

TUESDAY'S INCIDENT AT UKIARA OF MANIKGANJ

Police arrest 11 for attack on temple, Hindu family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police in a drive at Ukiara village on Wednesday night arrested 11 people in connection with the attack on journalists, damage of a temple and houses of a Hindu family there.

The arrestees are Ramzan Ali, Shahin Mia, Gaffar Mia, Habib, Mithu Mia, Amin, Suruzzaman Sentu, Shukur Ali, Chan Mia, Nawsher and Abdul Kuddus of Ukiara and adjacent areas.

Manikganj Police superintendent Md. Masud Karim said the aforesaid 11 were held in connection with Tuesday's incident.

Local AL men evicted a Hindu family by vandalising their houses and temple on Tuesday morning.

They also beat up Biplob

Chakrabarty, district correspondent of Bangla daily Shamokal, on that day when he went to the spot to cover the incident.

The ruling party men also assaulted the ATN news team comprising its crime reporter Imran Hossain, camera crew Habibur Rahman Habib and local correspondent Abul Kalam Azad the next day when they went to the spot to collect story.

Villagers said, Gosai Chandra Mandal, a relative of Shyamacharan, and his brother Sharat Mandal have been living in the house for the last 80 years.

The temple was also constructed on their property.

"After the death of Shyamacharan, the house was recorded as vested property. So, Sharat and I submitted an appli-

cation to the deputy commissioner of Manikganj seeking ownership of the land," Gosai told this correspondent.

Being rejected by the deputy commissioner's office, the duo filed a writ on January 20 this year with the Manikganj district and sessions judges' court asking for temporary stay order.

Following the writ, the court passed an order asking the deputy commissioner, assistant deputy commissioner (revenue), upazila nirbahi officer, assistant commissioner (land) and union land officer to explain the reasons behind the eviction of Gosai and Sharat.

Local AL men led by district AL religious affairs secretary Israfil Hossain wanted to grab the property in the name of building a hospital, villagers alleged.



PHOTO: STAR

Law enforcers seize 100 maunds of jatka (hilsa fry) from Dhaleswari River in Munshiganj district yesterday, the fourth day of Hilsa Fry Preservation Week.

100 maunds more jatka seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Coastguard members yesterday seized 100 maunds more jatka (hilsa fry) from trawlers raising the total amount of seizure to at least 165 maunds in the last three days.

On the fourth day of the Hilsa Fry Preservation Week yesterday, coastguard mem-

bers in a drive in the Dhaleswary River recovered 100 maunds jatka from two passenger trawlers.

Coastguard CPO Shafiul Islam led the drive.

However, they could not arrest the owner of the recovered jatka.

Later, upazila fisheries officer Marzina Begum sold the fry at an auction.

Earlier, the coastguard

members recovered 65 maunds more jatka on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In a drive they recovered 30 maunds of hilsa fry from a Dhaka-bound trawler at the confluence of the Dhaleswary and Shitalakkhya rivers near Kathpatti area on Tuesday.

A team led by coastguard CPO Shafiul Islam recovered

the jatka from a trawler, but the owner of the recovered jatka managed to escape.

Later, the upazila fisheries officer sold the fry at an auction for Tk 82 thousand.

On Wednesday, the same team recovered 35 maunds of jatka from another trawler. They seized 17 drums full of fry from a trawler in the Padma River.

Pirates abduct 2 fishermen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two fishermen were abducted by pirates in Badhalata area in the Mathabhanga canal in the Sundarbans yesterday.

The victims are Sannyasi Biswas, 27, son of Tarapada Biswas of village Mirgang and Amol Raptan, 31, son of Shushil Raptan of Jyotindra Nagra in Shyamnagar upazila.

They are now being held hostage in the deep forest for ransom of Tk. 20,000 each, police quoting the relatives of the victims said.

Four days have been set as the deadline for payment of the ransom, failing which the fishermen will face 'die consequences', police said quoting other fishermen who managed to flee the scene.

Four fishermen went to the Sundarbans early yesterday taking permission from the Kadamtala Forest Office in the Sundarbans.

No sooner had they reached Badhalata area in the Mathabhanga canal, the pirate group attacked them.

They looted cash and other valuables from the boats and abducted two fishermen for ransom.

RUPALI TRACELESS FOR OVER A MONTH

Abductors move freely, press family to withdraw case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

HSC examinee Rupali Roy is yet to be recued a month into her abduction.

Lohagara police could not arrest any of kidnappers. Rather there is allegation that the culprits were moving freely while the aides of the abductors pressing the family to withdraw the case.

According to the case filed on March 21, the incident took place when Rupali Roy, daughter of Sushil Roy of Kamargram village under Lohagara upazila was staying at her relative's house at Joypr village.

On March 7 morning, local criminals Shimul Mollah, Liton Mollah, Enamul Mollah and Monnu Sikder of Makrail village forcibly picked up Rupali in a microbus and took her to an unknown place. Since then she remained traceless.

Rupali's uncle Amor Krishna filed a case against the aforesaid people with Lohagara police station.

But police failed to rescue Rupali, a student of SMA Ahad College, or arrest any of kidnappers in the last one month for mysterious reasons, said the family members.

Rupali's uncle Amor Krishna lamented that Rupali could not take her HSC examination because of the abduction followed by police failure.

Amor Krishna, Jakir Hossain Thakur, Nagendronath and several others of Kamargram alleged that Fulmia and Mahfuzar of Makrain village were pressing



and threatening the complainant and the family members of Rupali to withdraw the kidnapping case.

The investigation officer, SI Ayub Ali said, 'a vigorous drive' is on to arrest the accused. He also blamed victim's family for 'not extending cooperation' to police.

Meanwhile, at a press conference at Narail Zila Press Club the parents of the girl yesterday accused the police of 'dilly-dally and indifference' to the case.

They demanded immediate steps for rescue of Rupali Roy.

The press conference was attended by the parents of the victim and some leaders of local social organisations.

Abducted girl freed by villagers

3 others rescued

STAR NATIONAL DESK

An abducted girl was freed by villagers in Lalmonirhat while three others were rescued in Jessore while being trafficked to India yesterday.

An eight-year-old girl was rescued and her abductor was held at Kalisthan border village of Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat yesterday morning.

Local people later handed over the alleged abductor to police.

He was identified as Ibrahim Ali, 45, son of late Motleb Ali of Sarpukur village of Aditmari upazila.

The rescued child, Hasina Akhter, is daughter of Nur Hossain at Velabari village in the same upazila.

Police said, Ibrahim abducted Hasina from near her residence and took her to border area for trafficking to India.

Local people caught the abductor and rescued the victim at Kalisthan border village and then informed Aditmari police.

Police rushed in, arrested Ibrahim and handed over the girl to her parents.

In Jessore, Benapole immigration police yesterday rescued three young girls while being trafficked to India.

The arrestees were identified as Mahmuda Khatun, 20, daughter of Mahtab of Mohammadpur, Dhaka and her younger sister Chameli Khatun, 16, and Sathi Aktar, 15, daughter of Anwar Ali of Bakerganj upazila of Barisal.

Officer-in-charge Ali Azam of Benapole immigration said at around 10:00am yesterday police observed suspicious movement of the three girls.

On-duty officer interrogated them and found that a gang of traffickers brought them to Benapole promising good jobs in India.

Babu Ghosh, one of the alleged traffickers, managed to flee the spot sensing police intervention, he said.

Later, the three girls were taken to port police station.

Teenage boy found dead

UNB, Satkhira

A teenage boy was found dead at the residence of president of the District Bar Association here on Wednesday.

On information, police recovered the body of Shamsuzzaman, 19, son of Shawkat Ali of Fatehpur village in Keshabpur upazila of Jessore, at noon.

Police said, Shamsuzzaman came to visit the residence of his cousin advocate Abul Hossain, president of local Bar Association.

They suspected that he committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of the under construction first floor of the building sometime on Tuesday night.

Abul Hossain, however, said the youth was a drug addict.

20 kids food poisoned

They had tamarind pickles from a street vendor at school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, X Rajshahi

At least 20 students of Kuthipara Government Primary School in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi district fell sick after having tamarind pickles from a street vendor on the school premises yesterday morning.

Sixteen of them were admitted to Godagari 31-bed Hospital while four others were given first aid at the school.

"We rushed them to hospital as some students fainted and some others started suffering from stomach ache. They had eaten tamarind pickle after buying it from Lusi," said Irene Parveen, headmistress of the school.

"The students fell sick as they took rotten and unhygienic food. They were suffering with dizziness, palpitation, stomach ache and nausea. All of them are out of danger as they were given timely treatment," Dr Ishaq Ali, medical officer of the hospital, said in the afternoon.



PHOTO: STAR

Two kids, food poisoned yesterday, being treated at Godagari upazila health complex in Rajshahi district.

Police arrested the pickle seller, Lusi Khatun, 18, of Kuthipara area, said Zakirul Islam, officer in charge of Godagari police station.

Lusi, however, told police that the incident was first since she along with her mother started selling pickles prepared by themselves 10 years ago.

Of the 16 children admitted to the hospital, eight are students of class III, two are

of class II, three are of class IV, three are of class V.

Later when Godagari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Julia Moyeen visited the sick children at the hospital, the guardians complained to her about health risks of children due to open sale of food items at schools and village shops. The UNO assured them of action in this regard.



PHOTO: STAR

Freedom fighter Abdur Razzak, now 68, pulls rickshaw-van for a living.

Days in the life of a freedom fighter

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Valiant freedom fighter Abdur Razzak, now 68, finds it hard to get both ends meet with his scanty income as a rickshaw-van puller.

He with his wife lives in a shabby hut on a land beside Kaliganj-Kotchandpur road at Kashipur village under Kaliganj municipality in Jhenidah district.

Abdur Razzak, then serving East Bengal Regiment, joined the Liberation War in 1971, and participated in first frontal fight with Pakistani occupation forces at Chasra-Palbari in Jessore, said the freedom fighter.

He along with other freedom fighters moved to Petrapol in India. Later they went to Agartala and took part in several fights.

He fought under the command of Moinul Haq Chowdhury led by Major Hafiz.

"During a fight with the Pakistani forces in Mymensingh, our fellow Captain Salauddin and Motiar Rahman of Boro Bhatke village in Jessore borrowed martyrdom. At the time I received bullet injuries to my left leg and right hand. I was taken to a hospital in Guwahati in India," Razzak narrated his experience to this correspondent.

"I have not got any reward for my sacrifice for the country. Now I live on a roadside land and maintain my family by pulling van," said Razzak in tears.

"My freedom fighter husband risked his life to free this country. But we live in a dilapidated hut

and often pass days without meal," said his wife Rizia Khatun who earns a little by sewing kantha for others.

They have two sons and two daughters. The two daughters are living with their husbands while the two sons are too heartless to look after their elderly parents, said Razzak.

Razzak and his wife have to borrow added sufferings when they become sick or cannot work for any reason, said their neighbour Khodeza Khatun.

Contacted, Kaliganj upazila unit Mukti Joddha Sangsad commander Sekendar Ali said, "We will try to manage a plot of land for Abdur Razzak. We will make recommendations to the upazila chairman and the nirbahi officer in this regard."

Divorced, attacked with acid

Hapless Amiron now groans in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Victim of acid attack by fellow-wife and stepson, a housewife is groaning in pain at One-stop Crisis Centre at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Acid-burnt Amiran Begum, 27, wife of Majibur Rahman of Darikusha village in Boraigram upazila in Natore district, was rushed to Natore Sadar Hospital from where she was shifted to RMCH yesterday noon.

Majibur Rahman, son of Nasir Uddin of Darikusha village, married Amiran Begum, daughter of Akbar Ali of village Penguin, one year ago without any dowry.

But later Majibur pressed for Tk 80 thousand or a motorcycle from her family who could not meet the demand, said the victim.

Fifteen days ago, Majibur went to Dhaka. Meantime, he divorced Amiran through a local quazi (marriage registrar) but she did not get any letter in this regard.

Amiran's fellow-wife Mansura created pressure on her to go out from the house but Amiran declined to do so before getting the copy of the 'divorce paper'.

"At around 3:30am when I came out from the house to use bathroom, my fellow-wife Mansura and stepson Murad along with three to four others waylaid and threw acid on me. Hearing my

scream, neighbours rushed to the place and brought me to hospital," Amiran told this correspondent at Natore Sadar Hospital yesterday morning.

"My husband and fellow-wife often tortured me for Tk 80 thousand as dowry. About two months ago I had an abortion due to their torture," she said.

Shakilur Rahman, medical officer of Natore Sadar Hospital, said they decided to shift her to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for better treatment as the victim had serious burn injuries.

Anwar Hossain, officer in charge of Boraigram police station, said, "Hearing the news police rushed to the spot. No case has been filed yet as the family members are busy for her treatment."