A moment's mistake and consequent miseries

Conjugal life of an elderly couple at stake as local leaders are out for *hilla*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

Conjugal life of an elderly couple at Laxmanpur Mondolpara village of Bangalipur union of Saidpur upazila under the district is hanging in the balance as local community leaders are pressurising them to perform *hilla* (purification) marriage.

Asgar Ali, 75, of Laxmanpur Mondolpara village of Bangalipur union of Saidpur upazila uttered the word *talak* (divorce) twice during a quarrel with his wife Mamota Bagum, 62, over a family matter on September 25.

Hearing the matter, a few community leaders of the area informed Mufti Md Abul Hossain, a teacher of neighbouring Al-Jamiatul Islamia Mozaharul Ulum Moinul Islam Daorae Hadith Madrasa at Bhimpur Shailbari village of Taraganj upazila in Rangpur district, for his opinion regarding the matter.

As Mufti Abul Hossain opined that the couple had been divorced and they must live separately, local community leaders including Ayub Ali, Momtaj Hossain, Sohrab and Rafiqul forced Asgar to leave the village.

The madrasa teacher said Mamota would have to undergo a *hilla* marriage with another person and only after getting divorce from him, she can again get married to Asgar if they want to continue their conjugal life.

For over two weeks, Asgar stayed at his daughter's house in Parbotipur upazila of Dinajpur district.

On Sunday, the chairman of Bangalipur union parishad arranged bringing Asgar Ali back to the village, saying that he would settle the matter amicably.

"I told the local community leaders that such so-called verbal divorce has no legal basis," the chairman said.

Contacted, Asgar Ali said in a chocked voice, "I did not actually divorce my wife. But influential people are out to make our 50 years' conjugal life hell."

Mamota Begum also expressed her anguish at the suggestion of *hilla* marriage.

Mufti Md Abul Hasan claimed that he gave opinion according to Islami Shariat.

On the other hand, Moksedul Haque, a local moulana, said the couple can legally and religiously continue living together as utterance of *talak* merely out of anger does not make divorce effective.

Advocate Abdul Wahab, a lawyer of district judge's court, said, "Marriage registration and divorce law clearly says that divorce cannot be done verbally. Written notice has to be given and legal procedure performed if a couple want to get divorced."

Contacted on Sunday, Saidpur UNO Shafikul Islam said he heard the matter from this correspondent for the first time.

"I shall enquire into the matter to solve the problem as per law," he added.

Remove BAU proctor, demand students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Progatishil Chhatra Jote, a combine of left-leaning student bodies, brought out a procession in the town yesterday afternoon demanding removal of the proctor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and withdrawal of the expulsion orders against nine students of the university.

The jote leaders blamed the proctor for allegedly assaulting female activists of the jote when they were staging a demonstration on the campus protesting admission fee hike on October 9.

At least 20 students belonging to Samajtantrik Chhatra front (SCF) and other left-leaning student bodies were also injured as BCL activists swooped on the demonstrators in front of BAU administrative building on the day.

The university (BAU) authorities on Tuesday temporarily expelled nine students belonging to Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) for, what the administration dubbed, misbehaving with teachers on October 9.

However, the authorities did not take any such action against Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists who allegedly attacked and injured at least 20 students belonging to SCF and other left-leaning student bodies when they were staging a demonstration protesting admission fee hike.

BAU Proctor MA Salam said primarily they were found guilty of misbehaving with the teachers during a programme of an organisation in front of the administrative building on October 9.

Salam said he along with some other teachers rushed to the spot but the agitating students assaulted assistant proctor Nasreen Sultuna.

The students also misbehaved with some other teachers on the spot and at one stage, they snatched away my camera and damaged it, he said.

Denying the allegation of assaulting female activists of Progatishil Chhatra Jote, the proctor said he was trying to recover his cellphone that was snatched by a female student during the incident.

Journalist dies allegedly for a doc's callousness

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kurigram*

Journalists formed a human chain on the premises of Kurigram Press Club yesterday, demanding punishment of a doctor for his callous act that allegedly led to the death of MA Based, editor of Dwip Desh, a Bangla fortnightly published from Roumari upazila.

At the programme, jointly organised by Kurigram Press Club, local Television Journalists' Forum and Print Media Forum, the newsmen held callousness of Chilmari Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Motasim Billah Azad responsible for the death on Saturday night.

Journalist Based fell ill at his office on Saturday evening and he was taken to Roumari upazila health complex, said his family members and local journalists.

After primary treatment there, the doctor referred him to Kurigram Sadar Hospital the same evening.

While crossing the Brahmaputra River by a boat on the way to Kurigram Sadar Hospital, Based felt very bad and accompanying relatives took him to nearby Chilmari upazila health complex at around 9:00pm.

Mamun, a doctor at the health complex, suggested taking Based to Kurigram Sadar Hospital or Rangpur Medical College Hospital by an ambulance with oxygen support and accordingly, Based was taken onto the ambulance of the health complex.

MA Based

Hearing the matter, Chilmari Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Motasim Billah objected to the bid to send the ambulance outside the upazila. Based was again taken to the health complex and Dr Motasim ignored Based's wife Shahanaj Parvin's entreaty for allowing the ambulance for carrying the patient.

Informed by Chilmari journalists, Kurigram Civil Surgeon (CS) Dr Lokman Hakim ordered Dr Mostasim to give the ambulance for carrying the patient but to no effect. And Based died at Chilmari upazila health complex at around 10:30pm.

Contacted, Dr Motasim said, "There was disturbance in the ambulance and hence local health department had decided not to allow its service outside Chilmari."

CS Dr Lokman Hakim, on the other hand, said, "The ambulance has been given for serving patients. There is no scope to bar its use for the purpose."

"A three-member inquiry team, led by Bhurungamari upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Saifur Rahman, has been asked to submit report on the matter within three days. We will take step following the report," he said.

Ahsan Habib Nilu, secretary of Kurigram Press Club, said, "We have learned that the ambulance of Chilmari health complex was in good condition. We demand removal or transfer of Dr Motasim for the sake of an acceptable investigation. We have told the civil surgeon to remove him within 48 hours. Otherwise, we shall call a tougher programme in this regard."

PHOTO: STAR

Work goes on in full swing as authorities have taken initiative to set up three new terminals at Mawa in Munshiganj district after serious erosion by the Padma River forced closure of two ferry terminals and threatened the remaining one at the important ferry station during the last couple of days.

Fresh cracks at Mawa terminal 3

Body recovered from river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Munshiganj*

Body of a man who went missing along with five others on October 14 when the Padma washed away Mawa ferry terminal No. 1, was recovered yesterday morning.

Local people found the body of Jalu Shikder, 50, floating in the river at Hasail in Tongibari upazila of the district and informed police.

Six people, including Jalu, went missing in the river when a big chunk of earth collapsed in the terminal area due to the erosion. Five of them are still untraced.

Meanwhile, the authorities may have to stop ferry services on Mawa-Kawrakandi route anytime again as new cracks developed at terminal No. 3, said SM Ashiquzzaman, assistant general manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

After a seven-hour halt from 9:00am on Tuesday, the ferry services on the route resumed partially following completion of repair work of the terminal. Earlier the operation stopped as a 120-foot deep hole developed along terminal No. 3.

The authorities stopped services through the other two terminals due to severe erosion and only the terminal No. 3 remained operational.

The authorities said, work on three new terminals near Rishibari in Mawa, at Mawa intersection and on Bhagyakul road of Kabutarkhana was going on in full swing.

PABNA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Patients suffer as nurses continue work abstention

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Student nurses have been abstaining from their duties at Pabna Medical College Hospital since Saturday to press the authorities of Pabna Nursing Institute to give pass marks to six fellow students, who failed in the recently held.

The results of third year final examinations were published on October 7 and 43 examinees out of 49 came out successful. Student nurses then put pressure on the authorities of the institute to declare the six students, who failed in the examinations, passed.

As the authorities refused to meet the illogical demand of the student nurses, they stopped working at the medical college hospital from October 12.

As many as 147 student nurses along with 62 staff nurses provide healthcare services for the patients at 250-bed hospital in three shifts. But work abstention by the student nurses is seriously hampering the hospital's health services.

Only 10 to 15 staff nurses are working in each shift at 11 general wards, five operation theatres, 16 paying beds and eight cabins, causing immense sufferings to the patients.

Dr Monwarul Aziz, assistant director (AD) of Pabna Medical College Hospital, said each student needs to score minimum 25 marks to pass the examination, but all the six have got below 10.

"We advised them to get prepared for the next examinations, but they instigated other students to go for agitation, ignoring our advice," the AD added.

The medical college authorities yesterday issued notices to the agitating student nurses, asking them to join their duties by October 22. Otherwise, the authorities said stern action will be taken against the agitators.

PHOTO: STAR

Treatment at Panba Medical College Hospital is badly hampered as student nurses went on an indefinite work abstention on October 12 demanding that the authority give pass marks to six of their fellow students who failed in the third year final examinations.

UZ chairman assaults UNO in Feni

UNB, *Feni*

Sonagazi Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohammad Mahbub Alam was assaulted allegedly by the upazila chairman on Tuesday.

Upazila social services officer Nazim Uddin was also manhandled during the incident at upazila parishad auditorium in the afternoon.

Deputy Commissioner Humayan Kabir said, the UNO filed a case with Sonagazi Model PS in this connection.

In the case, upazila chairman ZM Kamrul Anam was accused of obstructing to the official activities and assaulting the two officials.

Nazim Uddin said the UNO was invited as a chief guest at a loan giving programme at the upazila parishad.

The upazila chairman was angered as he was not invited to the programme.

At one stage, the chairman assaulted the UNO and Nazim, which foiled the programme.

Contacted, the upazila chairman refuted the allegation.

Contractors demand fresh tender for Teesta toll

Police, AL leader sue 270 BNP men in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

Follow-up

A section of contractors have demanded cancellation of the tender for toll collection at Teesta Bridge in Lalmonirhat, as many of them could not drop tender documents at the office of the superintendent of police (SP) due to a clash between Awami League and BNP men on Tuesday.

"I and many others could not drop tender document for Teesta Bridge toll collection due to the clash," said Sayeedul Islam, a contractor in Lalmonirhat town.

"I purchased a tender paper but failed to drop it as Awami League men obstructed. Only 11 documents were dropped whereas contractors earlier purchased 125 tender papers. The contractors backed by the ruling party men dropped those 11 documents through an internal understanding," said Limon Islam, president of the Lalmonirhat district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatar Dal, also a contractor.

Sources of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Lalmonirhat admitted receiving only 11 documents against 125 tender papers that had been sold to contractors willing to take part in the bid for toll collection at Teesta Bridge.

Contacted, Executive Engineer of Lalmonirhat RHD Suruz Miah said, "We are processing finalisation of the tender as the office is not responsible for the clash. If any contractor places written allegation, I will investigate the matter and send to the higher authorities concerned for instruction."

Meanwhile, 270 leaders and activists of main opposition BNP and its front organisations were made accused in two cases, one filed by police and the other by an AL leader, with Lalmonirhat Sadar police station on Tuesday night, following the clash over tender dropping at the SP office.

"BNP men attacked policemen when they tried to control the situation during a clash between AL and BNP men over tender document dropping. BNP men also damaged the signboard of the SP office. Three policemen were hurt in the attack by BNP men," Jamir Uddin, OC of Sadar police station, said in his case filed against 20 identified and at least 150 unidentified BNP men.

Rafiqul Islam Ripon, former president of district BCL, filed another case against 20 identified and 80 unidentified BNP men.

"BNP men attacked Awami League men in the name of tender dropping near Lalmonirhat SP office on Tuesday noon. I and five other Awami League men were hurt in the attack," he said.

On the other hand, Hafizur Rahman Babla, general secretary of Lalmonirhat district BNP, said, "Some BNP men went to the SP office for dropping tender documents but they failed due to obstruction by organised AL men. AL men also attacked BNP men and hurt several leaders and activists including district JCD president Limon Islam in presence of police. AL men also set fire to district Sramik Dal office on Station Road in the town."

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॥ তারিখ : ২৯ ও ৩০ ডিসেম্বর ২০১২ ॥ স্থান : কলেজ প্রাঙ্গণ ॥

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