern action must be taken against the investigation officer for submitting a motivated and weak charge sheet devoid of evidence required to punish the accused.

According to Jessore CID, Mufti Abdul Hannan was shown arrested in this case on November 19, 2006 as he confessed to his involvement in the Jessore Udichi carnage.

Cultural activists in Jessore yesterday observed the 10th anniversary of Udichi tragedy

demanding re-investigation into the case to bring the real culprits to justice, reports a correspondent.

They also organised different programmes like discussion meetings, blood donation and cultural programme to mark the day.

A discussion meeting and a cultural programme were held at Jessore Town Hall Maidan where Chief Whip Abdul Wahab was the chief guest.

Besides, a blood donation programme was held at Jessore Udichi office in the morning.



FUNCTION AGAINST BRUTALITY: Udichi activists yesterday arrange a cultural function at Jessore Town Hall Maidan on the 10th anniversary of the gruesome bomb attack on a cultural function of the organisation at the town hall.

Man crushed under wheels of train

RU CORRESPONDENT

A man was crushed under the wheels of a running train at Bhadra rail crossing near Rajshahi railway station on Thursday.

Bodiuzzaman, 50, a computer operator of Rajshahi Power Development Board (PDB) and an inhabitant of Sirajganj district was crushed under the wheels of the train while crossing railway line at around 9.00pm, railway police and locals said.

Later, police recovered the body and sent it to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) morgue for post-mortem.

JHALAKATHI PP MURDER CASE

No headway in probe in two years

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

Two years into the murder of public prosecutor (PP) Haider Hossain, police is yet to make any headway into its investigation.

Haider Hossain had conducted the case for killing two judges in Jhalakathi on November 14, 2005 and seven top Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leaders were awarded death sentence in the case.

Unidentified killers shot dead Haider Hossain on April 11, 2007 when he came out of a mosque in Jhalakathi town

after the Esha prayers. Investigation Officer (IO) Amir Hossain, also inspector of Criminal Investigation Department of police, said JMB activist Murad Hossain of Tutpara in Khulna confessed under Section 164 that Sagir shot down PP Haider Hossain on July 5, 2007.

Later another JMB activist Sagir was arrested in Mymensingh, who also confessed to killing PP Haider Hossain under Section 164.

IO Amir Hossain took Sagir under five days' remand on August 16, 2007.

During interrogation,

Sagar denied his previous confession. As a result the investigation was hampered.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate's (CJM) Court in Jhalakathi sent Sagar on further three days' police remand on January 16, 2008.

Jhalakathi Police Super Shafiqur Rahman told The Daily Star that accused Sagar could not be sent to Taskforce Interrogation cell in Dhaka from Jhalakathi as he was not given remand for longer period.

Recently the IO of the case has been changed and the new IO has started the investigation, he said.

Criminals assault journo in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Unidentified criminals assaulted Dhanbari Press Club general secretary near Mutsiddhi Bazar under Dhanbari upazila of the district yesterday.

The gang swooped on Ansar Ali, Madhupur and Dhanbari correspondent of The Banglabazar, while he was returning home at Mutsiddhi village from the market at around 4:00pm.

Dhanbari Press Club President SM Jahangir Alam quoted local people as saying that the criminals beat up Ansar severely and left the scene immediately.

Locals rescued Ansar and took him to Madhupur Upazila Health Complex, he added.

Ansar's wife Lovely Akter told this correspondent that her husband sustained serious injuries to legs and hands.

The reason behind the attack could not be known as of filing of this report at 6:00pm.

When contacted, Abdul Quaiyum, officer-in-charge of Dhanbari Police Station, said they will take necessary steps to arrest the culprits.

Husband 'kills' wife for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A housewife has been killed for dowry allegedly by her husband at village Jiala Nalta in Tala upazila.

Nilima Begum, daughter of Mujibur Rahman Sheikh of village Kalapota, was beaten to death by her husband Zahidul Sheikh, son of Babar Ali Sheikh of village Jiala on Thursday, police and locals said.

Zahidul married to Nilima four years ago. Since marriage, Zahidul used to torture his wife regularly for dowry.

On the fateful night, the dowry-greedy husband asked his wife to go to her father's house to bring dowry for him. On refusal from Nilima, Zahidul beat her to death, claimed Kohinoor Begum, a family member of the victim. Later, Zahidul and other members of his family hung the body with a nearby tree to suppress the killing incident, she alleged.

When contacted, Tala Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) confirmed the incident saying they are trying to arrest the culprits.



Rapid Action Battalion seizes spurious medicine worth Tk 20 lakh from the house of Md Abul Hossain Kabiratz at Farmpara in Chuadanga town and arrests two persons in this connection yesterday.

Over 20,000 cases pending with Pabna courts

Prosecution hampered as 8 of 17 judges' posts vacant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Over 20 thousand cases including civil and criminal ones have remained pending with different courts in Pabna for a long time while the posts of eight out of 17 judges in the district are vacant.

As many as 17,552 civil cases and 2,544 criminal cases remained pending till January this year, court sources said.

A total of 14,237 civil cases are pending with nine assistant judges' courts in Pabna. Each assistant judge's court deals with civil cases for each upazila in the district.

The pending civil cases in Assistant Judge's courts in Pabna Sadar, Ishwardi, Chatmohar, Santhia, Sujanager, Bera, Faridpur, Atghoria and Vangura upazila are 4026, 2174, 1677, 2120, 1548, 752, 553, 649 and 738, official sources said.

Besides, 3515 more civil cases are pending with District and Sessions Judge's Court, Additional District Judge's courts and Sub Judge's courts.

Most of the civil cases have remained pending for years, sources said. Even there are cases that are pending for 20 years, said lawyers and court sources.

The posts of Additional District Judge-1, Sub Judge-2, Sub Judge of Finance Court and five assistant judges for Atghoria, Vangura, Faridpur, Sujanager and Bera upazilas under the district are now vacant.

As many as 2,544 criminal cases remained pending with different courts in Pabna till January this year, official sources at Pabna District and Sessions Judge's Court said.

Of the criminal cases, 865 are pending with District and Sessions Judge's Court and the rest with Additional District Judge's Court, Sub Judge's Courts, Special Court and other courts here.

"A large number cases are

pending with different courts in Pabna for long due to lack of adequate judges. The rate of case disposal is too slow while filing of a good number of new cases adds to worsening the situation. Every month, over 500 cases are filed in an average while 125 to 130 cases are usually disposed off," Md Ohiduzzaman, administrative officer of Pabna District and Sessions Judge's Court, said.

Lawyers said lack of adequate judges is the main cause for a large number of pending cases while there are allegations that a section of lawyers sometimes try to linger the cases.

"As the posts of eight out of 17 judges are vacant here, trial of cases is delayed and people concerned are often deprived of justice in time. Filling up the posts of judges is essential for early disposal of a number of cases," advocate Shafiqul Isam Shibli, a senior lawyer of Pabna Bar Association, said.

50 hurt as villagers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 50 people were injured in a clash over CNG fare between people of two villages at Sherpur under Moulvibazar Sadar upazila Thursday morning.

A quarrel ensued at about 9:30am between Abdul Quyum, a CNG auto-rickshaw driver of Daudpur village, and two passengers, Rumon and Rakib, at Sherpur Bazar of neighbouring Bahadurpur village.

It turned into a clash between people of Daudpur

village and Bahadurpur village at about 11:00am. As the news of clash spread, people from nearby Hamarkuna, Brahmangram and Nadampur joined the clash which ultimately took a serious turn. The clash continued until 4:00pm. Villagers of both sides used lethal weapons during the clash.

Being informed, Moulvibazar police reached the spot and brought the situation under control after firing 100 rounds of rubber bullets and tear gas shells.

The injured were admitted

to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital from where three of them were sent to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital. When contacted, Additional Superintendent of Police of Moulvibazar Shyamal Kumar Nath confirmed the incident, saying the situation is now under control. Meanwhile, Moulvibazar district Awami League general secretary Nesar Ahmed and district Jubo League president Fazlur Rahman visited the spot and settled the matter through a meeting with the villagers.

Pumpkin farming changes life in Teesta char

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Peasants in once barren lands of Char Rajpur, Char Chinatoli and Char Kholai Ghat on Teesta River basin in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila are now busy working at their pumpkin fields as the profitable cultivation brings bright prospect for changing their lot.

Earlier peasants in the char areas of Lalmonirhat district failed to get expected yield from cultivation of other crops and vegetables but soil and climate in the areas have been found to be suitable for growing pumpkin.

In 2006, industrialist Anwarul Islam started pumpkin cultivation on sandy land at Rajpur Char and got good profit. He recruited char peasants to work in his pumpkin field and provided them with necessary training on pumpkin cultivation on sandy land.

Following the initiative, a large number of peasants in Rajpur Char area on Teesta River basin started cultivating pumpkin on once abandoned lands in 2007.

Bumper yield of the vegetable and high profit from it encouraged many others to

follow.

"I started cultivating pumpkin on two bigha sandy land in 2007. That year I earned Tk 35,000. By cultivating pumpkin on four bigha of land the next year, I earned Tk 62,000. This year I cultivated pumpkin on five bigha of sandy land and hope to earn Tk 70 thousand. I have already got Tk 25 thousand from selling pumpkin," Shamsur Ali, a pumpkin cultivator at Chinatoli Char in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said.

Another farmer Ranajit Roy said, "Earlier I had been facing munga but cultivating pumpkin on three bigha of sandy land since 2007 brought me solvency."

Traders from different parts of the country including the capital come to char areas in Lalmonirhat and purchase pumpkin from the growers on the spot. One kg pumpkin is sold at Tk 6 to 8 in local markets.

"Pumpkin cultivation on sandy lands in char areas can play vital role to mitigate munga in Teesta and Dharla river basin," said Aftab Uddin Khan, deputy director of Department of Agriculture Extension in Lalmonirhat.



A boy holding a giant pumpkin produced on a sandy land of Jamuna basin in Fulchhari upazila under Gaibandha district.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Supreme Court (বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট) regarding the Public Procurement Rules-2008. It lists various items for procurement such as stationery, printing, and other supplies, along with their estimated values and submission details.

Advertisement for the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD EM Division-4. It is an invitation for re-tendering for a 12-story government office building in Segunbagicha, Dhaka. The advertisement includes details about the tender process, eligibility criteria, and contact information.