

Anjuara suffers in jail for 'mistaken' identity

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Anjuara Begum of Nisindhara Paikpara in the district town has been languishing in the prison for the last three months as police detained her allegedly because of mistaken identity.

On August 3 this year, Anjuara was arrested near her residence while she was returning from Shaheed Zaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital.

Mother of two children, Anjuara, 45, is the wife of late Dudu Sheikh of Nisindhara Paikpara. She married Abdul Aziz of the same area after the death of her first husband.

A team of police, led by Sub-Inspector Imran Kabir of Bogra Sadar PS, arrested Anjuara and showed her as Laily Begum before being sent to jail.

Laily was wife of another Dudu Mia alias Budu Mia alias Azad of Charmatha Nisodhara of the town and accused in four cases filed with three police stations in the region.

Police filed four cases against Laily under Narcotic Act -- one in 2003 with Bogra Sadar police station, another in 2005 with Natore Sadar police station, and in 2008 two other cases with Panchbibi police station in Joypurhat district.

Warrants were issued against Laily and the address of the warrants was either Sultangonjpara or Nisindhara.

Contacted, local ward councillor Harunur Rashid said that police arrested Anjuara not Laily.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) representative Advocate Husne Nur Rashid said they checked the documents and national identity card of the victim and found that the arrestee was Anjuara, not accused Laily.

We are working to secure the victim's release as soon as possible, said the BLAST representative.

Contacted Superintendent of Police (SP), Bogra Mozzammel Haque said that the case is under investigation.

If Anjuara has been arrested for mistaken identity, departmental action would be taken against the responsible police officer, the SP said.

Sub-Inspector Imran, however, claimed the arrestee is a professional drug peddler who changes her name time to time.

The case was filed in 2003, whereas the national identity card of Anjuara was issued in 2005. So she might have changed her name to evade arrest, said SI Imran.



PHOTO: STAR

With receding of rain water from farmland, farmers of Rampal area in Munshiganj are busy preparing seedbeds for cauliflower, cabbage and other winter vegetables. Saplings of popular vegetables grow abundantly in different areas of the district and are in high demand in Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Comilla and other districts across the country.



PHOTO: STAR

Sabdar Hossain, a flower grower of Patbila village in Kaliganj upazila under Jhenidah district, gives a frustrated look at his marigold field after harvesting a portion of the produce as the price has fallen drastically due to reduced demand for the lovely flower.

Growers worried as flower price nosedives

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Flower price has marked a drastic fall this season, much to the disappointment of the growers in the district.

A couple of months ago, a bunch of 8-10 big garlands of marigold which was sold at Tk 160/180 is now being sold at Tk 18/20.

Agriculture office sources said, a total of 1200 hectares of land in the district were brought under flower cultivation, mainly marigold, this year.

The production cost of my flower on each bigha

was around Tk 30 thousand on a leased plot, said flower grower Intaj Ali of Boroghighati village under Kaliganj upazila, who cultivated flower on two bighas this year.

I spent over Tk 58,000 thousand but I had to sell flowers at Tk 40,000 only.

Another flower grower Asgar Ali of Baliadanga village in the upazila, said he cultivated flower on 10 decimal taking the land on lease.

"I also took a few thousand taka as loan from an NGO. But I do not know how I would repay the loan.

I would incur a big loss, if the price remains static," he said.

Samir Hossain, Kutib Ali, and Abul Kashem of Trilochonpur union also told similar tales.

Flower trader Abdul Khalek of Chandpara village under Kaliganj upazila said, the demand of flower has decreased in different districts mainly in Dhaka and Chittagong.

"Although we could recover a little during the last puja we see little hope to make any profit this season," he said.

Bir Shreshtha Hamidur remembered in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The 41th death anniversary of Bir Shreshtha Hamidur Rahman was observed on Sunday at the memorial of the recipient of the highest gallantry award of the Liberation War.

Teachers of Hamidur Rahman Degree College and staff of Bir Shreshtha Sipahi Hamidur Rahman Smriti Jadughar O Pathagar at Hamidnagar in Moheshpur upazila under Jhenidah district arranged the programme.

The programme, beginning with placing of wreaths at his portrait at 11:30am, included Qurankhwani, milad mahfil, discussion, and feeding the destitute, said Shahjahan Ali, convener of the celebration committee, and lecturer of political science in Hamidur Rahman Degree College.

While serving the then East Bengal Regiment in 1971, Hamidur Rahman joined the Liberation War and embraced martyrdom while fighting the Pakistani occupation forces on Dhali frontier in Srimongal under Sylhet district on October 28.

Born in 1954 at Khordakhalishpur village (later named Hamidnagar) in Moheshpur upazila Jhenidah, Hamidur Rahman was the second among his brothers and sisters.

Bir Shreshtha Sipahi Hamidur Rahman Smriti Jadughar O Pathagar was established in memory of the great hero of the Liberation War in 2007.

Moheshpur upazila unit of Awami League Secretary Nizam Uddin was present as chief guest at Sunday's programme with Principal Rafi Uddin of Bir Shreshtha Hamidur Rahman Degree College in the chair.

Teachers, students, freedom fighters and people from all walks of life attended the programmes.

Hamidur Rahman's younger brother Fazlur Rahman said some spelling mistakes were earlier detected on the plaque attached on the wall of Birshreshtha Sipahi Hamidur Rahman Smriti Jadughar O Pathagar but no step has been taken yet to rectify the mistakes.

Besides, the declaration of renaming Khordakhalishpur village as Hamidnagar has not been officially implemented yet, he said.

ATTACK ON KHURSHID ALAM AT SONAGAZI

25 injured as Jubo Dal men, police clash during hartal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

At least 25 people including three policemen were injured as the law enforcers and Jubo Dal activists locked in sporadic clashes in Sonagazi Sadar during the day-long Jubo Dal called hartal yesterday.

Police arrested 15 pickets from different areas of the upazila.

Earlier, on Sunday, local Jubo Dal called the day-long hartal in Sonagazi, protesting attack on its upazila general secretary

Khurshid Alam Bhuiyan.

Khurshid was beaten up and stabbed by unidentified criminals at Sonagazi bazar on Sunday evening while returning from Siraikandi village, said police and upazila BNP leaders. Critically injured, he was taken to Dhaka from the local hospital the same night.

The clash began at about 8:30am yesterday when police and Rab men intercepted a protest procession brought out by the hartal

supporters, they said.

During the sporadic clashes, police fired around 120 rubber bullets and lobbed 47 teargas canisters to disperse the opposition activists, said OC of Sonagazi PS Nabi Hossain.

Police also claimed that the Jubo Dal activists fired gunshots and threw home-made bombs at the law enforcers, injuring three police men.

The injured police men are sub-inspector (SI) Swapon Kumar Barua and constables Amal Bhowmik and Jan-e-

Alam. The others include Nur Nabi, Gias Uddin, Md Hanif, Mominul Haque, Manik, Anwar Hossain, Jewel, Mainuddin, Iqbal Hossain, Md Yasin and Abul Kashem.

Road communication between Feni town and Sonagazi upazila Sadar remained suspended during the clashes.

Jubo Dal leaders blamed the local Jubo League for the attack on Khurshid while the Jubo League leaders refuted the allegation.

Eid passes off, special VGF rice still eludes 2600

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 2,600 poor and vulnerable families in Udakahli union under Phulchhari upazila of Gaibandha district did not get VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) rice under special allotment ahead of Eid-ul-Azha due to alleged irregularities by the UP chairman and members.

Meanwhile, police arrested a union parishad (UP) chairman in Narail Sadar upazila on Thursday for 'misappropriation' of VGF rice.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reported that Phulchhari upazila administration had earlier approved a list submitted by the Udakahli Union Parishad

(UP) chairman and members to distribute 26 tonnes of rice among 2600 poor and vulnerable families.

Accordingly, the UP chairman fixed Thursday (October 25) to distribute 10 kgs of rice against each family. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mehedi-ul-Shahid and Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Abu Hena paid a surprise visit to Udakahli union and found that rice was being given to slip holders instead of the names mentioned on the list.

The UNO immediately stopped distribution of rice and asked the UP chairman to explain why the approved list of the poor vulnerable families was not being followed.

Locals alleged that UP Chairman Abdul Baki Sarker and the members issued some slips to their chosen people and sold the rest to local rice traders for Tk 150 per slip.

The poor and vulnerable people, who gathered on the premises of Udakahli Union Parishad office to receive VGF rice under special allotment, returned empty handed.

Abdul Aziz, a local rice trader, said he procured 200 rice slips from the UP members. "Recovery of money from the members is now uncertain as the UNO has stopped distribution of rice," the rice trader said.

Contacted, the UNO said legal steps will be taken

against the people involved in irregularities in distribution of VGF rice.

In Narail, Chairman Emdadul Haque Nannu of Sahabagh Union Parishad under Sadar upazila was arrested on Thursday on charge of misappropriating VGF rice from the UP office, according to our correspondent.

Locals alleged that the chairman misappropriated 100 kgs of VGF rice to sell them on the black market. They confined him to his office and informed the police who later took him to Sadar Police Station.

The UP chairman was yesterday produced in a court that sent him to jail, rejecting his bail prayer.

RIVALS CLASH IN NOAKHALI TOWN

10 policemen among 30 injured, 8 shops vandalised

UNB, Noakhali

At least 30 people including 10 policemen were injured a clash between two groups of villagers at Harinarayanpur bazar area in the district town on Sunday night.

Police said eight shops were vandalised and looted during the clash, while a tea stall and a rickshaw van were set on fire.

Police and local sources said that the rival villagers of Rajarampur and Harinarayanpur, equipped with lethal weapons, attacked each other at about 9:00pm on Sunday over

taking control of the bazar area.

On information, police rushed to the spot and asked the two feuding sides to leave the spot.

As the rival groups of villagers paid no heed to the police warning, the law enforcers fired at least 150 bullets from shotgun and brought the situation under control after nearly two hours.

The clashes left 20 villagers hurt on both sides, while 10 policemen including officer-in-charge of Sudharam Model police station, two sub-inspectors

and seven constables were also wounded.

Of the injured policemen, constable Faruq with bullet wounds was taken to Noakhali Medical College Hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The other injured were given treatment at the local clinics and Sadar Hospital.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

This bridge over Tiakhali River near Banatibazar in Lalua union of Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district has remained in a dilapidated condition, posing risk for a large number of users including students, but the authorities concerned of Local Government Engineering Department have not taken any initiative to repair or rebuild it.



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