

Girl abducted from school gate in Narsingdi

Four youths held in Sumi rape and killing case in Habiganj sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A schoolgirl was abducted in broad daylight from the gate of Narsingdi Government Girls' High School at Sotipara in the town yesterday afternoon.

The girl was identified as Soma Akter Sathi, 14, a Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee of the school.

The incident has created panic and a sense of insecurity among the girl students and their guardians in the town.

Sources said Sathi's daughter of Bahrain expatriate Sirajul Islam of Bhagdi area of the town went to school to fill up SSC examination form.

As she reached the school gate, a gang of four criminals

wearing masks picked her up on a microbus.

At this, Sathi's friends Signa, Mumu and Liza who witnessed the matter began to scream.

Hearing their screams, locals and teachers and students of the school rushed to the spot, but failed to round up the criminals.

Sima Akter, sister of Sathi filed an abduction case with the police station.

Officer-in-charge Nazrul Islam of Sadar model police station said they have intensified patrol to arrest the criminals and rescue the girl.

SUMI MURDER

Sumi was kidnapped in Habiganj, four young men arrested in connection with

the rape and killing of a schoolgirl in Bahubal upazila of the district were sent to the jail after being produced in court yesterday afternoon, reports our staff correspondent in Sylhet.

Bahubal police on Monday afternoon arrested Bahubal College student and a BCL activist and also the son of Mirpur Union chairman Rubel Ahmed and Saddam, Jashim Uddin and Sobel.

Locals and police said, Sumi Akhtar, 15, daughter of Imran Ali of village Baniagan and a student of class eight at Mirpur Faizunnessa High School was picked up at about 7:00 pm Sunday when she was returning to her aunt's house from a neighbour's residence.

She was staying with her aunt as her parents went to Dhaka for treatment.

The now stained body of Sumi was found at the graveyard, only 100 yards off their house after about two hours. Villagers took her to the hospital, where the physicians declared her dead. She could not appear in the last day's ISC examination Monday.

Contacted, ASP Saygun Chakma, who visited the spot told this correspondent that the girl was raped and later hacked to death. The body bore marks of injuries. "However, we have to wait for the post mortem report for confirmation," he added.

Bagerhat JCD leader murdered

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police yesterday recovered body of a JCD leader from a paddy field at Baderakpara village under Sadar upazila of the district.

The deceased was identified as Sheikh Emadul Kabir, 26, son of Sheikh Habibur Rahman of the same village and sports secretary of district, Munira DCD.

Sheikh Mahfuzur Rahman, elder brother of the deceased, said besides students politics Emadul was engaged in his partners to refund his invested money.

On Monday, Daud told Emadul over cell phone to come to his house to collect Tk 40,000 from him. Since then Emadul went missing and yesterday noon his body was recovered from a paddy field near Daud's house. The body bore marks of injuries in the head.

Officer-in-charge Shahidul Islam of Sadar model police station said as per primary investigation it was a case of murder committed during feud over money.

In meanwhile, a gang came to Baderakpara village on motorbikes and set three houses on fire and ransacked a grocery shop.

Locals said the houses are Daud Malik, 28, Ali Sheikh, 35, and Khaleel Malik.

Police picked up Jahannara Begum, the sister of Daud Malik for interrogation.

Smuggled timber, liquor seized

UNB, Sylhet

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans, in separate drives, recovered 438 bottles of Indian liquor and 194.73 cubic feet of timber worth about Tk 5 lakh from different parts of the district on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of BDR led by Major Md. Saifur Chowdhury conducted a drive in Laxmipara area of Bishambharpur upazila and recovered 82 bottles of Indian liquor in an abandoned condition.

In another drive, 356 bottles of Indian liquor were recovered from Sactarkona area of the upazila.

Later, another team of BDR launched a drive in Rangpur area of Dairabang area of the upazila and recovered 194.73 cubic feet timber.

BDR sources said the recovered timbers were deposited to Sunamganj forest department where liquor to Narcotics Control department.



Officials of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute and NGO Concern Worldwide Bangladesh accompanied by farmers inspect a field of flood tolerant BRRI-51 paddy at Tapur Char in Dimla upazila of Nilphamari district a few days ago.

MONGA-PRONE AREAS OF TEESTA BASIN

Flood tolerant paddy to change farmers' lot

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Flood tolerant varieties of paddy developed by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) bears bright prospect for farmers of char (newly emerged landmass) areas on the Teesta basin in Dimla upazila of Nilphamari district.

Concern Worldwide Bangladesh launched motivation programmes and provided logistic support for its cultivation to the farmers of the poverty-stricken area that often sees serious crop damage due to frequent floods.

On November 10, a team of scientists led by Dr Md Gous, chief scientific officer of BRRI at Rangpur, along with officials of Concern Worldwide Bangladesh visited the flood tolerant paddy fields at Tapur Char on Teesta basin in Dimla upazila and exchanged views

with the farmers.

and expressed satisfaction seeing their prospect.

"Due to climatic change, devastating flood has become a regular phenomenon in the char areas where vast tracts of paddy fields are damaged every year, making people of Teesta char regular victim of monga, a near-famine situation," Dr Gous told local elites, farmers and journalists.

"To face the adverse effect of climate change, BRRI started efforts to evolve a flood tolerant variety in 2006. Finally, it succeeded to develop flood tolerant BRRI-Dhan-51 and BRRI-Dhan-52," said Dr Gous.

The two flood tolerant varieties are upgradation of aman paddy 'Swarna' and 'BR-11' respectively and they got recommendation from National Seed Board in February this year, said BRRI sources at Rangpur.

Earlier farmers cultivated them on experimental basis.

"Following good response from farmers of Teesta char areas we supplied seeds to them free of cost to cultivate the two flood tolerant varieties on large scale in the ongoing aman season. With technical assistance from BRRI we also arranged training for 54 farmers in Dimla upazila," said Santonu Shekhar, project officer of NGO Concern Worldwide Bangladesh in Dimla upazila.

Farmers of Tapur Char and Purbo Chhatu Nama Char cultivated newly evolved flood tolerant paddy on about seven hectares of lands, said Department of Agriculture Extension sources in Dimla upazila.

It needs 9 kg seeds of any of the two varieties for making seedlings in seedbed to cultivate in an acre (100 decimal)

within 25 days, they said.

"Both the varieties can remain undamaged for 16 days at a stretch. And they can yield 4-4.5 tonnes of rice in a hectare with normal dose of fertiliser. Farmers do not have to depend on multinational companies for seeds as they can preserve it at home," said Afiaz Hossain, Dimla upazila agriculture officer.

Several farmers including Abul Kalam, Saikatam, Rakanuzzaman, Nurul Haque, Abdur Rahman of Tapur Char and Chhatu Nama Char said they are no longer worried about adverse weather like flood, thanks to the new varieties of paddy.

Flood tolerant paddy is showing farmers of my poverty stricken union light of hope," said Rabul Islam Shahin, chairman of Tepla Khariabari union of Dimla upazila.



Children at Pabna Zila School centre write answer scripts at the primary terminal examinations that started throughout the country yesterday.

MONDAY'S INCIDENT IN BAUFAL

Police free 17 out of 19 goons of land grabber

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Panchukhali

Seventeen of the 19 men, caught and handed over to police for vandalising three business establishments and exploding cocktails at Gopalia Bazar in Baufal upazila on Monday night, were freed from Baufal police station yesterday noon.

The 19 people along with over 30 others had gone to Gopalia Bazar as accomplices of one Nasim Ahmed, who was trying to set up a brickfield to the east of Gopalia Bazar for terminal set up on a brick field five acres of government land which was already leased to landless people.

Nasim, introducing himself as the president of channel committee of Bangladesh Awami Peshajibi League, started work for setting up a brick field there in September this year, sources said.

After local people submitted complaint to the deputy

commissioner, upazila nirbahi officer and assistant commissioner (AC-Land), a team led by Baufal upazila AC-Land Mrinal Kanti De on September 18 visited the spot with Baufal police station officer in charge Shilmoni Chakma and they found villagers' allegation true. As they were Nasim to fill up the land and set a red flag there, Nasim stopped his work for the time being.

But as part of Nasim's plan to build a brick kiln furnace on the land yesterday, over 50 men went to nearby Gopalia Bazar with 25 motorbikes led by Nasim's brothers Kislu Ahmed and Kaiyum Ahmed. They ransacked a tea stall, a pharmacy and a saloon at the bazar and tried to create panic by exploding two cocktails. At one stage villagers surrounded the gang and caught 19 men including the two brothers of Nasim Ahmed while others managed to flee. Villagers also seized 21 motor-

bikes. At about 10:00pm a team from Baufal police station moved to the spot and brought the 19 men and 21 motorbikes to the station.

Monir Khan, owner of the damaged tea stall, filed a case accusing 45 people in this regard with Baufal police station on Monday night but police freed 17 men and let them take back all the motorbikes from the police station yesterday noon.

When contacted, Baufal police station OC Shil Moni Chakma said, "I freed 17 people from the police station as they were driving him to retaliate the killing of Emadul."

Police picked up Jahannara Begum, the sister of Daud Malik for interrogation.

At another drive, 356 bottles of Indian liquor were recovered from Sactarkona area of the upazila.

Later, another team of BDR launched a drive in Rangpur area of Dairabang area of the upazila and recovered 194.73 cubic feet timber.

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Kuet BCL chief, 2 others die of liquor poisoning

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three people, including the president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) unit, died Sunday in Hospital for better treatment.

The dead are AKM Asan Ullah Mehedi, 24, president of BCL, Kuet unit, Mohon Sarder, 24, a BCL activist, and Ufer Hossain, 45, of Gzanabpur village in Sadar upazila of Kushtia on Sunday night.

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Ufer Hossain and Ujal died on Sunday night while Mehedi died yesterday.

Kuet BCL president Mehedi also died in Hospital for better treatment as he had been in Kuet camp at Madapur village in Daulatpur upazila on Sunday night.

Assistant Police Commissioner in charge of north zone of KMP Mohammad Ali Haider said that the youths were carrying the gunpowder for supplying it to a group of extremists hiding in Khulna city.

On Sunday to attend a marriage ceremony of their friend Atiqur Rahman, report our Khulna and Kushtia correspondents.

After attending the wedding ceremony, they consumed liquor at a place in Bhagjote char area in Daulatpur upazila on Sunday night and returned to Parbatsha residential hotel at Beramara upazila.

Mehedi, Mohon, Sakel and Inman fell sick at the hotel. As they were found in unconscious condition in their room, hotel staff took them to Beramara Health Complex where the doctors declared Mohon dead.

Later, Mehedi, Inman and Sakel were shifted to Kushtia Hospital. Mehedi, also a final year student of civil engineering department, referred to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital where he died at 11:00pm yesterday.

Sakel and Inman were brought to Khulna Medical College and Hospital by their relatives on Monday night.

Ujal was one of the 20 other people who also fell sick after drinking toxic liquor at the same place. He died at Kushtia Sadar Hospital on Sunday night. The rest are undergoing treatment at different hospitals and clinics in Kushtia.

Kuet Vice Chancellor prof Muhammad Alamgir and all teachers, officials and employees of the university have expressed deep shock at the death of BCL leader Mehedi, also a final year student of civil engineering department.

The residence of Dignagar Union Parishad (UP) and vice-president of BNP Shaalika upazila unit Shariful Islam came under bomb attack, allegedly by Awami League (AL) activists, on Monday night.

Police and locals said about 10:30 pm unidentified criminals hurled a bomb targeting bedroom situated on the second floor of the house. Arappur in the town. However, no casualties were reported.

Windows were damaged in the explosion. Awami League activists might have bombed his residence, Islam said, adding that before the attack someone had warned him over telephone not to go to his electoral area.

Jhenidah superintendent of police (SP) Rejaul Karim visited the spot on Monday night.

Explosion in sewer hurts 6

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nongai

At least six people were injured in a blast inside the sewer at Sved All Chamber Road in the district town yesterday.

The explosion took place with a huge bang at around 5:30 pm inside drain near CPZ Plaza, in the area.

The injured included passersby, shoppers and bus passengers. They were sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for treatment.

Firefighters immediately rushed to the spot to douse the fire caused by the blast.

Bomb attack on Jhenidah BNP leader's house

UNB, Jhenidah

The residence of Dignagar Union Parishad (UP) and vice-president of BNP Shaalika upazila unit Shariful Islam came under bomb attack, allegedly by Awami League (AL) activists, on Monday night.

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HABIGANJ SERIAL BLASTS

Deposition of PWs recorded in 2 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

blasts on August 17 of 2005 in Habiganj town. Seven blasts took place at spots like municipal court building, opposite to Sonali Bank, junction market etc which followed filing of five cases.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Moulana Saidur Rahman's son AHM Shamkur 22 days after the blast. He was nabbed from 18 Computer Centre at Timkora pukur par in the district town on September 7 of 2005. Police also seized some Islamist books and CDs from the computer centre. His father Saidur remained absconding for years and was caught in the capital several months ago.

The CID submitted chargesheets against seven people including Moulana Saidur Rahman and his son Shalim in December of 2009.

The other accused are JMB operatives Azizul Islam Gazil alias Hanif of Bana in Kora upazila under Khulna district (already serving 10 years RI in a blast case of Sylhet), Shaiful Islam Nazim of Sherpur in Bogra, Fazle Huzefa alias Samon of Khatl Rajbari of Tishal upazila in Mymensingh, Bekal alias Hamim of Banipara of Jaipurhat and Salah Uddin alias Ibrahim.

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