

Trees fall victim to vengeance

Failing to remain school committee chief, he hires goons to fell his rival's 38 mature mango trees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Thirty-eight mature mango trees owned by a teacher of Madhya Magura Kathalpara High School in Nawabganj upazila under the district have been felled down allegedly to avenge failure to remain as chairman of the school managing committee.

"Nayeb Ali and his hired goons felled down 38 mango trees on my orchard at Madhya Magura village of Nawabganj upazila on January 21 Saturday night," Md Abdur Rahman, an assistant teacher of the school, said in his complaint filed with Nawabganj police station yesterday.

"While returning home from a fair at Gopalpur in the same upazila, some villagers including Md Abdul Mannan, 45, and Abdur Rahim, 42, recognised the tree fellers and started screaming. Then the criminals fled away," he mentioned.

Abdur Rahman planted the 38 mango trees about six years ago on his six acres of land at Madhya Magura village and the trees started yielding fruit about three years ago, said the teacher.

Nine people including Nayeb Ali were made accused in the complaint, said Forhad Imrul Kayes, officer in charge of Nawabganj police station.

Nayeb Ali, who served as chairman of the managing committee of Madhya Magura Kathalpara High School in the previous term, got aggrieved after he lost the post last year, locals said.

Then he started conspiracy against the school teachers and managing committee members, they said.

"After losing the post of school managing committee chairman last year, Nayeb Ali threatened several school teachers of dire consequences. Thereafter, he filed cases against a few

teachers to harass them. Now he did the heinous act of tree cutting out of vengeance," said Md Iqbal Hossain, headmaster of Madhya Magura Kathalpara High School.

Nayeb, also former president of local Mamudpur union parishad unit of Awami League (AL), recently stepped down due to pressure from local AL leaders.

Several villagers said Nayeb often files cases against local innocent people to harass them, aiming to grab their lands.

Nayeb occupied at least four acres of land of forest department and a case in this regard is pending with the court, said Nishikanta Sarker, beat officer of Charkai Range in Nawabganj upazila.

Nayeb Ali could not be contacted as he was not available in the area and his cell phones were found off as this correspondent repeatedly tried to call him.



PHOTO: STAR

SAVAGERY UNFORGIVABLE! Thirty-eight mature mango trees at the orchard of schoolteacher Abdur Rahman at Magura village in Nawabganj upazila under Dinajpur district got axed on Saturday last as a former chairman of the school managing committee allegedly did the barbaric act to avenge his failure to continue holding the post.

Accused flees custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

An accused of a case fled from Sharankhola police custody early Wednesday.

He was identified as Nazmul Haq Akon, 27, son of Khaleq Akon of Dhansagar village under the same upazila.

Mohiuddin Khan, an UP member of the same Dhansagar union said that locals caught Nazmul and handed him over to police while he was beating his wife Faizun Akter on the road on Tuesday.

Later in the evening, Faizun filed a case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act against four people including her husband and father-in-law alleging torture for dowry.

On Wednesday morning, Nazmul fled from the custody of constable Abdul Quayum.

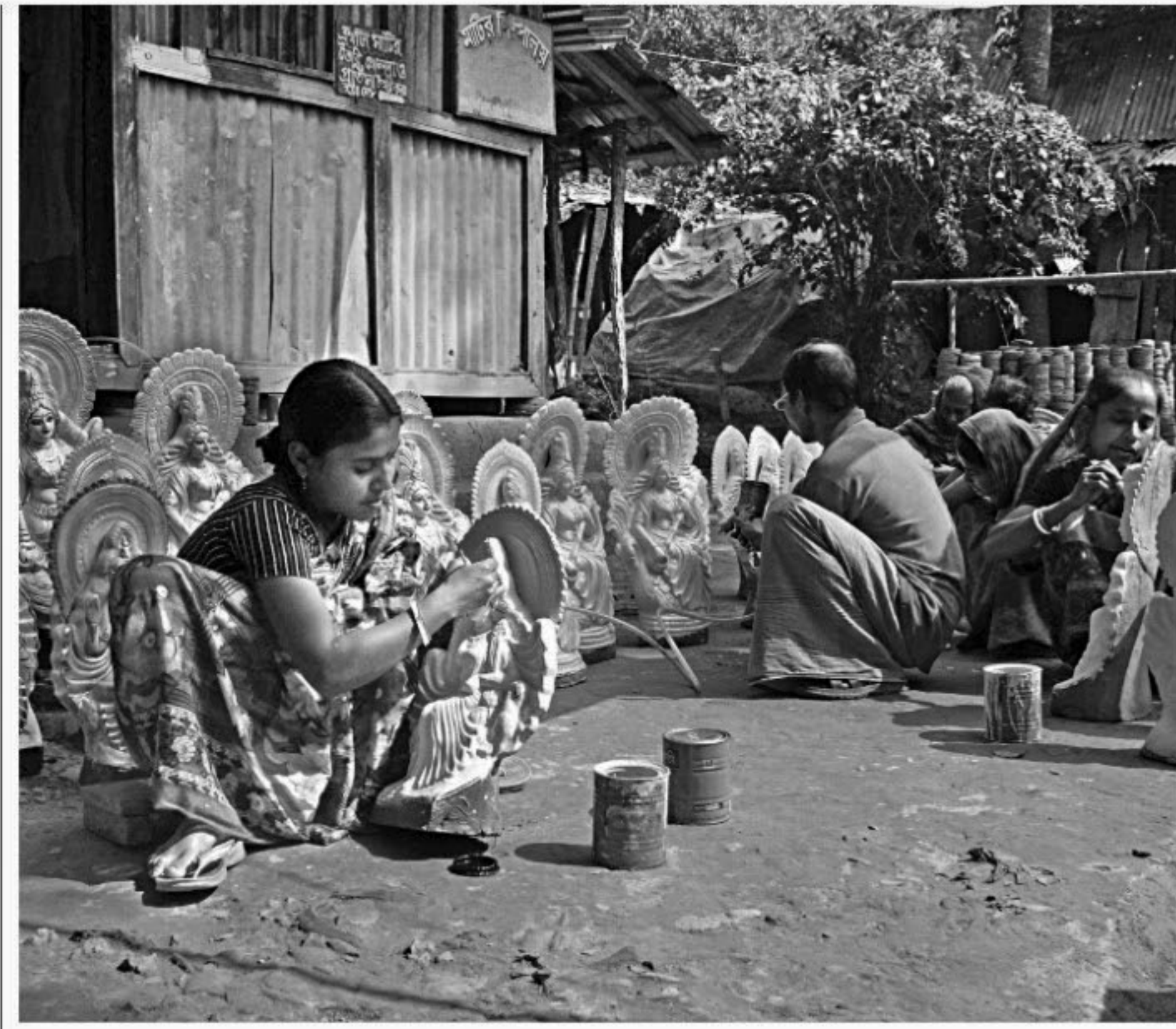


PHOTO: STAR

Artiste Anil Chandra Pal and his family members at Kagojir Pool in Bauful upazila under Patuakhali district give finishing touches to the images of Swaraswati, the Hindu deity of wisdom, yesterday as the community prepares for the Puja tomorrow.

Aggrieved BNP men in Pabna attack houses of 2 top leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Aggrieved Pabna BNP men attacked the houses of two leaders of the newly formed district unit in the town yesterday.

They went to Shibrampur in a procession at around 11:00am and attacked the houses of district unit General Secretary Habibur Rahman Tota, and Organising Secretary Mahamudunnabi Swapon in the area.

The rival groups chanted slogans, rejecting the newly formed committee and demanding resignation of Tota and Swapon.

They damaged doors and windowpanes of houses of the two district unit leaders, prompting their supporters to retaliate.

During chase and counter chase, three to four bullets were fired, leaving a pedestrian injured. The bullet-hit, Dilruba Begum,

20, wife of Bahar Uddin of Dakhin Raghobpur village in Sadar upazila, was admitted to Pabna Medical College and Hospital.

Being informed, police rushed to the area, dispersed the clashing BNP groups and brought the situation under control.

Swapon alleged that Pabna Municipality Mayor Kamrul Hassan Mintu and his supporters attacked his residence in the morning. "They opened fire, vandalised my house, a microbus and two motorbikes during the attack," he claimed.

The rival group claimed that Swapon opened fire on them when they were chanting slogans demanding his resignation.

Md Badruddoza, acting officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station, said police have been deployed in the area to avert any further clash between the rival BNP men.

Nipah claims one more life in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Nipah virus claimed one more life in Joypurhat yesterday, raising the death toll to five in the district.

The dead was identified as Md Ferdous Alam, 38, son of Yunus Ali of Gulshanmore area in Joypurhat municipality. Dr Mozammel Haque, civil surgeon of Joypurhat, confirmed the death.

Four children infected

with the deadly virus died in Joypurhat Sadar and Khetlal upazilas in three days from January 20 to 23.

Doctors at Joypurhat Modern Hospital quoted Ferdous' family members as saying that he fell sick after taking date juice.

Besides, six more children with high fever and headache were admitted to Joypurhat Modern Hospital in 24 hours until 2:00pm yesterday.

SNIPPETS

Rapist jailed for life

UNB, Laxmipur

A court here on Wednesday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for violating a seven-year-old girl. The court also fined Shahjahan of Char Ababil union in Raipur upazila Tk 1.5 lakh, in default, to suffer three years more in jail. According to the prosecution, Shahjahan allured the girl of the neighbouring house and violated her on October 15, 2010. Victim's grandfather Shamsul Haque later filed a case with Raipur PS under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Crocs released in canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

EU ambassador to Bangladesh William Hanna on Wednesday afternoon released a pair of saltwater crocodiles, also known as estuarine or Indo-Pacific crocodile, at a canal near Harbaria camp of Sundarbans. With this, 68 saltwater crocodiles have been set free in different canals of Sundarbans, from Karamjal breeding centre in four phases. Divisional Forest Officer Mihir Kumar Do of Sundarbans East Zone said under 'Sundarbans Environment and Livelihoods Security (Seals)' project, financed by European Union, the EU ambassador released the two five-year old crocodiles. Sundarbans Khulna zone forest conservator and Seals project director M Akbar Hossain, divisional forest officer of Sundarbans west wing Zahir Uddin Ahmed, acting director of Karamjal breeding centre Abdur Rab and a delegation of EU were present at the event.

'Criminal' killed by rivals

UNB, Chuadanga

An alleged criminal was found dead in a marshland at Narayankandi village along Chuadanga-Jhenidah border area yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Helal alias Sohag, 30, son of Billal Ali of Khaskorra village in Alamdanga upazila. Police said the deceased was chief of notorious "Sohag Bahini". The gang has long been involved in abduction, bombing, killing and other heinous crimes, creating panic among the locals. Police suspected that his rivals killed Sohag elsewhere late at night and later dumped the body in the water body.

Courier service staff killed

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

An employee of Sundarban Courier Service was shot dead by armed muggers in the town yesterday. The deceased was identified as Faruq Hossain, 35, of Krishnanagar village in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore district. Sundarban Courier Service manager Abir Hossain said when Faruq was entering their office along with money some muggers opened fire on him in a bid to snatch the bag containing the money. Faruq died on way to hospital. Another employee of the courier service, Dulal, saved the bag when the muggers fled away.

Youth beaten to death by UP member in Noakhali

UP chairman held for 'rape attempt' in Sherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A youth was beaten to death allegedly by a union parishad (UP) member at Char Amanulla under Subarnachar upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nur Islam, 30, son of Late Abdur Berek of Char Sullukia village under Sadar upazila.

Abul Kalam Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Char Jabbar police station, quoting the victim's younger brother Nurezzaman, said Nur Islam went out of house after Belal Hossain Sumon, member of Char Amanulla union parishad called him through night watchman Alauddin Babul on Wednesday morning.

Babul took Nur Islam to union parishad office. There Belal Hossain Sumon started beating Nur Islam on charge of having an affair with a daughter of Md Ibrahim Khalil of Purba Charbata village under Subarnachar upazila.

At one stage, Nur Islam fainted and Babul admitted him at Char Jabbar upazila health complex early yesterday. Nur Islam died there around 9:00 in the morning.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Noakhali Medical College and Hospital for postmortem examination. A case was filed in this connection.

In Sherpur, police arrested a UP chairman in an attempted rape case in Malakocha village under Shreebordi upazila on Tuesday night.

The arrestee was identified as Abu Shama Kabir, 52, a union parishad chairman of Ranishimul union and also an assistant teacher of Ranishimul Girls High School, reports a correspondent.

Judge Mohammad Shariful Haq of Sherpur judge court sent him to jail after police placed him before the court in the afternoon.

Police and local sources said on Tuesday night, chairman Kabir went to the house of a poor carpenter at Malakocha village. As the owner of the house was not present, Kabir entered his house and tried to rape his 14-year-old girl.

Hearing her screams, locals along with other members of the house rushed to the spot, caught Kabir red-handed and rescued the girl.

Locals later handed him over to police.

Bus services from Natore resume

UNB, Natore

Bus services between Natore and northern districts resumed yesterday afternoon after 32 hours of suspension owing to disputes among the regional transport owners associations.

Natore district bus-minibus owners' association joint convener, Shafiqul Islam Shimul, said the services resumed at around 2:00pm following a negotiation between Rangpur-Bogra bus owners' associations and Natore bus owners' association.

Plying of buses on the routes came to a halt on Wednesday morning after Natore district transport owners' association suspended operations on the routes as Bogra and Rangpur transport owners seized two buses of Natore on Tuesday.

Save hapless Chanmuni from ignorant villagers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

An ethnic woman became victim of merciless torture at Madhabpur village under Pirganj upazila in the district for two days from Sunday night as a local foreteller 'identified' her as a witch.

The victim is Chanmuni Tudu, 30, wife of Laxmi Murmu, 42, of Madhabpur village.

Lalmoni Tudu, 22, wife of Chunu Murmu of the village, was admitted to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital with different health problems around one month ago, said Sikra Murmu and Sunil Murmu, leaders of the ethnic community of the village.

But the poor family brought her back after two days and arranged treatment by a local herbal practitioner. As she did not improve after several days, the family members went to a foreteller who identified Chanmuni as a witch and held her responsible for prolonged illness of Lalmoni and a few other villagers.

On Sunday night Chanmuni Tudu was sleeping with her husband Laxmi Murmu when she put a hand on his chest. He got scared and started crying, saying that his

wife caught him to snatch his live. Consequently, the ethnic people of the village gathered at the house and started beating Chanmuni, said the victim and her parents.

The villagers said Chanmuni, as she was witch, had been sucking blood from the villagers, resulting in their illness.

When Chanmuni's father Baburam Tudu, mother Champa Hasda and their four relatives went to Madhabpur village on Monday night the villagers beat them up and confined them there.

Hearing about the incident, reporters of different print and electronic media and lawyers went to the village on Tuesday night, organised a meeting there and explained to the villagers that their idea about the so-called 'witch' was wrong.

Chanmuni's parents brought her to their Nababganj village house in Dinajpur on Wednesday morning.

On Wednesday afternoon Lalmoni Tudu was admitted to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where Dr Khairul Kabir, senior consultant of chest disease, identified her problem as complications in the lungs.



PHOTO: STAR

COURT ORDER SAVES HISTORIC POND: The High Court has ordered the authorities concerned to stop their move to construct a 10-storey court building by filling up this 150-year-old pond on the premises of Saint Peter's Church in Barisal city.

Construction of court building by filling up historic pond stayed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The High Court (HC) has stayed construction of a 10-storey court building by filling up a 150-year-old pond in Barisal city.

After hearing on a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), a division bench comprising Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim passed the order on January 19.

The court also issued a rule, asking eight respondents to explain in the next three weeks why construction of the building by filling up the pond should not be declared illegal.

The respondents are

secretary of the local government rural development ministry, Barisal city mayor, divisional and deputy commissioners, director of the Environment Directorate, sadar upazila nirbahi officer, executive engineer of Public Works Department and officer-in-charge of Barisal Kotwali Police Station.

In December 2011, Public Works Department (PWD) completed all formalities, including approvals of the city corporation and the Department of Environment, to start construction of the 10-storey building by filling up the pond on 52 decimal land of Saint Peter's Church adjacent to the district judge court complex.