

Maid tortured to death for Tk 10

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police have arrested Cox's Bazar Forest Department Sadar Beat Officer Sirajul Islam and his wife Shirin Sultana on charge of torturing to death their teenage maid for stealing Tk 10.

The victim, Sufia, 13, took a soft drink from a nearby shop with Tk 10 that she stole from her master Sirajul Islam's pocket Friday noon, police and witnesses said.

Sufia, who later admitted to taking the money, received severe beating from Sirajul Islam and his wife Shirin Sultana and was left without any food for the whole day, they said.

As she started crying for food at night, Shirin Sultana uprooted nails of her hand with a sharp weapon and hit her body with hot spatula.

When she wanted to drink water at around 12:30am, she was again tortured. After she fell unconscious at around 2:00am, she was taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital where she died at around 2:30am.

Informed by on-duty officer of the hospital, Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station Sub-inspector (SI) Quader Siddiqui went to the spot and sent the body to hospital for autopsy.

"There are marks of hitting on Sufia's body. An autopsy would reveal details," said Dr Saiful Islam, resident physician of the hospital.

"Sirajul Islam and his wife Shirin Sultana have been sent to jail under Section 54 after their arrest on charge of involvement in the killing. Sufia's parents have been informed," SI Quader Siddiqui said on Saturday afternoon.

Sufia, daughter of Azizur Rahman of Kanainagar in Banchharampur upazila in Brahmanbaria, had been working for one year as domestic help in Sirajul Islam's rented house at Tekpara in Cox's Bazar town, police said.

Asked about torture on Sufia and her death, a crying Sirajul Islam said in the police station that he did not know anything about it.



Rajshahi divisional unit of Bangladesh Upazila Vice Chairmen Coordination Council forms a human chain at Shaheb Bazaar in Rajshahi yesterday to press home their demands including status fixing and job specification. Similar programmes were also held in several other districts.

PHOTO: STAR

ATTACK ON HASINA'S MOTORCADE AT GOURNADI IN 2004

Ex-MP Zahiruddin Swapan, 109 other BNP men sued

I was not in the area on the day: Swapan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A case was filed with the Judicial Magistrate's Court, Barisal, yesterday against 110 BNP men, including former lawmaker Zahiruddin Swapan, for attacking Hasina's motorcade at Gournadi in 2004.

Golam Hafiz Mridha, joint convener of Gournadi upazila Jubo League, lodged the case in the afternoon.

Accepting the case, Magistrate Md Ali Ahsan ordered the officer-in-charge (OC) of Gournadi

Police Station to investigate the case and submit a report to the court by August 19.

The other accused include Sarwar Alam Biplob, BNP Gournadi upazila unit secretary, Mukul Khan, municipal unit president, Hannan Sharif, municipal unit secretary, Badiuzzaman Mintu, president of upazila Jubo Dal and Zakir Hossain Raja, former VP of Gournadi College Students Union.

Nurul Islam, officer-in-charge of Gournadi Police Station, told The Daily Star that he would take legal steps after receiving the court

order.

When contacted, Golam Hafiz Mridha said he filed the case after five years as the then officer-in-charge of Gournadi Police Station refused to accept any case against the BNP leaders and cadres in connection with the attack.

Former BNP lawmaker Zahiruddin Swapan, one of the accused in the case, told this correspondent that he was not in the area during the incident.

Jubo League President and State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak, AL

lawmaker for Barisal-1 Advocate Talukdar Md Yunus, Swachchasebok League President Bahauddin Nasim, former BCL president Liakat Shikdar, and some local AL leaders have been made witnesses of the case.

The complainant alleged that the motorcade of then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina came under attack by the BNP men near Gournadi bus stand on April 2, 2004 while she was on tour of five districts under Barisal Division.



PHOTO: STAR

Former Post and Telecommunications minister barrister Aminul Haque was produced before the court in Rajshahi for hearing in the cases for misappropriating corrugated iron sheets meant for relief and a murder in Bagmara.

Hajee Danesh students go on rampage: 5 expelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The students of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) yesterday went on rampage on the campus and stopped final year examinations under two faculties protesting 'bad comment' by Registrar Prof Rafiqul Islam Mahmud.

Following the incident, an Academic Council meeting presided over by Prof Md Ruhul Amin, proctor and acting vice chancellor of HSTU, expelled five students for six months.

The expelled students are Devdas Kumar Mohanta, Iftey Wadul Tikey, Md Zakaria, Arifuzzaman and Atiqul Islam.

At 12:30pm, some 15 final year students of Agriculture Faculty of the university, who

had failed to fill up their examination form within official deadline of July 18, met Registrar Prof Rafiqul Islam Mahmud, also dean of Agriculture Faculty, and appealed to him to allow filling up their forms for the examination scheduled for July 22, said HSTU sources.

Students said the registrar ignored the appeal and abused them inside his room.

As the news spread on the campus, a good number of students gathered in front of registrar's office and brought out a procession on the campus protesting 'bad comments' of the registrar.

Two ongoing examinations under faculties of Fisheries and Science and Food Processing could not be held as the agitating students created obstacles.

Later the students again gathered in front of the administrative building and urged the registrar to withdraw his comments. As he ignored the matter, the angry students damaged chairs, tables and windowpanes of the building.

At a protest rally on the campus, the students threatened not to attend any examination scheduled to be held on July 22 if the university registrar is not removed.

Later police went to the campus and brought the situation under control.

Registrar Prof Rafiqul Islam Mahmud could not be contacted as his cell phone remained off.

A tense situation is prevailing on the campus.

Tiger kills another fisherman

147 killed in attacks in last 9 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sakthira

A fisherman was killed by tiger yesterday in Bibikhali area of the river Malanchi in the Sundarbans.

Kashem Ali Gazi, 55, son of Manik Gazi of village Patakhali in Shyamnagar upazila fell victim to attack when he along with others was catching fish in the river.

Fishermen who witnessed the incident said the tiger dragged Kashem into deep forest. They later recovered the

body in the evening.

On Thursday, tiger killed fisherman Manda Bagchi, 45, of Munshiganj village in Kaliganj upazila.

Around 150 people were killed in tiger attacks while at least 19 tigers were killed by villagers in the adjoining areas of Sundarbans in last nine years.

According to the forestry officials, tigers killed at least 147 people, including bawalis, villagers and forest staff members, since June 2001. Of them, 18 were killed in the east range while 129 in the west range of

the forest.

On the other hand, villagers killed 12 tigers in the east range while seven in the west range during the same period, the officials said.

Forestry officials said tigers enter localities and attack the villagers because of drying up of the rivers and canals, dearth of food and frequent natural calamity.

DFO of the East Range Mihir Kumar Dho said he urged the villagers not to kill the tigers and inform officials if the tigers enter their areas from the forest.

SNIPPETS

Arms recovered, one held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sakthira

A Rab team arrested a young man and recovered three firearms and 14 bullets from his possession at village Mahmudpur in Sadar upazila yesterday. Rab Khulna-6 raided a house, arrested Mostafizur Rahman Khakon, 32, and sized two revolvers, a pistol and 14 bullets at about 3am. They took him to headquarters at Khulna for interrogation and later handed him over to police.

Hunger strike called off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The agitating students of Agriculture Training Institute (ATI) Sylhet called off their hunger strike Sunday night after lawmaker Syed Zebunnesa Haque, Divisional Commissioner in-charge Md. Fazlur Rahman, Sadar Upazila Parishad chairman Ashfaq Ahmed and acting mayor of Sylhet City Corporation Md. Shahjahan went to the Sylhet Central Shahid Minar and assured the students of taking steps to meet their 8-point demand. The students started 'fast unto death' from Saturday morning. At least 22 students were till Sunday evening as they fell sick during their programme.

BCL beats up Jamaat men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Three Jamaat activists in Magura were injured critically as local BCL men hacked and beat them up on Sunday evening. Witnesses said, BCL activists equipped with lethal weapons attacked Kawser Ali 45, Selim Mian, 42, and Kubad Ali 50 in front of Magura Government Girls High School when they were going to join a party programme. Locals took them to Magura Sadar Hospital from where the three were shifted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

JMB man arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested Belal Hossain, 40, an aide to JMB's executed leader Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhai, from Raninagar in Naogaon on Sunday. Tipped off, police raided a house at Paroil village of the upazila and arrested Belal, who was on the run for a long time. Superintendent of police in Naogaon said, Belal, faces several extortion cases. He used to collect in Raninagar in the name of Sarbahara and JMB since 2000. He was arrested twice before, said the SP.

Two mugged in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A gang of muggers on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw intercepted a rickshaw carrying two staffs of Patiya Traders near Banglabazar Ghat under Double Mouring Police Station yesterday around 12:30pm and took away Tk 1.52 lakh from Bappy, one of the staffs. MA Musa, proprietor of Patiya Traders, said the two staffs were coming to the office after drawing the money from Agrabad branch of UCBL Bank. He said they would not file any case in this connection due to bitter experience they faced earlier involving similar incident. Musa said "Seven years ago snatchers took away Tk 50 thousand from me while travelling on a motor bike. We filed a case with the Double Mouring PS but we could not get back the money. Moreover we faced lots of hassle."

Boy brutally murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A 10-year old boy was murdered and his body was cut into six pieces. Villagers found the body in a dhoimcha (a fibrous plant) field at Bagaura village under Sibpur union of Nabinagar upazila Saturday morning. According to police and family sources, Samir, son of Safiqul Islam, went missing from his house a few days ago. They could not say anything about the motive behind the brutal murder. A case was filed with Nabinagar police station.

Food official gets 12 years RI

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court on Thursday sentenced an upazila food officer to 12 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for misappropriating government rice. Convict Sumon Sadhan Dewan of Pankhaiyapara village in Khagrachhari district, was also fined Tk 28,78,909, in default, to suffer one year and six months more RI in jail. District and Sessions Judge Abdul Kuddus Mia gave the verdict in absence of the convict. According to the prosecution story, Sumon misappropriated Tk 28,78,909 government rice from February 2 in 2005 to January 31, 2008, while on duty as Satoria Upazila Food Officer. Manikganj Sadar upazila Food Controller Mohammad Shahjahan registered a general diary with Satoria police station on February 10 in 2008.

SOUTHWESTERN BORDER BSF kills 33 Bangladeshis since January

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed at least 33 Bangladeshis and injured over 50 others on Jessore, Kusthia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenidah and Sakthira borders in the last six and a half months.

Of them, three were killed in January, four in February, five in March, two in April, four in May, six in June and nine others were killed until July 16, according to newspaper reports and BDR and police sources.

The BSF also abducted at least 40 Bangladeshis during the period. Thirty of them are now in Indian jails while and the rest were handed over to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) following flag meetings between the border guards of the two countries.

At least 20 incidents of 'unprovoked' firing by BSF

took place on southwestern borders during the period.

On July 9, four cattle traders were shot dead at Agrobhulot frontier under Jessore district. The victims are Sobuj, 16, Ahmed Ali, 21, Saddam, 25 and Ariful 28. They all hailed from Pachbhulot village in the district.

The latest incident took place on Baradi border in Chuadanga on July 12 in which cattle trader Bodruzzaman was shot dead by BSF personnel.

According to information gathered from newspaper reports and BDR, police sources, the Indian border guards killed 54 Bangladeshis on southwestern borders in 2008. Of them, 32 were killed from January 1 to July 13.

However, the BSF chief in a recent border conference in the capital assured BDR of putting an end to the killing of innocent Bangladeshis on the borders.

14 sued on charge of war crimes

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Fourteen alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces have been sued for killing, looting and arson in Magura and Patuakhali districts in 1971.

In Magura, Chiarunnesa Khatun of Kadirpara village under Shalikhia upazila, filed a petition case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, on Sunday, accusing 13 'rajakars' of killing five freedom fighters, including her son, during the Liberation War, according to our correspondent.

The complainant identified three of the accused. They are Ibrahim Molla of Kadirpara village, Mohammad Abdul Latif of Harishpur village, and Mohammad Sohrab Hossain of Boyra village in Shalikhia upazila. She could not identify the remaining ten.

In the case, she stated that

the accused picked up her son Abdul Khalek and four other freedom fighters at gunpoint from Kadirpara village on November 25, 1971. They were unarmed and came to the village to meet their family members, she said.

She further said the 'rajakars' took the freedom fighters to nearby Arpara rajakar camp, shot them dead and dumped the bodies into Chitra river.

Our Patuakhali correspondent reports: one person has been sued for his alleged involvement in war crimes in Mirzagonj upazila during the Liberation War.

Abdul Hamid, joint secretary of Amragachia union AL, filed the case with Mirzaganj Judicial Magistrate Court against Forkan Mollick of Chailabunia village under the upazila.

CU English dept in sorry state

CU CORRESPONDENT

Sixty-five out of a total 125 students failed in the first year English (Honours) examinations in 2007-2008 session of Chittagong University (CU).

Students blamed irregular classes, holding examinations before completion of syllabus, lack of proper knowledge about grading system and negligence of duties by some teachers for the result debacle.

They said a few teachers took only one or two classes to 'complete' their curriculum.

The students yesterday approached the department chairman with appeal for cancellation of the results and

holding the examinations again but the chairman did not accept it, sources said.

When contacted, the departmental Chairman Prof Chowdhury Mohammad Ali said, "The allegations are baseless. The examinations were held after completion of the required classes."

"I did not receive the students' application for holding special examination for them as it would go against the university rules. The failed student can attend the examinations with the next batch," he said.

The first year final examinations were completed on January 25 this year and results were published on June 27 last.

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