

Fancy takes her life fearing mockery of justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A rape victim teenaged orphan girl of Chandanchhat village under Ranishankoil upazila in Thakurgaon committed suicide on Wednesday as she was prevented from taking shelter of law in the name of so-called village arbitration.

The victim, Fancy, 19, lost her parents a few years ago and she started staying with her stepbrother Jamshed Ali.

The girl was alone at their home on March 29 night when Chakha of the same village entered her room and raped her, police and locals said.

Hearing her scream, neighbours rushed to the spot and caught fleeing Chakha.

The next day, Fancy along with Jamshed prepared to go to Ranishankoil Police Station to file a case.

As the rapist's family members sought help of the village leaders, Nekmord Union Parishad member Abdus Salam and Shamsul Huda assured Fancy and Jamshed of justice through arbitration.

On March 31 evening, village leaders arranged arbitration at Fancy's house where Mizanur Rahman, Vice-Chairman of Ranishankoil upazila parishad, also upazila

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, and UP members Abdus Salam and Banu Begum were present among over a hundred villagers.

After a long discussion, the village leaders said they will give judgment a few days later, said UP member Banu Begum.

Humiliated and suspicious of the so-called justice from the village leaders, Fancy burst into tears and she took poison after a few minutes, said Jamshed.

Fancy was rushed to village doctor Hamid who referred her to Ranishankoil Health Complex but she died on the way at about 1:00am on Wednesday.

Jamshed filed a case accusing 11 people including Chakha.

Ranishankoil upazila parishad Vice-Chairman of Mizanur Rahman said, "We tried to settle the matter but two rival groups did not cooperate. Then we fixed April 6 for sitting again. But the girl took poison after we left the arbitration meeting."

"Crimes like rape cannot be compromised through arbitration. If such so-called arbitration is allowed, crimes including torture on women and children will increase," said a police officer seeking anonymity.



A house and a school destroyed by Friday night's nor'easter that battered Kaipur upazila in Sirajganj district.

PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH

24 deported from India sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Twenty-four people, deported by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) through two border points in Raja shahi and Chapainawabganj districts on Friday were sent to jail yesterday.

The judicial magistrate's courts in the districts sent them to jail after police produced them before the courts in connection with the cases filed under Bangladesh Control of Entry Act 1952.

Police said these people hail from various districts across the country and suffered one month's jail term in India as they entered the country illegally to seek fortune or for treatment.

"By entering India illegally, they committed crime even under the law of Bangladesh," said Sub-inspector Saidur Rahman of Godagari Police Station.

Of the 24 deported people, 12 were captured by BDR personnel at Sahebnagar frontier under Godagari upazila of Rajshahi while the rest in Shibrampur area of Bangabari border under Gomostapur upazila of Chapainawabganj.

BDR members handed over the captured people to police in Godagari and Gomostapur accusing them in two separate cases filed under Bangladesh Control of Entry Act 1952 with respective police stations.

Those captured at

RALLY IN SATKHIRA 'Punish killers of shrimp cultivator'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Over 2,500 people including women and children yesterday brought out a procession, formed a human chain and held a rally at Gazirhat, an important business centre in Debhata upazila, demanding arrest and punishment to the killers of a shrimp cultivator.

Abdul Wahid, 28, son of Alhaj Ansar Ali of village Shimulbaria in Debhata upazila was killed by miscreants while he was asleep at his house at Khankarchar at dead of night on March 23.

The next day Wahid's elder brother Abdul Mazid filed a case against 13 including 10 unnamed accused.

The accused are Liton, 27, and Sanu Sardar, 45, of village Jagannathpur and former Noapara UP member Ebadul Islam, 45, of village Kalabaria in Debhata upazila.

The speakers at the rally alleged that police are sheltering the accused rather than arresting them for 'mysterious' reason.

They demanded immediate arrest of the culprits and exemplary punishment to the killers and their 'godfathers.'

AL activist killed in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Unidentified criminals killed an Awami League (AL) activist at Sonapur village under Ataikula upazila of Pabna district early yesterday.

The dead, Shafiqul Islam, 36, was the secretary of Sonapur village unit of AL.

Police quoted family as saying that a gang of criminals entered the house of Shafiq at around 3:00am, hit him with sharp weapons and left the scene. He succumbed to his injuries on way to Pabna General Hospital.

On information, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Pabna General Hospital for autopsy.

Poverty, the murderer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A housewife and mother of six killed herself by taking poison on Friday night as her family was unable to feed the hungry mouths.

Duty officer of Shibganj police station SI Iqbal Hossain said Ajenur Begum, 45, wife of Mofijul of Sujapur village under Binodpur union of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj took poison on Friday afternoon and died at Sadar hospital at around 8pm.

An unnatural death case has been filed in this regard.

Victim's daughter Rehana said their parents often had hot exchanges over every day needs because of poverty.

"My father is a day labourer. He could not earn enough to bear family expenses. So there was no peace due to poverty. At last my mother killed herself by taking poison," she said. Delwar Hossain, Chairman of Binodpur union parishad said Ajenur committed suicide for poverty. Her husband rarely had regular work. They own no land and live in a khas land.

Khulna madrasas under watch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Activities of over a thousand quami, ebtidayee, nurani and alia madrasas in all nine upazilas in Khulna district are under surveillance of police and intelligence agencies.

Sources said the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order last week in this regard after the Bhola incident in which police recovered huge arms and ammunition from a militant camp there.

Khulna Police Superintendent YM Belalur Rahman told this correspondent that a list is being prepared to ascertain the exact number of the aforesaid categories of madrasas in the district.

This is being done as arms and ammunition were seized from Green Crescent madrasa at Ram Keshabpur village under Borhanuddin upazila of Bhola, he said.

Police and intelligence agencies in all upazilas have been directed to increase their watch on madrasas

particularly on the Quami and on other suspected places, he added.

Sources said there are over 5,000 students in the three categories of madrasas and police and intelligence agencies are working to ascertain sources of their income and heads of expenditure.

Besides, background of teachers and guardians of students are also being looked into by the agencies.

"We are also trying to get an idea about the curriculum of quami madrasa and identify persons who finance these madrasas," said a senior Khulna police official.

Police and intelligence agencies detected militant activities in some madrasas of Khulna city and district after the serial bomb blasts across the country in 2005.

Over two dozens of operatives of JMB and other Islamist militant organisations were arrested during crackdown on different madrasas and houses.

Footpath for pedestrians or shop owners?

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILO, Bogra

A large number of shop owners as well as floating traders beside the roads in the centre of Bogra town have kept the footpaths occupied for long, making them virtually unusable for passer-by.

Most of the footpaths from Satmatha to Khandar area and other busy roads like Borogola to Foteali Bazar and Satmatha to Borogola traffic point have been occupied for a long time allegedly with the help of employees of Bogra Burasava and law enforcement agencies, locals said.

Traders and vendors have occupied footpaths of a few busy roads in the town for long and the authorities have now decided to evict them soon with the help of local people and administration, Bogra Pourashava Mayor AKM Mahabubur Rahman said.

A committee headed by Bogra Additional District Magistrate Md Anwar Hossain was formed on March 12 to take necessary steps to evict illegal traders from the footpaths and streets, Assistant Superintendent of Police Mohammad Basir Uddin said.

"We cannot get benefit of the footpaths as those are partially or fully occupied. Traders have occupied both of the footpaths from Borogola Traffic Police Post to Foteali Bazar," said Md Abdul Mazid of Khandar area in Bogra town.

"I started shoe business on the footpath of Kabi Nazrul



PHOTO: STAR

The cooker of a restaurant is set on the footpath at Barabola in Bogra town, top, items of a variety store kept on the walkway near Sadar Police Station.

Islam Sarak near Bogra Sadar Police Station about six years ago. Some employees of Bogra Pourashava advised me to vacate the footpath five or six months back," Jahidul Islam, 36, said.

Another trader Aftab Ali, 50, said he started his business 15 years ago on the same footpath but nobody asked him to leave the place.

Over 2,500 people including women and children yesterday brought out a procession, formed a human chain and held a rally at Gazirhat, an important business centre in Debhata upazila, demanding arrest and punishment to the killers of a shrimp cultivator.

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Ensure Hirua's land right, protect his family

Demand indigenous people in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Around a hundred indigenous people under the banner of 'Jatiya Adivasi Parishad' yesterday formed a human chain at Shaheb Bazar zero point protesting a bid to evict indigenous people from their land and harassment by influential settlers.

Later, speakers at a protest meeting at the same venue alleged that a local influential at Jamdaha village under Godagari upazila of Rajshahi tried to evict adivasi Hirua Sarder from his land.

They said recently the aforesaid person applied to the government for lease of khas land now enjoyed by Hirua.

As he failed to get lease, the person along with 15 other settlers Sunday attacked Hirua Sarder's house, beat his wife and looted and damaged properties, they alleged.

They also threatened Hirua and asked him

to leave the khas land and village immediately, they said.

The next day, Hirua filed a case with Godagari police station and police arrested one person in this connection.

The arrestee's hired goons are now threatening Hirua Sarder. They asked him to withdraw the case or face death, they said.

The indigenous people yesterday urged the government to protect Hirua and his rights on khas land and ensure security of his family members.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to the land grabbers who tried to evict Hirua from his land.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad central president Anil Maradi, secretary Rabindra Nath Saran, Rajshahi unit president Bimon Chandra Rajwar, secretary Sushen Kumar, indigenous leader Rajkumar Shaw and Harendra Nath Singh addressed the meeting.

RU teacher gets PBCP death threat

RU CORRESPONDENT

A teacher of Rajshahi University (RU) received death threat from outlawed Purbo Bangla Communist Party (PBCP) yesterday.

Prof Abdul Matin Talukder of drama department, also provost of Mother Bux Hall filed a general diary (GD) with Mother Police Station saying that a man identifying himself as a top leader of PBCP phoned him and demanded Tk 5 lakh. As he refused to pay the money, the PBCP leader threatened him and his

family members.

Matin said he has also submitted written complaints to the university proctor and higher authorities.

Confirmed the incident and said police have been asked to take necessary steps in this regard.

Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mother police station told newsmen that police have received Prof Matin's complaint and started investigation.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Health Services
EPI & Surveillance, EPI HQ, Mohakhali, Dhaka

INVITATION RE-TENDER

Dated: 02/04/2009

Memo no. DGHS/EPI/ADMIN-161/2008/639
Sealed Tender is hereby invited from the genuine Press/ Printers for Printing EPI Materials.

As per PPR-2008 Terms and conditions are as follows:

KEY INFORMATION	
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2 Agency	Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
3 Procuring Entity Name	Director, PHC & Line Director, ESD, DGHS
4 Procuring Entity Code	EPI HQ, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
5 Procuring Entity District	8000
6 Invitation for	Printing of EPI Materials
7 Tender Ref No	DGHS/EPI/ADMIN-161/2008/639
8 Date	02/04/2009
9 Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION	