

Threatened by arrested stalker's men, she stops going to college

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Following threat by the accomplices of an arrested stalker, an honours student of Dinajpur Government College has stopped attending her classes.

Police arrested the stalker Shahid Hossain, 22, of village Phulhat of Dinajpur town after the family members filed a case against him on November 16.

As Shahid teased the girl on the way of her college almost every day, her parents informed Shahid's parents of the matter but to no effect, they alleged.

On November 16, Shahid forcibly held the girl's hand and tried to hug her when she along with her mother was returning home. Hearing scream of the girl, locals came

forward and Shahid left the scene, said her mother.

The girl's family filed a case with Dinajpur Police Station on the same night.

But soon after they returned home after filing the case with Dinajpur Police Station, Shahid's father Gullu Bihari and mother Saika Begum along with a few musclemen went to their house and threatened them of dire consequences, the girl's parents said, adding that their daughter stopped going to college and they are remaining indoors as Shahid's accomplices have continued threatening them to withdraw the case.

However, Shahid's family members, when contacted over cell phone, claimed that their son is innocent.

When contacted, Dinajpur Police station Officer in

Charge Hasan Shamim Iqbal said security measures can be taken if the victim family ask for it.

Meanwhile, none of the four sued for instigating suicide of Shabnur, a class five student of a Brac school in Biral upazila, have been arrested.

As Shabnur committed suicide on November 19 night after her parents and relatives were assaulted by the family members of alleged stalker Rabiul Islam the same day, the girl's mother Meherjan Begum filed a case accusing Rabiul, his father, mother and sister.

Demanding arrest and punishment of the accused, Brac students of Dinajpur formed a human chain in front of Dinajpur Press Club on Friday morning.

15 injured as launch, ferry collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

At least 15 passengers were hurt in a collision between a launch and a ferry on the Mawa-Kawrakandi route on Padma River Saturday night.

The launch, named ML Jubilee, did not have any lighting facilities, which led to the collision, said its passengers.

Five of the injured passengers were admitted to hospitals at Faridpur and other places. Others were given primary treatment at local health complexes.

Angry onboard passengers also vandalised the launch.

Kawrakandi Launch ghat supervisor Muladad Hossain said, when the launch reached the Shibchar's Kathalbari area on Padma River around 8:00pm, it collided with a ferry heading for Mawa from Kawrakandi.

At the time, the launch was carrying around 90 passengers from Mawa, he added.

However, if any passenger went missing following the incident is still unknown.

Local sources said some of the launch's passengers were rescued from the river using speedboats. However, the launch authorities denied this.

Ctg 'rapist' remanded

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday produced Imam Moinuddin, arrested on charge of raping an eight-year-old girl at Patharghata on Saturday, in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court and sought a five-day remand for him.

The court will hear the remand prayer today. Police said the girl, a class two student of Rani Sabitri Primary School at Patharghata under Kotwali Police Station, was going to a tea stall near Mohiuddin's shop in the evening to buy food. Moinuddin called the girl to his shop and raped her.

Being informed, locals beat up Moinuddin and then handed him over to the police.

Police said Moinuddin is an imam of a mosque at Yakubnagar in Patharghata and also owner of a shop in the area. He confessed to violating the girl.

Victim's mother filed a case with Kotwali Police Station on Saturday night.



A smiling indigenous farmer carries bundles of 'guti swarna', an early variety aman paddy, harvested from his field in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi district. Aman fields in the Barind area are now buzzing with activities as harvesting is going on in full swing.

PHOTO: STAR

SUSPENSION OF PGCL GAS CONNECTIONS

Company counts loss while applicants in despair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Domestic as well as commercial and industrial gas connections in Pabna, Sirajganj and Bogra districts under Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL) have remained suspended for around a year following an order from the ministry concerned.

On an average, the company has been incurring a loss Tk 1.25 crore per month as gas bill since October last year as all kinds of gas connection has remained suspended, PGCL commercial department sources said.

At least 10,000 applications including those for six CNG filling stations have been pending in several offices of the company, PGCL sources said.

Following a ministry order that cited 'gas crisis' as the reason, PGCL had to stop all kinds of domestic connections in three northern districts on July 19 this year while the company was asked to stop all of commercial and industrial connections

on September 24, 2009.

But the company could hardly give domestic connections after September last year due to different problems including crisis of pipes.

Company sources said there is no gas crisis since the company started commercial operation in 2000.

A senior official of the company told this correspondent over cell phone on Friday evening that a letter has been sent to Petrobangla authorities with a request to relax the restriction on industrial gas connection.

PGCL Managing Director Md Ali Hossain said their management is trying to solve the problem.

"I have paid as per demand note for domestic gas connection to my residence about six months ago but it is yet to be given. And so, I have to bear additional amount of Tk 1000 per month as fuel cost," said Jalal Uddin, resident of Bogra town.

Advocate Zaidur Rahman paid all the official dues for domestic gas connection

to his Satmatha residence in Bogra town about eight months ago but he has not got the connection yet. "I have to pay additional amount of Tk 2,000 on an average every month to buy Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for cooking," he said.

PGCL General Manager (Marketing) Md Anisul Haque earlier said that they have enough scope to provide gas connections for domestic and other purposes in Bogra, Sirajganj and Pabna districts but they need government approval for it.

PGCL sources said that there is a scope to provide at least 6,000 domestic connections in Bogra, Sirajganj and Pabna districts right now as required gas pressure is available.

PGCL recorded gas pressure of 60 PSI (pound per square inch) near the entry point of Majhera Cantonment area, and almost the same pressure is available at end point of Thengamara on the outskirts of Bogra town which is more than enough to provide 5000 domestic as well as some commercial and industrial connections, sources said.

UP chairman's 'befitting' punishment to stalkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three youths have been punished on charges of stalking a schoolgirl and physically assaulting her family members at Senhati village under Digholia upazila of the district.

Gazi Abdul Halim, chairman of Senhati Union Parishad, awarded punishment to Enayet, Akher and Babu of the village on Friday night.

The chairman in consultation with all ward members and locals cut hair of the stalkers and forced them to walk two kilometres with

shoes round their necks.

UP Chairman Gazi Abdul Halim, also the publicity secretary of Khulna district unit of Awami League, told this correspondent that he had delivered the judgment with unanimous opinion of all ward members and the villagers who were present in the meeting at UP office at 8:00pm on Friday.

The youths used to stalk Khadija Akhter Hashi, 14, a class eight student of Senhati High School, on her way to school.

They also made an attempt to pick up the girl from her house and injured her mother and other family members as

they put up a strong resistance to the gang on the night of November 23.

The injured are still undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College and Hospital (KMCH), the UP chairman said. He also realised Tk 10,000 (ten thousand) as fine from the stalkers.

When asked, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Digholia Police Station Bimal Krishna Mallick said the UP chairman has done the right job in giving punishment to the stalkers.

None has so far condemned UP chairman's action against the stalkers, the OC added.

3 child marriage attempts foiled in 2 districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three child marriage attempts have been foiled in Satkhira and Panchagarh.

A 12-year-old girl was saved from an attempted under-age marriage at village Durgabati in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira yesterday as the villagers vehemently protested the bid, reports our correspondent.

Agitated villagers submitted an allegation to Shyamnagar Upazila Nirbahi Officer requesting him to intervene and save Mousumi Sultana, daughter of Manirul Islam Moral of the village from being married off to a 22-year-old youth.

UNO Sabbir Ahmed immediately responded to the allegation and sent a police team to stop the early marriage.

Mousumi, a class five student of Durgabati Registered Primary School, could not protest when her parents arranged the marriage.

Villagers saved another teenager girl, also a Junior School Certificate (JSC) examinee from marriage at village Balitha in Sadar upazila of the district on November 18.

The neighbours submitted an allegation to the officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar police station requesting him to intervene and save Nur Jahan Khatun, 14, daughter of Abdul Karim from being married off to a 22-year old man.

The OC immediately sent a police team to stop the early marriage of the girl.

Nur Jahan, a class eight student of Brahmarajpur Girl's High School in the same upazila, did not agree to the proposal when her parents arranged her marriage with

Rabiul Islam, son of Ejahar Ali of village Kashempur in Sadar upazila.

Ignoring her opinion and the existing law, her parents arranged the marriage on November 18 and bridegroom and others came to her parent's house.

However, the villager rescued her with the help of police.

In Panchagarh, another child marriage was foiled on November 21 at Mashjidpara village in Dandapal union under Debiganj upazila.

Officer-in-charge of Debiganj police station Mominul Islam told our Thakurgaon correspondent over cell phone that marriage of Romena Begum, 14, daughter of Abdur Rauf, also a student of class seven at Kaliganj High School was being solemnised with Abul Kashem, 21, son of Abdul Aziz of the same village.

On information, a police team led by the OC Mominul Islam went to the spot. Sensing police presence the bridegroom and the members of the bridal party including the marriage register fled the scene.

However, in Patuakhali, marriage of a 13-year-old girl was held at a village, about 35kms away from the district town on November 24.

Shabana, a student of class six at Sweenhashebo High School of Borobighai union under Sadar upazila was married to Al-Amin of a nearby Khaserhat village, reports our correspondent.

Chan Mia of Kewabunia arranged the marriage of his daughter while Abdul Matin, teacher of a nearby maktab (preprimary level madrasa), conducted it at Bayatibari mosque. The marriage is yet to be registered, the local UP member informed.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Rifles seizes two pounds of precious snake venom from Arambagh in Chapainawabganj town and arrests three people for illegally possessing the item on Saturday night.

Expatriate found dead

UNB, Pabna

An expatriate, who came here from Dubai 4/5 months back, was found dead at a field at Nikorhata village in Ishwardi upazila yesterday. On information, police recovered the body of Salek Ali, 42, son of Abdus Sobhan of the village, in the morning. Police said Salek, who came here on a six-month leave, remained missing as he went out of his home after receiving a call on his mobile phone on Saturday night.

Imam suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Imam of a mosque was suspended on charge of sexually harassing a student in Karimganj upazila of the district yesterday. Imam Hafez Md. Nazrul Islam, 27, is son of Abdul Jabbar of Jatia Para village also Khatib of mosque at Ichhaganj bazar in Karimganj. According to sources, Hafez Md. Nazrul Islam harassed the girl while teaching Arabic. Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan, president of mosque committee said Nazrul Islam was suspended from the mosque after the incident.

Drug peddler hurts BDR man

UNB, Sylhet

A Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawan was injured in an attack by a drug peddler along Gajukata border in Bianibazar upazila Friday night. Witnesses said, a BDR team arrested drug peddler Abul Kashem along with foreign liquor from a tea stall at Dubag bazar in the border area. Abul Kashem at one stage hit BDR havildar of Gajukata camp M Nasiruddin with a bottle of liquor, leaving him injured. The drug peddler was handed over to police.

Fugitive arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police arrested an absconding convict from her house at village Jhikra in Kalaroa upazila Friday night. The arrestee is Rawshan Ara, 48, wife of Anisur Rahman of the village. She went into hiding soon after filing of a cheating case. The court sentenced her to two years rigorous imprisonment in absentia.



PHOTO: STAR

Rivalry among the influential locals over formation of the managing committee has kept this high school at remote Vati Kapasia, a char area on Teesta basin in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district, virtually closed for six years.

School shut for 6 years for 'tug-of-war' of committees

KM REZAUL HAQUE, Gaibandha

A high school in remote char area at Vati Kapasia under Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district has remained without any academic activities for the last six years, as two influential groups are in the race for control over its management.

The students, who were earlier admitted to the school, were compelled to migrate to five-kilometre away Chandipur High School.

During the period, three managing committees were formed while rivals engaged in violent clashes and filed lawsuits against each other.

Meanwhile an influential group has started vegetable farming on the school ground.

After setting up of the school in 2003 on the land donated by several locals

including Delber Hossain, a two-story building was constructed in 2004 with the financial help under secondary education sector improvement project (SESIP) of the Ministry of Education.

An 11-member managing committee with main donor Delder Hossain as chairman recruited Shariful Islam as headmaster and 17 other teachers and staff and started academic activities of the school through admitting some students.

The then lawmaker of Jamaat-e-Islami Moulana Abdul Aziz formed another managing committee of the same school with Nesabuddin, chairman of Kapasia union, as chairman and recruited 18 teachers and staff with Moklesur Rahman, a Jamaat leader, as headmaster.

However, the upazila

nirbahi officer (UNO) did not forward for approval any of the two committees to the Ministry of Education as neither of them followed rules and instructions of SESIP under the ministry.

As the two managing committees were formed ignoring rules of the ministry, recruitment of teachers and other staffs by them will be ultimately treated as illegal, said Azher Ali, district education officer.

The UNO in September last year called a meeting, where both the chairmen of earlier committees tendered resignation and a new nine-member committee was formed with the UNO as chairman and the district education officer as member-secretary and two former chairmen as members, according to instruction of SESIP.

This committee also

recruited four teachers and three office staff, including Jahiruddin as assistant headmaster of the school. But after a few days members of the two former committees rejected the UNO's committee and put the school under lock and key. Subsequently several clashes occurred between the rival groups. They later sought justice in the court.

To find a way out to start academic activities of the school, with the consent of local people a convening committee was formed with upazila Social Welfare Officer Akram Hossain as convener and Delder Hossain, Nasabuddin and Jahiruddin as members, said Sundarganj UNO Shamsul Azam.

"We are waiting for the good day, when our children will be able to go to this school," said a local.