

# 5 govt officials assaulted in Tangail in a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Four engineers of Power Development Board (PDB) and an upazila education officer were physically assaulted in the district recently, giving rise to panic and resentment among the government officials and employees of different departments.

Several men belonging to the ruling Awami League (AL) physically assaulted Tangail Sadar Upazila Education Officer Noor Alam Mridha at his office in upazila parishad on July 17 after he refused to transfer a female teacher of a primary school.

A day after, the officer filed a case with Tangail Model Police Station against Faruque Hasan Sony and Pahari Titu, executive members of Tangail city unit of AL, and five to six unnamed others in this regard.

Demanding arrest of the culprits, the primary school teachers of the district decided to wear black badges and observe two hours work abstention from Tuesday.

On July 13, some youths assaulted Assistant Engineer Zahangir Alam Jewel and Sub-assistant Engineer Gulzar Hossain of PDB when the two officials were performing their duty at Deola in the town.

The same day, Jewel filed a case with Tangail Model Police Station and a day after, police arrested Palash Talukder

Babu and his brother Shimul Talukder Kutu of Deola area in connection with the attack on the PDB engineers.

"The two arrestees have been sent to jail through a court. We are trying to arrest the accused in the case for assaulting the education officer," Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tangail Model Police Station, said on Tuesday.

Superintending Engineer Mohammad Solaiman and Executive Engineer (Sales and Distribution) Zafar Ahmed in Tangail PDB were assaulted allegedly by a few councillors of Tangail municipality at the PDB office on Mymensingh Road in Tangail town on July 10.

The PDB engineers faced the wrath of the councillors after they refused to meet several illogical demands including replacement of some electric polls for road extension work in Biswas Betka area without following the departmental procedure.

A day after the incident, Zafar Ahmed filed a case with Tangail Model Police Station while 240 PDB officials and employees in the district decided to go on leave en masse demanding punishment of the attackers on the two senior engineers.

The municipality authorities, on the other hand, alleged that the engineers assaulted a female councillor of the municipality at PDB office on that day. They also alleged bribery and

corruption against the PDB officials and announced a demonstration in front of the municipality building.

Representatives of the municipality and PDB authorities, however, sat in a meeting at the deputy commissioner's office on July 11 and reached a 'mutual understanding' about the incident.

Tangail Deputy Commissioner (DC) M Bazlul Karim Chowdhury, Superintendent of Police Hafiz Akter, district AL General Secretary Fazlur Rahman Khan Faruque, Chief Engineer of Tangail PDB Mohammad Hasanuzzaman, Superintending Engineer Mohammad Solaiman, Executive Engineer (Distribution) Faruque Ahmed and municipality Mayor Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti attended the meeting.

However, assaulted Executive Engineer Zafar Ahmed did not come to the meeting.

On Tuesday, residents of Deola area in the town brought out a procession and submitted memorandum to the deputy commissioner's and PDB offices demanding smooth power supply and steps against corrupt PDB officials and employees.

When contacted, DC M Bazlul Karim Chowdhury told this correspondent on Tuesday, "Legal steps have already been taken against the people involved in the incidents of assaulting PDB engineers and Sadar upazila education officer. Stern action will be taken if there is any further attempt to create obstacle to performing

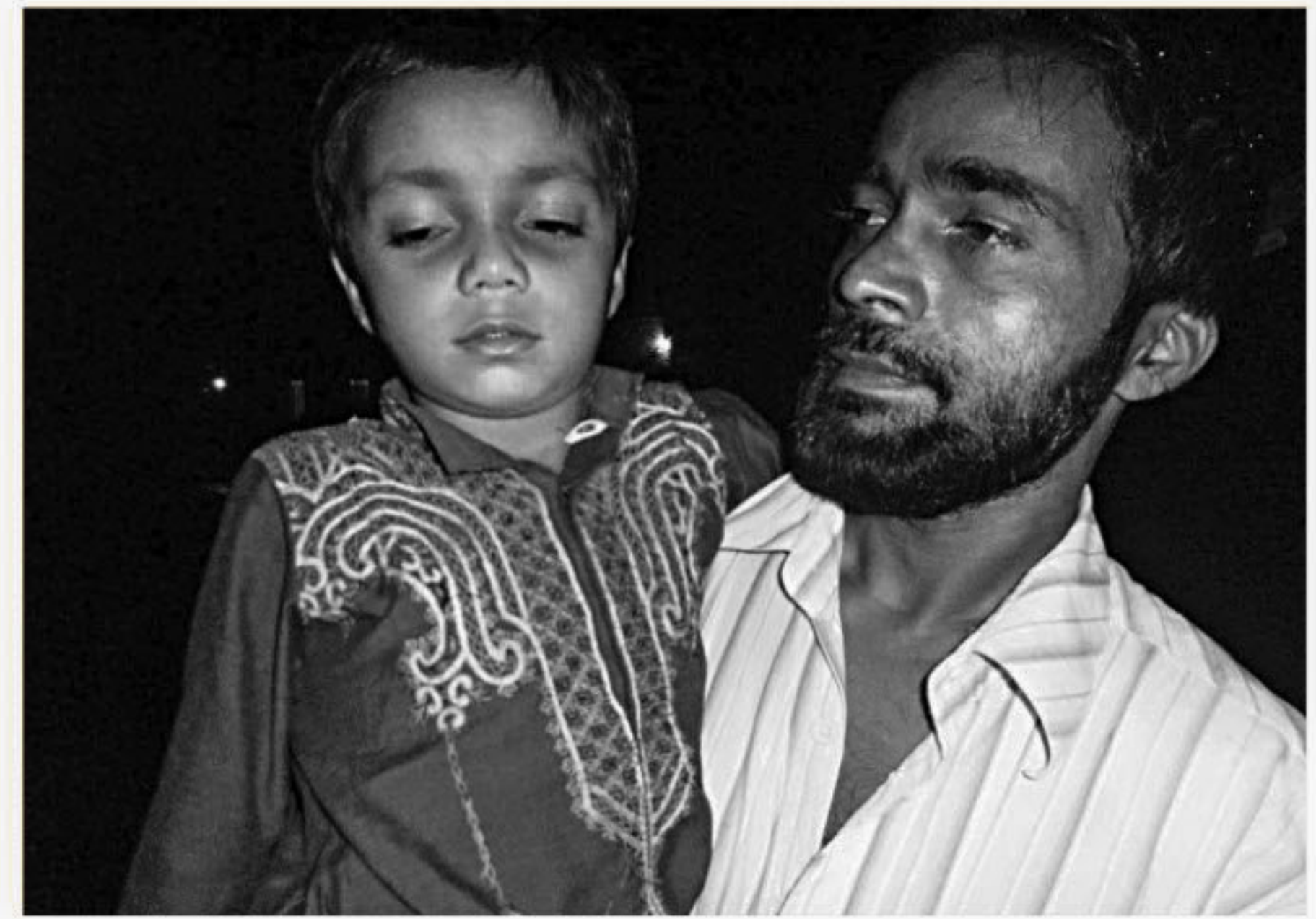


PHOTO: STAR

Six-year-old Mohammad Prince returns to his father Pannu Molla at Alipur in Faridpur town after the boy's abductor Selim Molla, also his uncle, freed him upon Pannu's assurance of refunding Tk 30 thousand loan money.

## All for Tk 30,000

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A six-year-old boy, abducted by his uncle Tuesday morning to realise Tk 30,000 he gave his elder brother (father of the victim) as loan, was released at night following an assurance of getting the money back.

Selim Molla abducted his nephew Mohammad Prince, a nursery student of a kindergarten at Alipur in the town, from their house at Madhya Alipur at around 11:00am.

Pannu Molla, father of the victim, said his son went missing from their house since 11:00am. Relatives and neighbours searched for Prince all day long, but could not trace him, he added.

As Selim phoned his elder brother Pannu Molla at around 8:00pm, asking him to pay back Tk 30,000 for release of his son, he (Pannu) immediately informed

Additional superintendent of Police Subrata Kumar Halder of the matter.

As per advice of the additional SP, Manik Mia, one of their neighbours, talked with Selim Molla over cellphone and assured him of realising the money from Pannu.

On the assurance, Selim freed Prince in front of Faridpur Medical College and Hospital at around 9:00pm and one of their relatives took the boy to his parents.

Contacted, Selim Molla told this correspondent that his brother Pannu Molla borrowed Tk 23,000 from him two years ago and did not return the money in time.

"I abducted his son to get back the amount that now stands at Tk 30,000 with interest," Selim said.

Pannu Molla filed a complaint with Sadar Police Station on Tuesday night. Sub-Inspector Subrata Golder said they are looking for Selim Molla.



PHOTO: STAR

Swelling Jamuna River continues eroding homesteads and farmlands at Dakkhin Gilabari in Belgachha union of Islampur upazila under Jamalpur district.

## Erosion hits three Jamalpur unions, 2 Rangpur villages

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Erosion by Jamuna in Jamalpur and Teesta in Rangpur has rendered a few hundred families homeless.

Several hundred families of Belgachha, Chinaduli and Noarpara unions in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur have shifted their houses due to severe erosion by Jamuna in the last one month.

During the period, people of Dakkhin Gilabari of Belgachha union bore the brunt as erosion took a severe turn in the area, reports our correspondent.

Currently the areas are also experiencing flood due to rise in river water.

While visiting the erosion hit areas on Sunday, this correspondent saw Dakkhin Gilabari people hurriedly shifting their houses to safer places as Jamuna River was eroding the village fast in a large scale.

At least 5,000 families of Dakkhin Gilabari, Shaha Para of Belgachha union, Kadamtoli Bazar of Chinaduli union and Uli Bazar of Noarpara union fell victim to Jamuna erosion in

the last one month, local sources said.

A large number of erosion victims could not shift their houses while many families are yet to get any support either from government or from non-government sources.

College student Papia Akter of Paschim Banna village near Harindhora flood protection embankment under Chinaduli union told this correspondent that almost all the homesteads on the western side of the embankment were devoured by Jamuna river.

The river may reach the embankment any time. If it collapses, the erosion might take more serious turn, she said.

Contacted, Islampur upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Anwar Hossain Akand said, he visited Dakkhin Gilabari area a few days ago.

"We will make a list of erosion victims and send it to higher authorities soon", he added.

In Rangpur, Char Joyramojha, a village of Lakhmitari union and Mirpara, a village of Kolkond under

Gangachara upazila may be devoured by the Teesta any time, reports a correspondent.

Homesteads of over 50 families of the village were devoured in the last 12 eight days while more than 100 families are counting days as the river is eroding fast.

There were at least 750 families in the two villages, said UP chairman of Lakhmitari Faisal Hasan.

Last year, during the rainy season, houses of 175 families were devoured by the river. "This year the course of the river has changed and it may hit the densely-populated area," he said.

The UP chairman expressed the fear that if erosion goes on in this way, Joyramojha village will be disappear in near future.

Executive engineer of Rangpur Water Development Board Anwar Hossain said there is no project at present to protect the chars from erosion.

"We will go for protection work only when erosion hits the main embankment," he added.

## Robbers kill woman, loot gold, cash in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Robbers killed a 65-year old woman and looted gold ornaments weighing over five tolas and Tk. 20,000 Tuesday night at Diarha village of Digholia upazila.

Victims Rashid Begum was mother of prominent jute exporter and Rotarian Sheikh Nasiruzzaman.

"At that only my mother and my 12-year-old mentally challenged daughter Tapa were at home", said Sheikh Nasiruzzaman.

He said, "I withdrew Tk. 1 lakh from bank at 11:00am Tuesday. The killers probably saw me receiving the money," he added.

Officer-in-charge Nasim Khan of Digholia police station said, Rashida was killed as she probably could not recognise the gang."

None was arrested so far although vigorous investigation is going on, the OC added.

Police recovered two blood-stained knives from the bedroom of Rashid Begum where the murder was committed.

Nasiruzzaman lodged an FIR yesterday without naming any suspect.

## BCL rivals clash at Comilla college

UNB, Comilla

Five people were injured, one with bullet, in a clash between two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Comilla Victoria Government College yesterday.

Witnesses said a faction of BCL brought out a procession at degree section of the college around 12:15pm welcoming new district unit committee of the organisation.

A clash erupted when another group, who were deprived of post in the new committee, chased them, leaving five people injured.

Five shots were also fired during the clash.

On information, police and Rab members rushed in and quelled the situation.

BCL district unit vice president Kamrul Hasan Nannu sustained bullet injuries in his left hand. He was sent to Dhaka for treatment.

## Obscene dance, gambling in the name of trade fair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Immoral activities are being carried out at an industrial and trade fair at Bir Sreshtho Noor Mohammad stadium here right under the nose of police and administration.

Obscene dance shows and gambling are held openly. Besides, the announcements over loudspeakers have become a routine nuisance for the residents of the area.

Most of the stalls at the so-called trade fair are empty while a good number of them used for immoral activities.

Kalam Mollah, owner of the gambling stalls said, "I gave Tk7 lakh to the general secretary (GS) of Narail Districts Sports Association

for allowing us to use the stalls."

"We allowed Kalam Mollah to use the stalls as he gave Tk 5 lakh for the development of our sports association. Whatever happening at his stalls can not be called gambling," the GS of the sports association told this correspondent.

Narail chamber president Hasanuzzaman Hasan said, "We did not permit anybody to hold such activities at the fair."

While visiting the fair on Monday this correspondent saw most of the stalls empty.

A good number of the stalls were carrying out gambblings like raffle draw, housee, cards, roulette while several other stalls showing obscene dances.

Abdus Salam of Nunkhir Village said, "My only son, a student of class eight, yesterday did not return from school. I was frantically looking for him. At around 11:00pm, he was found at the fair."

Locals have urged the authorities to stop these obscene and illegal activities.

Superintendent of Narail police S.M Fazlur Rahman said, "We are yet to get any written complaint. However, I shall contact the DC for appropriate steps."

Deputy commissioner Md Zohirul Haque said that Anwar Hossain, the then deputy commissioner gave the permission to hold the trade fair.

"I shall look into the matter," he said.

## Man gets life for wife murder

UNB, Khulna

A court here on Tuesday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his wife. The convict was identified as Tapan Sarker of Kamarkhola village in Dakope upazila. The court also fined him Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer one year more RI.

According to the prosecution, Tapan strangled his wife Urmila Sarker on March 19, 2001.

Later, Urmila's family members filed a murder case accusing Tapan and his elder brother's wife Sabita Sarker.

After examining the records and witnesses judge of the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court-2 Roksana Parvin pronounced the verdict acquitting Sabita.

In Faridpur, seven people were sentenced to life term imprisonment in a mur-

der case.

The convicts are Swapan Sardar, 22, Akkas Sardar, 25, Saidul, 21, Mostafa, 20, Monir, 22, Imran, 20, and Borhan, 18, of Wazed Kandi village in Sadarpur upazila.

The court also fined them Tk 30,000 each, in default, to suffer two years more RI.

According to the prosecution, the aforesaid people called co-villager Tara Miah out of his house on the night of December 30, 2008 and stabbed him to death at a nearby field due to previous enmity.

Later, the victim's brother filed a murder case with Sadarpur police station accusing the seven on 1st January, 2009.

After examining the records and witnesses Additional District and Sessions Judge Berekuzzman handed down the verdict in the crowded courtroom.

## SUPARNA SUICIDE CASE

# Nayon's bail prayer turned down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Arrested college student Nazrul Islam Nayon, who instigated his classmate Suparna Bachhar to commit suicide after circulating her obscene video clips via mobile phone, was sent to jail yesterday.

Police produced Nayon in the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in the afternoon, seeking a five-day remand. Magistrate Abul Bashar Mia sent the accused to jail, saying that hearing on the remand petition will be held next week. He also rejected

Nayon's bail prayer.

After post-mortem examination at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital, the body of Suparna Bachhar, an honours third year student of Mathematics department at Govt Brojo Mohan College, was handed over to her parents last night.

During preliminary interrogation at Barisal Kotwali Police Station on Tuesday night, Nayon claimed that he had a friendly relationship with Suparna since admission to the college and confessed to recording obscene video with her consent.

He however, denied the allegation of blackmailing her by circulating the video clips. Police arrested Nayon in front of the gate of Govt Barisal College and recovered his mobile phone, but they failed to collect the memory card used in recording the video clips.

Suparna was married to Kamanashish Mandal, 26, a master's final year student of physics department at the same college.

Hailing from Ashashuni upazila in Satkhira, the couple got married in 2004 and came here to continue higher studies.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Locals bring out a large procession in Boalmari municipality under Faridpur district yesterday demanding smooth power supply in the area and electricity connection to some other places including Amgram and Sotasi.