

Baby dies while father beats up mother

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A four-month-old infant, who was in his mother's lap, died as he was allegedly hit on the head while his father was beating his mother with a stick.

The incident occurred at West Rajapur village of Sarankhola upazila in Bagerhat yesterday morning.

The injured boy, Sumon Faquir, was declared dead at Bagerhat Sadar Hospital.

Police arrested Sumon's father Rubel Faquir of the village from Bagerhat Bus Terminal around noon.

Rubel was fleeing with the body wrapped in a jacket after abandoning his wife Masuma Akter at the hospital where she was also admitted with a leg fracture allegedly from the beating, said police.



Dhaka University Teachers' Association forms a human chain in front of the Aparajeya Bangla on the campus yesterday demanding speedy trial of war criminals.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA PUBLIC COLLEGE CAMPUS Students riot protesting relocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students of Dhaka Public College took to the streets yesterday vandalising cars and shops in Panthapath of the capital protesting its authorities' decision of relocating the campus.

Witnesses said police charged baton and fired eight rounds of rubber bullets and six tear gas canisters to disperse the agitators. A student was injured in the clash.

Injured Golam Kibria Asif, 17, was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from a private hospital with bullet wounds in his leg.

The students also blockaded the road in Panthapath for about an hour.

Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of Kolabagan Police Station, said some teachers of the college were in favour of the college relocation while others have been opposing it.

He said a number of students were agitating yesterday protesting the decision for campus relocation.

"They [students] took to the streets at 11:00am and vandalised about ten cars," said Enamul Haque.

Asif, however, told reporters at DMCH that they were trying to form a human chain in front of Bashundhara City shopping complex when policemen swooped upon them.

6 rapists get life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sentenced life term imprisonment to six rapists in a case in connection with raping a garment worker in 1998.

The convicts are Abul Kalam, Akteruzzaman, Ayub Ali, Belayet Hossain, Salahuddin and Mujibur Rahman. All of them, except Mujibur, remained absconding.

Judge Md Rezaul Karim of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 gave the verdict yesterday.

According to the prosecution, the six convicts kidnapped the female garment worker while she was going to visit a friend in Burma Colony of Chittagong city on April 8, 1998.

They took the girl to a nearby hill and gang-raped her. Later, they left her in the colony area.

The victim lodged a case with Panchlaish Police Station in this regard the next day.

Police submitted charge-sheet against the six on August 28, 1998 and a Chittagong court framed charges against them on June 16, 1999.

Youth hurt in 'shoot-out' with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was injured in a shoot-out between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel and his accomplices yesterday afternoon in the capital's Manda.

Bullet-injured Biplob was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Rab seized a fire arm along with three bullets from Biplob and also arrested one, Shamim.

Rab sources said they went to arrest a gang when some criminals fired on them prompting them to fire back.

Cancel fuel price hike: CPB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) yesterday jointly submitted a memorandum to the Speaker of the parliament to cancel the decision of the recent fuel price hike.

Earlier, they organised a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital where the party leaders urged the government to cancel the decision immediately.

Due to the fuel price hike, fare of public transports went up again, pushing the general people in deep crisis.

The decision will prove harmful for poor people as well as for the agriculture sector as farmers have to buy diesel at higher rate, they said.

CPB President Mujahidul Islam Selim, its General Secretary Sayed Abu Zafar Ahmed and BSD central committee member Bozlur Rashid Firoy also spoke at the meeting with BSD General Secretary Khalequzzaman in the chair.

Ctg DNC limping for staff, logistics crisis

TAREK MAHMUD, Ctg

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) conducted 1,659 drives in Chittagong city in 2011. The number of raids was 1,468 last year. The slump in the intensity of the anti-drug agency's operations is largely blamed for understaffing and lack of logistics.

There are only 23 officials to check drug smuggling and abuse in a city of 50 lakh people when most of them have to attend courts in drug-related cases in other parts of the country.

Shidweshar Teli, a superintendent of DNC, Chittagong city, said he was a plaintiff as well as investigation officer of around 500 cases pending with different courts across the country.

"Before coming in Chittagong, I worked in Khulna and Jessore. So I have to spend most of the time there to attend courts, disrupting my regular job here," he told The Daily Star.

Sources said two of the three superintendents overseeing the department's activities under a deputy director in the city had to spend most of a month attending courts.

The understaffed DNC Chittagong city office now depends on other law enforcement agencies to conduct drives. On their unavailability, it has to suspend operations.

DNC (Chittagong city) is split into six circles where at least a hundred officials are required to ensure smooth functioning. But it has got only 41 sanctioned posts and worse yet, 18 of the posts are remaining vacant.

The vacant posts also include those of three sub-inspectors, six sepoy, two assistant sub-inspectors, one prosecutor, two office assistants, one stenographer and one MLSS.

The department has other challenges

to face--it has just one vehicle and that too is rundown. The officials said they were unarmed and not given risk allowance.

Superintendent Chowdhury Imrul Hasan said the officials did not get risk allowance even if they were doing the job of law enforcing. "Without arms and other security facilities, we have to work against desperate drug smugglers who use modern firearms."

The officials raised the issue of food rationing, which other forces enjoy but they do not, and that of the poor state of the Chittagong office's infrastructure.

Deputy Director of DNC (Chittagong city) Mukul Jyoti Chakma said, "The DNC was founded in 1990. After that, many forces like Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Coast Guard were created and they are enjoying better facilities than us."

Anwar Hossain, inspector of Pahartali circle of the DNC, said, "We not only work to arrest drug smugglers and peddlers but do other narcotics related duties of the state."

According to its website, the department, apart from controlling smuggling, sale and abuse of narcotics, treats and rehabilitates drug abusers, co-ordinates activities of different government agencies and NGOs offering treatment and rehabilitation for addicts, and maintains liaison with similar agencies in other countries.

DD Mukul said a proposal for boosting the capacity of the Chittagong city office was submitted in the DNC head office some three years ago, but it was pending to date.

Additional Director of DNC (Chittagong Division) Khushi Mohan Bishwash said the scenario was same in other parts of the country. "The recruitment process for the vacant posts is under way and the upgradation proposal is under consideration."

Chittagong Hill Tracts Student Council forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding rights of all indigenous people to education in their own language.



PHOTO: STAR

CASE AGAINST HUSBAND Woman's body exhumed over murder suspicion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four months past the burial, a housewife's body was exhumed from the capital's Azimpur Graveyard yesterday over a Dhaka court order on a case accusing the husband of murder.

Nurul Amin, brother of the deceased Rehana Begum, 28, alleged that the absconding husband, Sayed Ahmad, killed Rehana for failing to grab an around Tk one crore-worth one-story building on a three katha plot at Kamrangir Char.

Rehana's family gave her the property during her marriage in 2010. The couple used to depend on the building's rent as Syed, who claimed to be a garment factory supervisor during the marriage, was unemployed, he said.

Some one and a half months before the murder, Sayed tried to convince Rehana into selling the property, saying that they would be able to start a business

and live in a very good flat. Sayed even brought buyers willing to pay Tk 90 lakh for the property but with her family not consenting to it, the couple started having rows, said Nurul.

After a quarrel on September 28 last year, Rehana told her mother Rezia Begum to come over to her house. Rezia did so and assured to take her away to her parent's house the next day, he said.

The following day, after knocking for a long time, Sayed opened the door. Inside, Rezia found Rehana unconscious on a bed, he said.

Sayed and a neighbour, Maleka Begum, took Rehana to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead. Within a few hours, they buried the body without any autopsy or informing police, added Nurul.

On October 10, Rezia filed the case with a Dhaka court seeking permission to exhume the body.

2 held with stolen luggage at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Airport Armed Police Battalion (AAPBn) yesterday arrested two members of a gang which carries out organised theft of passengers' luggage at Shahjalal International Airport in the capital.

Police also recovered three pieces of stolen luggage from the two arrestees -- Shah Alam, 37, and Md Abdul Hannan alias Mannan, 40.

Quoting the arrestees, police said Shah Alam, using passport of one Nazrul Islam, entered the area where luggage is collected. He then used a security-check pass from the lost and found department to go near conveyor belt no. 3, where passengers of Turkish Airways were collecting their luggage.

Shah Alam collected three pieces of luggage and left the airport, they added.

On information, AAPBn personnel followed him and made the arrest in Airport Golchattar, where Shah Alam was handing over the luggage to Hannan.

Both arrestees admitted that they take the stolen bags to a residential hotel in the capital where members of the gang meet with their "collections", said police.

Shah Alam is brother-in-law of the gang's leader Zoynal Abedin. Zoynal was arrested with stolen luggage in January last year and is currently in jail.

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