

# Stalker or victim of conspiracy?

*Headmaster jailed, while locals, students hold rally, shut school in protest*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mobile court awarded four months' imprisonment to the headmaster of Basherbanda Bohumukhi High School in Ishwardi upazila under the district on charge of sexual harassment to a girl student on Sunday.

On the other hand, locals and present and former students of the school staged demonstration and forced closure of the school activities yesterday protesting 'harassment of the innocent headmaster'.

They said a false sexual harassment charge was brought against Shamsul Islam, headmaster of the school, as some teachers hatched a conspiracy to remove him.

Police caught Shamsul Islam from the school premises on Sunday morning on charge of sexual harassment to a girl student of the school, said Kazi Haniful Islam, officer in-charge (OC) of Ishwardi police station.

"The accused headmaster sexually harassed a class seven student of the school inside the classroom at about 10:30am on Sunday when all other teachers and students were in the assembly. Hearing scream of the victim, teachers and students rushed to the classroom, rescued the girl and surrounded the headmaster," the OC quoted the school sources as saying.

Police produced the accused, the victim and witnesses to the mobile court led by Ishwardi Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Jakir Hossain on Sunday afternoon.

"The victim described the sexual harassment to the court. Three teachers of the school also gave statements as witnesses. The mobile court sentenced the accused headmaster four months' imprisonment on the basis of proper evidence," the UNO said.

The headmaster was sent to jail on Sunday night.

A good number of locals and former students brought out a demonstration yesterday morning protesting what they said conspiracy against the headmaster.

The demonstrators accused the assistant headmaster of the school for 'making the plot of sexual harassment allegation'.

Clash following the demonstrators' altercation with the assistant headmaster and some other teachers of the school left two teachers and two former students of the school injured, said sources.

The classes were suspended and teachers and students left the school due to the turmoil.

At a rally beside the school, the demonstrators announced that the school would remain closed until the headmaster is relieved from the 'false charge'.

"Hundreds of former students, villagers and the local elites have joined hands and started demonstration to save the innocent headmaster from conspiracy. Tougher agitation programme will be taken if he is not relieved from the false charge," said former student Md Nasim, also a local elite.

School managing committee Chairman Md Bashir Ahmed Bakul, also vice chairman of Ishwardi upazila parishad, said, "Locals have forced closure of the school. We are trying to solve the problem for smooth running of classes at the school."

Additional police have been deployed to avert further unwanted situation.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

This Bailey bridge at Dattapara on Gopalganj-Kotalipara-Poisarhat road collapsed under the pressure of a stone-laden truck yesterday noon. The accident left four people injured and caused suspension of vehicular movement on the road.

## Pirates abduct 47 fishermen, injure 13 in Barguna

UNB, Barguna

Pirates stormed 32 trawlers, injured 13 fishermen and kidnapped 47 others for ransom at Madhyachar in Patharghata upazila on Sunday night.

They also looted cash, fishing nets, machinery and valuables worth Tk 50 lakh from the trawlers which were anchored at Madhyachar near Kochikhali-Narikelbaria, 60 kilometers south-east of Patharghata.

The injured were admitted to Patharghata Hospital. The victims hailed from different upazilas of Pirojpur and Barguna.

Barguna district Trawler Owners' Association president Golam Mostafa and Trawler Workers Union chief Abdul Mannan said a gang of 30 armed pirates on two trawlers attacked 32 fishing trawlers at 9:00pm.

They mercilessly beat up 13 fishermen leaving them seriously injured.

The gang committed robbery for 3 hours, looting cash, radios, cellphone sets, fishing nets and other valuables worth Tk 50 lakh, they said.

The pirates abducted 47 fishermen from 32 trawlers and decamped with the captors, three trawlers and booties.

They said 20 other fishermen jumped into Bay from trawlers for fear of their lives as the pirates hit them with the butt of their guns.

However, they were rescued alive by other fishermen after the gang left the spot.

## Killing of housewife Monira sparks protest in Faridpur

Follow-up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Faridpur units of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner yesterday afternoon demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the killer of Monira Begum.

Madrasa student Monira, 20, set ablaze allegedly by her husband Sahabuddin Khan in Alfadanga upazila last month, died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on Sunday night.

Her body was brought to Faridpur Press Club at around 7:00pm yesterday where the activists of the said organisations staged a rally demanding immediate arrest of the killer.

Following an altercation over their marriage documents at Dhalaichar village on June 27, Sahabuddin doused Monira with kerosene and set her on fire.

She was rushed to a local hospital with 65 percent burns to her body and shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital on July 5.

Victim's father Kabir Molla, a day



labourer, said he turned down Sahabuddin's proposal for marrying his daughter a few months ago as Sahabuddin was a married man.

Sahabuddin built a relationship with Monira and married her on March 8 using fake documents. He sent Monira back to her parents' house after a month.

Sahabuddin called Monira to his house on June 27. The couple locked in an altercation when Monira asked him to produce their marriage documents. At one stage, he doused her with kerosene and set her afire.

## 34 BGB men relieved of sedition charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Thirty-four jawans of BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh) have been relieved of sedition charges in Kurigram.

Our correspondent quoted public prosecutor office sources as saying that sedition cases against 34 jawans of BGB 27 Battalion were withdrawn on Sunday as per decision of the home ministry.

Judge Md Shajedul Karim of Kurigram District and Sessions Judge's Court relieved the jawans of sedition charges following an appeal made by Public Prosecutor (PP) advocate Abraham Lincoln.

Following a mutiny at 27 BGB Battalion on February 26 in 2009, the then officer-in-charge (OC) of Kurigram Sadar Police Station Humayun Kabir filed the

sedition cases against 34 jawans of the battalion with the Judicial Magistrate's Court on May 9, the same year.

Immediately after filing of the cases, the accused were arrested and produced in the court that sent them to jail hajat.

In the case statement, the complainant stated that the jawans revolted against their officers at the battalion on February 26, expressing solidarity with the mutineers of BGB headquarters at Palkhana in the capital.

They looted firearms from armoury, fired blank shots and took control of the battalion, the complainant said in the statement.

Later, the BGB men faced mutiny charges and were produced in the special court-13. After hearing, the court framed charges against the rebels and sentenced them to different jail terms.

## Suspected killer of Santal woman arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested the killer-suspect in Moriam Murmu murder case from Missionpara village in Amnura of Chapainawabganj district.

The arrestee, Biswanath Marandi, brother-in-law of the deceased Santal woman, was produced before a Rajshahi court with a prayer for five-day remand, police said.

Moriam Murmu, 48, widow of late Hopna Marandi of Chaitanpur village in Tanore upazila, was tortured to death at Shimla Dighipara village of Godagari upazila in Rajshahi district, allegedly as a sequel to land dispute with her late husband's relatives.

Moriam went to bed at around 9:00pm on Saturday and neighbour Shaheb Kisku's wife Anjali Murmu saw her stripped body hanging from a tree at around 6:00am, said her family members and neighbours.

Follow-up



Moriam Murmu

Informed by locals, police on Sunday morning recovered Moriam's body from beside a pond some 100 yards behind her paternal home at Shimla Dighipara village where she had been living after her husband's death.

Injury marks were found over her throat, legs, and other parts of the body, Sub Inspector Godagari police station Nuruzzaman, who prepared the inquest report of the body, told reporters.

In the murder case filed the same day, Moriam's son Wilson Murmu mentioned Biswanath's name as a suspect behind the killing.

"Biswanath quarrelled with Moriam and threatened her to teach a lesson on the day before the murder," Zakirul Islam, officer in charge of Godagari police station, said referring to the case statement.

Earlier on Sunday, Wilson told this correspondent, "My mother had a feud with the suspected person over last 15 years as she demanded her due share of her father-in-law's landed property of 7.63 acres."

Moriam's body was buried at her father's home at Shimla Dighipara village after autopsy at Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH).

Forensic experts of RMCH declined to say anything about the autopsy findings.

A decision can be reached only after some laboratory tests, they said.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals take troublesome and risky ride on small rafts to cross Senua River as Local Government Engineering Department has chosen the rainy season for repair of the iron bridge on Thakurgaon-Farabari road.

## Newsman attacked in 2 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Criminals threw bombs at a newsman in Narail and attacked another in Rangpur yesterday injuring them seriously.

In Narail, Moshikul Haque Mitu, 48, president of Kalia Press Club and Kalia upazila correspondent of the Daily Somokal received serious injuries early yesterday as criminals threw bombs in the bedroom.

His wife was also critically injured. They were later shifted to Dhaka Pongu Hospital from Khulna Medical College and Hospital, reports our correspondent.

Locals said at around 3:00 am, criminals threw bombs through the window of their house when Moshikul and his wife Rina Parvin were in deep sleep.

The incident happened at Kolabaria village of the upazila.

Sarwar Hossain, OC of Naragati police station said that the attackers might be the hired goons of some influential people. He was targeted probably for filing report against them, he said.

Moshikul's younger brother Monirul Haque Palash however said they had longstanding land dispute with some people of the same village.

He claimed that the couple was also hit by bullets.

In Rangpur, a gang at Kashiganj village under Badarganj upazila attacked Rangpur correspondent of Ekushey Television (ETV) Liakat Ali Badal, leaving him seriously injured, reports our correspondent.

The incident took place

when Badal along with ETV staff reporter Johnson Mahub went to the village to cover a story regarding torture on two women.

As soon as the ETV team reached the village, the gang besieged them and beat up Liakat Ali Badal with bamboo sticks. They also assaulted Johnson Mahub and the cameraman and took away the camera.

Later they were confined to a house at the village.

Being informed, a team from Badarganj police station led by deputy commissioner (DC) of Rangpur BM Enamul Hoque and police superintendent Saleh Mohammad Tanvir, rushed to the spot and rescued them from the house.

A few villagers allegedly led by president of Awami

League Modhupur ward unit Enamul Haque and president of Modhupur union unit BNP Enamul Haque beat up Hafiza Begum alias Happy and Saheda Begum on June 26 after an arbitration. Union parishad chairman of Modhupur Aynal Hoque and UP member Abdul Kader were present.

They beat up the two women upon allegation that Happy's husband committed suicide on June 25 due to mental agony caused by her in their conjugal life. They accused Saheda Begum of instigating Happy to lock in altercation with her husband.

Police arrested three accused following a news on ETV and other media.

## IN MEMORIAM

SYED ISHTIAQ AHMED, Barrister-at-Law  
Our deepest respects on his 8<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary, 12 July 2011.



Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Smriti Parishad and Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed & Associates