

Murder case filed after 32 years

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

A case has been filed against six people on charge of killing a man at Parkhajura village in Monirampur upazila of the district 32 years ago.

Abdul Gani, son of slain Mukter Hossain of Parkhajura village in Monirampur upazila, filed the case with Jessore Chief Judicial Magistrate Court on Tuesday.

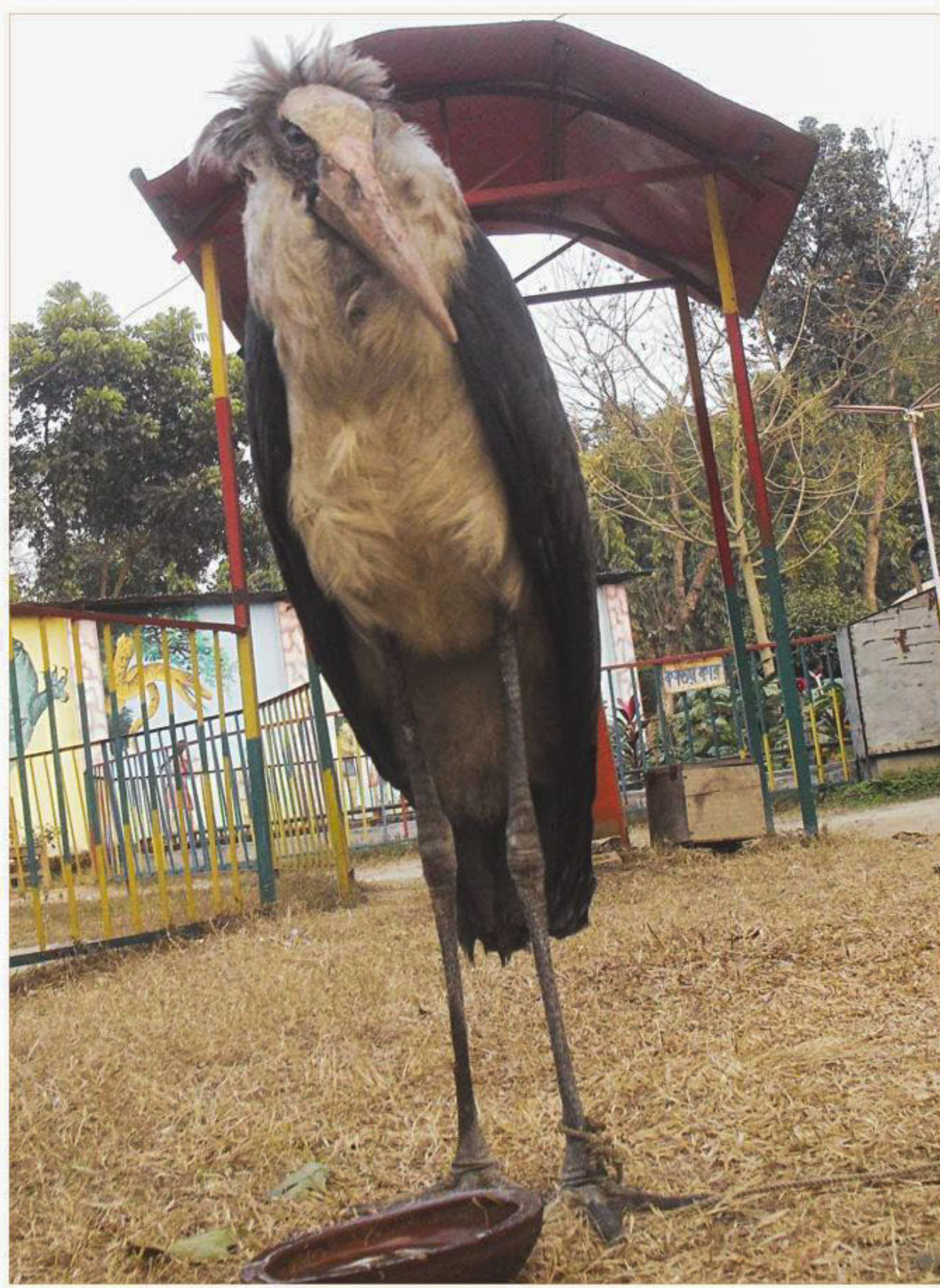
Explaining such a long delay in the case filing, the complainant in his statement said they did not dare so far to file any case against the alleged killers as they (killers) were criminals and locally very much influential.

On July 4, 1980, a gang of criminals, led by Abdul Karim of Bharatpur village in Monirampur upazila, picked up Mukter Hossain from his house forcibly.

They beat up Mukter indiscriminately and then strangled him in front of the house of Abdul Karim on the same day.

Later, they put the body in a sack and dumped it in a field.

The court directed officer in-charge of Monirampur PS to investigate the case.



This madan tak, caught by locals at Jhalhali village in Pirganj upazila under Thakurgaon district on Tuesday afternoon, is now getting treatment at Fun City, an amusement park in the upazila, following prompt action by the local UP chairman and the UNO. The rarely seen species of bird possibly received an air gun bullet in its right wing and suffered starvation before its capture, said Dr Abul Kalam Azad, upazila livestock officer. PHOTO: STAR

SEVERE COLD AND DENSE FOG Late blight disease worries potato growers

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Potato cultivators in the district are worried about the yield of the popular winter vegetable this season as severe cold and dense fog have caused late blight disease.

As much as 5,450 hectares of land in the district have been brought under potato cultivation against the target of 4,150 hectares this season, said officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat.

But the prolonged cold and dense fog caused the outbreak of late blight in some potato fields, and the farmers, who cultivated potato on more areas of lands with hope to recover the losses from last year's paddy farming, now face production fall due to the disease, they said.

Fourteen tonnes of potato is likely to be produced per hectare of land this year whereas the yield was around 20 tonnes last season, DAE sources said.

Farmers, on the other hand, have expressed fear that the production may fall down to 10 to 12 tonnes.

"I cultivated potato on four bighas of land last year. I have cultivated it on six bighas of land this season with hope to gain good profit. But about one bigha of potato field has already been attacked with late blight disease. I have been using pesticide but to no effect," said Habibur Rahaman, 48, of Fulgachh village in Sadar upazila.

Ansar Ali, 50, of Mondolerhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said he has cultivated potato on 12 bighas of land at the village but late blight has affected the vegetable on two bighas.

"I have sprayed pesticides two times during the last five days but to no result. If the spread of the disease cannot be stopped, I will

have to incur loss due to production fall," he said.

Mobarok Islam, 52, of Komlabari village in Aditmari upazila, said potato on three bighas of land out of the 20 bighas cultivated by him has been attacked by late blight.

"I have been able to save potato from the disease on one bigha by spraying pesticide 'Mancozed' but I am not getting any result in rest

two bighas of affected field by spraying the same item," he said.

Potato growers Jobbar Ali, 48, Moniruzzaman Miah, 57, Moshir Rahman, 40, and a few others at Kakina village of Kaliganj upazila alleged that they went to the local agriculture office but the officials failed to give them 'proper advice' about dealing with late blight disease.

Following suggestion from

pesticide shop owners, they used pesticide but it did not bring good result, they said.

Abdul Mazid, deputy director of DAE in Lalmonirhat, said, "Agriculture officials are suggesting potato farmers to use anti-fungal medicines to save the crop from late blight. We always encourage farmers to come to agriculture offices for suggestion regarding any kind of problem."



Farmers spray pesticide 'Mancozed' in their potato field at Mondolerhat village of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, in an attempt to minimise the effect of late blight disease caused by the unusually long cold wave accompanied by dense fog during the current season. PHOTO: STAR

MEHEDY HASAN, Rangpur

2 km road recovered from encroachers after 70 yrs

People of ten villages under Madhupur union in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur district are happy to get back a two-kilometre-long road, after 70 years of illegal occupation by local influential people.

As the villagers had to cover additional three kilometres in absence of the road, they formed human chains and held demonstrations on several occasions, urging the authorities concerned to recover the road.

At long last, Badarganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Khondker Estiak Ahmed, and Madhupur Union Parishad (UP)

Chairman Aynal Haque came forward to recover the earthen road to ease villagers' communication.

"On January 3, surveyors of Badarganj upazila demarcated the road and we recovered it with the help of upazila and police administrations. Encroachers had kept occupying the officially recorded road for 70 years," said UP Chairman Aynal Haque.

Following the demarcation, the UNO and the UP chairman hoisted red flags

on the road and arranged removal of the occupiers' houses and trees from there.

UP Chairman Aynal Haque on Sunday engaged 300 workers under 'Kormasrijan project' for reconstruction of the two-kilometre-long and 12-foot-wide road while a large number of locals joined the work on voluntary basis.

It may take at least a week to complete reconstruction of the earthen road, he said.

"We are very happy as

the road will ease our communication," said Ahsan Ullah, an elderly man of Gobargari-Adarshapara village.

The government authorities in 1940 recorded the road from Gobargari-Adarshapara to Boiragipara under Madhupur union, said sources including a few elderly people of the area.

But shortly afterwards, some influential people occupied the road and built houses, planted trees, and excavated ponds to establish their claim on the land.



Villagers work to reconstruct the two-kilometre-long earthen road from Gobargari-Adarshapara to Boiragipara in Badarganj upazila under Rangpur district, following recovery of the public path from illegal occupiers after long 70 years. PHOTO: STAR

BSF man held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya

Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) detained a member of India Border Security Force (BSF) as he entered Bangladesh with arms illegally through Anandanagar frontier in Mujibnagar upazila of Meherpur yesterday.

Identified as Pulin Bindu Singh, he was serving at Bhatgachi camp under 92 Battalion BSF in Paschim Bangla.

Col Farid Uddin, Commander of Kushtia Sector BGB told this correspondent that the BSF man crossed into Bangladesh territory through the pillar No-100 at about 3.30pm.

Local farmers caught him and handed over to BGB, Col Farid said.

The BSF man, now held at Anandabas BGB camp under Mujibnagar upazila in Meherpur, will be returned after a flag meeting.

ATTACK ON COLLEGE PRINCIPAL Teachers, staff of Magura institutions on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The teachers and employees of colleges, high schools and madrasas in Sreepur upazila under the district started indefinite work abstention yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the criminals who injured the principal of Sreepur Degree College on Monday.

They also held a meeting and formed a human chain at the upazila headquarters to press for the demand.

They warned of tougher agitation if the culprits are not arrested soon.

At a meeting held at the auditorium of Sreepur

Degree College on Tuesday, local teachers formed a 'sangram committee' (action committee) with Mohammad Nizamuddin Ahmed, principal of Dariapur Degree College in Sreepur upazila, as convener to observe the programmes demanding punishment to the perpetrators of the heinous act.

Protesting the attack on their principal, students of Sreepur Degree College brought out a procession at the upazila headquarters for the second consecutive day yesterday.

Principal of Sreepur Degree College Nirmal Saha was seriously injured as a

group of masked miscreants hacked him with sharp weapons at Khamarpara village in the upazila on Monday.

He is undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Talking with this correspondent, the principal said, "A few students who were disqualified in test examinations for the next Higher Secondary Certificate examinations may have made the attack. Some locals, who were disappointed over the recent selection of teachers' representatives in the college governing body, could also be behind the incident."

BSF returns 41 through two border points

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya

Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) pushed in 41 Bangladeshi nationals through Buripota and Bajitpur border points of Meherpur district early yesterday.

Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) and police arrested nine of them, while the rest returned to their houses in different districts, police said.

Habibur Rahman, officer in-charge (OC) of Mujibnagar police station

told this correspondent that they arrested the nine from Anandabas village in Mujibnagar upazila of the district when they were boarding a bus.

Police and BGB sources said, several months ago, the Indian police arrested around 200 Bangladeshis from different areas of Paschim Bangla State.

As they had no legal documents, Indian civil court at different times sent them to jails.

A few days ago they were handed over to BSF.

"These 41 were a portion of those 200," OC Habibur Rahman said, adding that "the rest might also be pushed through other border points soon."

Zahidul Islam, 33, one of the nine arrestees, hailing from Salikha in Magura, said he went to India through Bhomra border point in Sathira seven months ago in search of work. He had only one month's visa. He was caught by the Indian police on expiry of visa and sent to Damdam jail in Paschim Bangla.

"On Monday, I was

handed over to BSF. There were around 20 others with me when BSF brought me to Bangladesh border," Zahidul told journalists.

According to BGB officials, BSF pushed all 41, opening the gate of the barbed wire fence through Buripota and Bajitpur border points.

Rozina Khatun, 32, wife of Akidul Islam of Haridashbati village in Terokhedha upazila of Khulna disclosed that she, with her husband Akidul and two children Sefayat, 10, and Moina, 5, went to India

four months ago.

"We had no legal documents when we crossed the border. Indian police arrested us within a week of our entry and sent to Damdam jail," Rozina said.

"BSF pushed me along with my two children through Bajitpur border, but I am yet to know the whereabouts of my husband," Rozina added.

OC Habibur said, police will send all the nine their homes after verifying whether they were truly Bangladeshi nationals.



Teachers of different educational institutions in Sreepur upazila of Magura yesterday formed a human chain to protest attack on principal of Sreepur Degree College Nirmal Saha. Nirmal was hacked by unknown criminals on Monday morning. PHOTO: STAR