

Mugger Fakira also has some matters of principle!

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU,
Bogra

"No sir, the number is not so high. It will be between 600 and 700," a nonchalant Jahangir Alam Fakira told journalists when asked how many muggings his group committed in last six months.

Bogra Circle ASP Arifur Rahman Mondal arrested Fakira at Kadamtoli in Gabtoli upazila Saturday on charges of stabbing district Puja Uddapan Committee President Amrit Lal and snatching cash and cell phone from him at Baro Gola in Bogra town on July 17 night.

Fakira's father Jobber Sarker, a resident of Hindukandi village in Sariakandi upazila, earlier robbed people on the Jamuna River. Now he works as an accomplice of his mugger son in Bogra town.

Fakira formed a group of muggers comprising several criminals from Hill land port in Dinajpur and Mohasthanagar in Bogra.

"Only once our group snatched a mobile phone from a woman. Then we pledged not to snatch anything from any woman in future. We respect women," he said.

Father of a son, he now resides at Baruj Adarshapara in Gabtoli.

As most of the journalists in Bogra town are known by their faces, Fakira and his accomplices do not attack them as such incident would



lead to pressure from police, he said.

After spending two years behind bars in a theft case, he got released from Bogra jail one and a half years ago, he said, adding that he remained 'idle' for one year and then started mugging again six months ago.

"As preparation for mugging, I call members of my group over cell phone and ask them come to the town in rickshaw vans. We select Bogra Rail Station or any lonely area for committing the crime," he said.

"I committed highest five muggings in one night and fled safely. I do not stab anybody but two group members Chora Bablu and Sumon do it," Fakira said.

He, however, could not say how many people were stabbed by his mugging group or how many of the stab victims died.

Fakira said he and his father Jobber get Tk 300 to Tk 400 each as their 'share' after every act of mugging.

Mindless fishing goes on as campaign falls on deaf ears

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Catching of fishes including egg carrying ones and fry has continued unabated in different rivers, beels and other water bodies in the district, as callous fishermen are turning deaf ears to the prime minister's warning against harming fish resources even during the Fisheries Week.

Different kinds of enclosures would be seen in dozens of water bodies in Shibchar, Kalkini, Rajoir and Sadar upazilas of Madaripur district in the current rainy season.

As canals, beels and haors get filled with water from the Padma, Arial Kha and Kumar rivers during mid-June to August, the carrying fish come to these water bodies to lay eggs.

A section of unscrupulous fishermen are catching egg carrying fish, jatka and fry indiscriminately for last one and a half months.

Effective measures to protect fish

resources and its planned cultivation could earn huge foreign exchange in addition to meeting protein requirement of our vast population.

But mindless act by a section of people is taking a heavy toll on fishes, making the traditional favourite food dearer day by day.

During this correspondent's recent visit to different areas, locals said fishes of different species are being caught indiscriminately in char areas of different unions around the River Padma, Moynakata Khal in Shibchar municipal area, Arial Kha River in Kalkini upazila, Beel Padma between Madaripur and Shibchar upazilas and Kumar River in Rajoir upazila.

Besides, more than 1000 submerged enclosures have been set in the water bodies to catch fish.

Although the fish 'plunderers' themselves catch fish without any restraint, they bar people living near the rivers from catching fish for their family consumption, locals said.

Lessee of Beel Padma flowing through Madaripur and Shibchar upazilas, Joyal Sipahi admitted indiscriminate catching of fishes.

He, however, accused the journalists of turning blind eyes to the fishermen who set hundreds of enclosures to catch fish in other water bodies including Padma and Arial Kharivers.

Admitting setting of enclosures or fish traps by dishonest fishermen in different rivers, Shibchar upazila Fisheries Officer Monirul Mamun said they are taking steps to remove those. The action is getting delayed as there is no budget for the purpose.

"The fisheries department can only conduct awareness campaign. As the fisheries officers do not have any magistracy power, they cannot prevent illegal erection of enclosures in the rivers," Madaripur district Fisheries Officer Dr AKM Aminul said.



Fish traps made of bamboo fences is a common scene in water bodies of Madaripur district as a section of people continue indiscriminate fishing. The photo was taken from Arial Kha River in Shibchar upazila.

RCC to review holding taxes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) yesterday decided to review the holding taxes fixed in its recently announced budget and offered a ten percent tax cut.

According to the decision, the city dwellers will have to apply for reviewing their taxes and a review committee will fix affordable rates.

The RCC also offered a ten percent cut in the holding taxes for those who will pay off taxes within three months from the beginning of the fiscal year.

The decision was taken at a general meeting of the city corporation held at Rajshahi City Bhaban with Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton in the chair.

"We had raised the holding taxes, aiming at providing better services for the citizens. We did not finalise the new taxes. So, there is scope for review."

The mayor asked RCC officials concerned to issue tax notices on the citizens as early as possible so that they can avail themselves of the tax cut offer.

Meanwhile, the RCC fixed new rates of holding taxes from this fiscal dividing the residential and business establishments into three different categories.

Discontent has been brewing up among the citizens since the tax raise and the citizens in small numbers are gathering at the City Bhaban almost daily complaining about it.



PHOTO: STAR

Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote forms a human chain in Habiganj town yesterday demanding punishment of the perpetrators responsible for the suicide of Sajna Begum, a class VII student of a madrasa. Tormented by teasers, the minor girl took her own life on March 28 this year.

Strike at Magura hospital called off

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Magura

The doctors and nurses at Magura Sadar Hospital yesterday called off their strike following an assurance of local lawmaker Mohammad Serajul Akbar that he would take steps to meet their demands.

Sixty-three staff including eight physicians of the hospital went on indefinite strike on Saturday to press their demands including payment of arrears of 67 months.

They also started a fast unto death yesterday morning in front of the main gate of the hospital.

Meanwhile, the patients who came to the hospital for treatment were forced to take treatment at other local clinics and hospitals because of the strike.

Sources at Civil Surgeon's office said, 76 staff including 11 doctors were appointed in June 1998 under a development project to upgrade the 50-bed hospital to a 100-bed one.

They were not getting salaries as the finance ministry stopped allocation of fund following expiry of the project period.

gave a 72-hour ultimatum to arrest the attackers. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme.

At around 12:30pm on Friday, BCL men and outsiders assaulted Md Kamal Uddin, as the teacher, the BCL men said, delayed in opening the college gate through which the local MP Glasuddin Ahmed was due to attend a mosque adjacent to the college to offer Juma prayers.

General students of the college on Saturday boycotting their classes and brought out a procession at the upazila headquarters demanding immediate arrest of those responsible for assaulting Prof Kamal Uddin.

Students of other educational institutions in and outside the upazila headquarters also took out processions on Saturday protesting the attack on the college teacher.

WAR CRIMES IN 1971

7 sued, prayer for remand of 6 others in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira.

Seven alleged collaborator of Pakistani occupation forces have been sued for killing a freedom fighter in Assassuni upazila in 1971.

The accused are Golam Mostafa of Sreekalash village, Nasiruddin of Toardanga village, Shahajuddin of Kapsanda village, Abdul Hakim Dhali of Noapara village, Abdus Samad of Hajipur village, Arshad Ali Sana of Assassuni village and Elahi Baksa of Kakkashia village under the upazila.

Abdur Rashid, son of martyred freedom fighter Abdul Hakim of village Sreekalash, filed a petition case with the Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday against the accused for killing his father at Assassuni rajakar camp on September 14, 1971.

In the case statement, the complainant said the accused picked up his father from their house when he came to meet his family members. They took my father to the rajakar camp and shot him dead, he added.

Meanwhile, Six alleged rajakars, arrested on

August 1 in connection with a case filed with Debhata Police Station on Friday, were produced before the court yesterday seeking a ten-day remand.

After hearing, the court fixed August 4 for hearing on the remand petition and sent the accused to jail.

The arrested rajakars are Akkaj Ali, son of Baresh Ali, Abdul Aziz Chowkidar, son of Kader Baksa Sardar of Balitha village, Surat Ali, son of Pute Gazi of Shimulbaria village, Nazrul Islam, son of Entaj Moral, Gaus Sardar, son of Forkan Ali Sardar, and Abdul Hakim, son of Amir Ali of Gobrakhal village in Debhata upazila.

The complainant, Abdul Mannan, son of slain Babar Ali of village Gobrakhal in Debhata upazila, filed a petition case with the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court against the accused for killing his father on May 10, 1971.

The complainant alleged that the accused raided their house at Gobrakhal village and picked up his father. He further said they took his father to rajakar camp at Ellarchar in Sadar upazila and killed him.

Docs confirm Khagrachhari rape case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Medical report by a three-member doctors' board formed by the government yesterday said the physically and mentally challenged indigenous girl, assaulted at her Boradom village house under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari on Friday afternoon, had been raped.

"We have prepared the report today and handed it over to the concerned officials including the police, as the matter is a police case now," Dr Bishwa Kirti Tripura, Resident Medical Officer of Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital told reporters yesterday.

In the pretext of drinking water, an NGO worker entered the Boradom house of the 16-

year-old indigenous girl when she was alone there on Friday afternoon. Then he assaulted and raped the girl and fled the scene.

A case was filed against the alleged attacker, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, 25, with the Dighinala Police Station.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Mohammad Maksudur Rahman said a team had been engaged to arrest the accused who went into hiding after the incident.

Hill Women's Federation Khagrachhari district unit President Rina Dewan and other leaders yesterday went to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital to see the girl who is undergoing treatment for serious injuries inflicted by the culprit.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Barisal BM College in joyful mood as they observe World Friendship Day on the campus yesterday.

School student murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Body of a school student was recovered from a jute field at village Kapsail under Daulatpur Police Station in Manikganj yesterday. Jannat Hossain, a student of class eight and son of Lal Mia of the Kapsail village went missing two days ago. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Daulatpur police station said Jannat's father and elder brother live in Saudi Arabia. Jannat went to Glabazar to recharge his mobile phone on Friday and did not return home. The body bore a mark on the neck as Jannat was suffocated to death, the OC added. Mother of Jannat filed a murder case with the police station.

Robbers held, arms recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested five robbers and recovered arms and sharp weapons from them early yesterday. Arrestees Hamsel, Shamsul, Alam, Musa and Sahid hail from different villages in Khoksa upazila in Kushtia and Pangsha upazila in Rajbari. According to police, they raided a house of Satpakha village in Kumarkhali upazila in Kushtia at about 2:30 am and arrested the five with a country made pistol, a sword and three knives.

SUST student found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A female student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) allegedly committed suicide. Sylhet Kotwali Police yesterday found the body hanging from a ceiling fan in her room at Mazumderpara of Tilagarh area. They sent the body to Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital morgue for post mortem. Sources said, Fatema Tanjin Jharna, 23, was a student of first semester of the final year BBA. The girl had an affair with a student of MBA in SUST. As the boy married another girl on Thursday last, she was too shocked and committed suicide. Sylhet Kotwali Police filed a UD case in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Porters of Haji Shariatullah Bazar in Faridpur town began an indefinite strike yesterday protesting extortion by local goons.

Arms recovered, youth held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Police yesterday arrested a young man along with two shooter guns near the town's bus stand. Arrestee Mukul Mia, 26, hails from Baliadanga village in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah district. Sources said police official Sarwar Hossain on suspicion searched the body of Mukul at around 4:45 pm when he was standing in front of a hotel near the bus stand and found the two firearms tied with his thighs.

Touchstone statue recovered

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion of Rajshahi yesterday recovered a touchstone statue from Gobinda Nagar village under Thakurgaon district. A Rangpur Rab team raided one Biren's house and found the black statue under a mango tree. The height of the statue is 11 inches and it weighs around 11 kilogram. None was arrested in this connection, Rab sources said.

Youth killed in Kushtia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A young man was bludgeoned to death on Saturday night inside Fatin Ice Factory at Rupsha Strand Road in the city. Victim Nur Islam, 26, was son of Alkaj Sheikh of Rayerkati village under Pirojpur Sadar upazila. Police said the murder was committed by other employees of the ice factory following quarrel over theft of an energy bulb. Police picked up six employees of the factory suspecting their involvement in the killing.

Muggers kill young man

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Muggers stabbed to death a young man. Victim Yunus Ali, 30, is son of Noor Mohammed of village Vekutia under Sadar upazila and also a driver of Nitol-Tata group. Police said, a group of muggers snatched mobile and others valuables from Yunus and stabbed him several times on Airport Road when he was returning home from his workplace on Saturday night. The next morning locals found him lying on the road. They sent him to Jessore General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. A case was filed in this connection.

Teachers protest assault on colleague by BCL cadres

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The teachers of Gafargaon Government College yesterday announced a three-day programme protesting attack on one of their colleagues by Bangladesh Chhtr League (BCL) activists and outsiders on Friday.

The programme includes wearing of black badges, work abstention and silent procession.

The college teachers yesterday took out a silent procession at the upazila headquarters protesting the attack on Md Kamal Uddin, associate professor of the English department. General students of the college also joined the procession.

Later, the teachers held a protest rally on the campus with college Principal Md Aynul Haque in the chair. At the rally, the agitating teachers



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers of Gafargaon Government College bring out a silent procession at the upazila headquarters yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the attackers of one of their colleagues.