# Humiliated by forced marriage, schoolgirl takes her life

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Humiliated by forced marriage, a schoolgirl took her life by hanging from the ceiling of her house at Kalmegha village in Pathorghata upazila of Barguna district on Monday.

The victim, Nishat Jahan Sharmin, 13, was a class VI student of Kalmegha Muslim High School, and daughter of Abdul Jalil, a rickshaw puller.

Sharmin's mother Khadiza Begum said her daughter became sick under the influence of jiner achhor (effect of evil sprit) and a local ojha (witchdoctor) suggested marrying her off for recovery.

Then the poor parents arranged Sharmin's marriage with Ismail, 31, an illiterate tea stall owner, of the same village.

Sharmin protested the early marriage with a much older illiterate person, said her elder brother Shahin Alam.

Local marriage registrar Kazi Nazmul Hasan said, "Called by local union parishad member Sohrab Hossain on August 23 night, I went to the mosque to register the marriage but returned without registering it

as Sharmin's family members failed to produce her birth certificate."

However, the marriage was solemnised, without consent from Sharmin, at late night by Maulana Abdus Sattar, imam of Kunjerhat Jame Masjid, in presence of the guardians, relatives, and local UP member at the mosque, said Zahirul Islam, a villager.

Ismail stayed with Sharmin at her house till Monday morning and Sharmin went to her school that day, family sources said.

"Sharmin was good at study. Frustrated about her early marriage, she felt humiliated as her classmates teased her about the matter. And she committed suicide after returning from school in absence of her family members at the house," said Abul Kalam Azad, a teacher of the school.

Despite repeated attempts over mobile phone, Maulana Abdus Sattar and UP member Sohrab Hossain could not be contacted for their version.

Pathorghata Upazila Nirbahi Officer Badal Chandra Haldar said he will investigate the matter.

## Stalker behind bars, but intimidation goes on

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Losing two fingers and an ear at the hands of a stalker, class ten student Momina Khatun now faces threat by the perpetrator's family to withdraw the case filed for the brutality.

With around 25 stab injuries caused during the barbaric attack on May 16, Momina, a student of Narangali High School, had to receive long treatment at Jessore General Hospital but the doctors concerned are yet to issue a medical certificate for her.

Consequently, Sub Inspector Faruq, investigation officer (IO) of the case, is yet to submit chargesheet to the court.

"I applied five times to the authorities of Jessore General Hospital for Momina's medical certificate but to no effect," said the IO.

Drug addict Ibrahim, son of Abu Taher of Deyara village under Jessore Sadar upazila, used to stalk Momina, daughter of Shahabuddin of the same village, for a long time. Getting no response, Ibrahim got angry, locals said.

When the girl was returning home from school on May 16, Ibrahim stabbed her indiscriminately which, severed her two fingers of left hand and an ear. Recently she was released from hospital but her treat-

ment is still going on. The victim's father filed a case accusing Ibrahim and his father Abu Taher on the day of the incident. Ibrahim, arrested the same day, is still behind the bars.

"But Abu Taher, who got bail from the court, his son Sagor, and brother-in-law Mithu are giving threat to us to withdraw the case. Doctors of Jessore General Hospital have not given us the medical certificate, which is creating unwanted delay in the trial," said Momina's elder brother Kamrul Islam.

"I can't go to school alone as Ibrahim's family members are harassing me. My SSC examinations are a few months away but I can't attend to my study. We have sought help from the Additional Superintendent of Police Zakir Hossain, who advised us to file a general diary in this regard," Momina said.

Zakir Hossain said he will take action in this regard after a GD is filed.

Asked about the cause of not issuing Momina's medical certificate, Superintendent of Jessore General Hospital Dr Salahuddin said, "The matter is beyond my knowledge. I will order issuing the certificate after examining the documents."



People of Sreenagar upazila of Munshiganj blocked Dhaka-Dohar road at Balasur point for over two hours from 10:00 am yesterday, protesting erratic power supply to 10-12 villages in two unions of the upazila.

### Triple Murder in Kushtia

## UP member, 3 others held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police yesterday arrested four men in Ambaria area of Khoksa upazila in connection with the killing of three people, including a union parishad (UP) chairman.

The arrestees are Liakat Pramanik, Abdus Sattar and Feroz Ahmed of Ambaria and Bodiar Rahman of Joyontihazra village. Of them, Bodiar is incumbent

member of Joyontihazra UP under the upazila.

On Tuesday afternoon, criminals shot dead Nurul Islam, 48, chairman of Ambaria union parishad, and his two associates Ansar Ali, 43, and Bhutto, 25, of Domdom in the district.

The shooting took place on a motorboat in the Padma River when the victims were on their way back from Pabna at around 2:35pm.

The gunmen then severed the chairman's head and threw his body along with others' into the river while keeping the head to themselves.

However, the law enforcers could not recover the bodies of Nurul and Ansar Ali as of yesterday.

Additional deputy inspector general of Khulna Rafiqul Islam said rivals might have killed the trio over taking control of the area.

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### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Chief Engineer

Health Engineering Department (HED) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 Memo No. HED/HPNSDP/UHC/Tender-801/2012/182 Date: 26.08.2012

## **Amendment Notice**

- Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers for Construction of 50 Bed Upazila Health Complex at Dhonbari Upazila in Tangail District circulated Memo No. HED/HPNSDP/UHC/Tender-801/2012/178, Dated: 22.07.12 is amended due to unavoidable circumstances as follows:
  - a. IFT SI. No. 17: Tender last selling date is extended up to 05.09.2012 instead of 29.08.2012.
  - b. IFT SI. No. 18: Tender closing date is extended up to 06.09.2012 instead of 30.08.2012.
  - c. IFT SI. No. 19: Tender opening date is extended up to 06.09.2012 instead of 30.08.2012.
- All other terms and conditions as laid down in the original Invitation for Tender (IFT) will unchanged.
- This Amendment Notice will also form a part of the tender documents and will be binding upon the tenders. **Brigadier General**

Md Abdur Razzaque, psc Chief Engineer

GD-3326 Health Engineering Department (HED)



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