

# Grabbers eye Kalapara crematorium of Rakhaine people

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The crematorium of Rakhaine community at Nachnapara beside Patuakhali-Kalapara road in Kalapara municipality under the district is facing threat of grabbing allegedly by ruling Awami League (AL) men.

On April 6, a gang of 20-25 people led by Jalal of Rajopara in Kalapara upazila set up pillars in the middle of the crematorium on the bank of Done River and started earth cutting there when Rakhaines protested it, said the community people.

The local Rakhaines in 1965 set up a crematorium for the community on 0.22 acres of land (plot No 320) at Nachnapara but recently an employee of Kalapara upazila land office illegally leased 0.12 acres of the land to Jalal, said Momothe Rakhaine, a member of crematorium committee.

Syed Akhtaruzzaman

alias Kokka Mira, former president of Tiakhali union unit of AL, also former chairman of Tiakhali union parishad under the upazila, is trying to occupy the land in collusion with Jalal, he added.

On April 6 morning, a 20-25 member gang led by Jalal set up pillars in the middle of the crematorium and started cutting earth inside. Seeing the matter, Rakhaines protested it.

The next day, Momothe Rakhaine on behalf of the local Rakhine community submitted a written complaint to deputy commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali demanding immediate step to save the crematorium from the grabbers.

At this the grabbers became angry and a gang of 10-12 led by Kokka Mira came to the spot on four or five motorbikes and threatened to vandalise the crematorium if the Rakhaines do not withdraw the complaint.

Jalal's family sources claimed that they took lease of 0.12 acres of land inside the crematorium from local upazila land office in the name of Jalal and his wife Jharna Begum but Rakhaines are creating obstacle when they started cutting earth on the 'leased' land.

Kokka Mira said, "Jalal got lease of the land on plot No 322 from the upazila land office and the crematorium is on plot No 320. I am working on behalf of Jalal on the issue as I have to see public interest."

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) of Patuakhali Md Shah Alam, also the acting DC, said he has asked the UNO of Kalapara to take step following the petition submitted by Momothe Rakhaine.

"As per the order from the acting DC, I have asked the AC (Land) to investigate the matter," said Md Jahangir Hossain, UNO of Kalapara.



PHOTO: STAR

Land grabbers allegedly belonging to the ruling Awami League set a pillar (inset) at the crematorium cum graveyard of the Rakhaine people in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district a few days ago. The grabbers' attempt to dig the area, however, has been stalled following intervention by the local administration.

## VICTIM OF JAMAAT-SHIBIR ATTACK

# SI Sabur regains sense, not out of danger yet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Sub-Inspector Abdus Sabur of the Special Branch (SB) of police, who received head injuries during Jamaat-Shibir attack in Chirirbandar upazila on April 2, regained consciousness on Friday.

Jamaat-Shibir men beat him up indiscriminately. As he collapsed on the ground, they thrashed his head with bricks. He is now undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit (ICU) of Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) and still on life support.

Sabur has partially lost his memory as he sustained severe head injuries. A blood clot in the chest has been removed. But he is still not out of danger, said doctors.

"He can only recognise me, not children and other family members. He also responds to others," said Sabur's wife Nilufar Yasmin. Doctor said Sabur will get back his memory, but family members, relatives and colleagues are worried about his condition.

Sabur's daughter Sultana Razia is a class nine student at Dinajpur Police Lines High School while his son Mamudul Hasan is a kindergarten boy.

Around 2,000 Jamaat-Shibir activists put up barricades on Chirirbandar road at Hajirmore during a daylong shutdown on April 2.

As police lobbed seven teargas shells to disperse the rioting activists, they attacked police with sticks

and brick chips, compelling the law enforcers to fire 20 rubber bullets.

At one stage, the Jamaat-Shibir men came to know the identity of SI Sabur, who was in plainclothes, and swooped on him. They beat him up severely and thrashed his head with bricks.

Critically injured Sabur was rushed to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital where he underwent a surgery. He was referred to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital the same day as his condition deteriorated.

Police later filed a case with Chirirbandar Police station, accusing 1,000 Jamaat-Shibir men. They have so far arrested only five people.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Marma girls perform dance at a function held in Bandarban yesterday, marking the traditional Sangrai festival. The ethnic community celebrate the event on the second day of the three-day 'Boisabi Utsab' in three districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts.



PHOTO: STAR

Unscrupulous people engage in fishing spree, as if to rob Baikka Beel in Srimongal upazila under Moulvibazar district of its fish resources, taking the advantage of drastic fall of water level during the ongoing dry season. The local administration on Friday imposed Section 144 for indefinite period in the sanctuary belonging to Hail Haor to prevent fish looting until sufficient rainfall raises the water level up to an optimum level. Environment activists formed a human chain and brought out a procession in Moulvibazar town yesterday demanding adequate steps to save Baikka Beel and its biodiversity.

## FISH LOOTING FROM DRIED UP BAIKKA BEEL



## SNIPPETS

### Trader dies in police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishita

A wood trader died in police custody early yesterday. Identified as Taizal Ali Mollick, 50, he was son of late Badar Mollick of Charpara in Sadar upazila. Family members of the victim alleged that Taizal died due to police torture. Officer in-charge of Islamic University (IU) police station Ruhul Amin said sub-inspector Sariful Islam of Harinarayanpur police camp arrested Taizal on Friday night in a case for illegally cutting down government trees from Kushtia-Khulna highway a week ago. "He felt pain in his chest at about 11:00pm at IU police station. He was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital where the on duty doctors declared Taizal dead at about 12:00pm," the OC said. Abdul Aziz, younger brother of Taizal told this correspondent that SI Sariful picked up Taizal from Harinarayangpur Bazar at about 7:30pm. He was taken to Harinarayangpur police camp and tortured, he alleged.

### Train roof passenger killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A train roof passenger died after he was hit by girder of Koidanga rail bridge in Bhangura upazila on Friday night. Deceased Ziaul Islam Zia, 40, of Bhabanipur village in Hemayetpur union was a day labourer. Quoting family sources police said, Zia was coming to Pabna from the capital on Friday by traveling on the roof of Rajshahi-bound 'Dhumketu Express'. When the train was crossing Koidanga rail bridge he died on the train after being hit by the girder, they said.

### Two electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Two electricians were electrocuted at Miapur of Shibganj upazila yesterday morning. The deceased were identified as Golam Rahman, 47, of Kansat Palli Bidyut office and Lal Chand, 45, of Miapur village under Shibganj upazila. Golam Rahman died when he was trying to repair a snapped electric wire and Lal Chand was electrocuted when he went to rescue Golam Rahman, locals said.

### Youth held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an alleged youth along with a pistol, a magazine and two bullets at Masinda village in Baraigram upazila on Friday night. The arrestee was identified as Hasinur Rahman, 32, son of late Montaz Ali of Panchbaria village in the upazila. Rab-5 official Sheikh Zahidul Islam said, a team on tip-off raided the village and arrested Hasinur along with the arms.

### 9 back from Indian jails

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Nine Bangladeshis returned home on Friday after languishing in Indian jails for three years. The Indian Immigration police handed them over to Burimari immigration police at zero point of Burimari land port in Patgram upazila at noon. Later, Burimari Immigration police handed over them to their relatives. The nine hailing from different districts were held by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at different border points of Coochbehar district in Paschim Banga three years ago and later sentenced to jails. All of them were taken to India by human traffickers alluring them of better jobs there, the returnees alleged.

## Teachers attacked for not allowing unfair means in exams

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Three college teachers were injured in an attack allegedly by a few HSC candidates as they did not allow them to adopt unfair means during the examination in Mongla upazila yesterday.

The teachers are Ajit Kumar Paul, Md Abdul Jabbar of Mongla College and Bikash Chandra Hawlder of Mongla Bangabandhu Girls' College.

Injured Ajit said they came under attack when they were returning to their homes after the examination at Dighraj High School.

Earlier, five students at the hall had threatened the teachers for not allowing copying at the examination.

Police arrested one Rassel, a first year student of Dighraj Degree College, in connection with the attack, said officer in-charge Munir-ul-Gias.

In Bogra, a school teacher was injured seriously by criminals in Gabtoli upazila town on Thursday, reports our correspondent.

The victim was identified as Rezaul Karim, 32, assistant headmaster at Sonada Bari Azad High School. He was shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Moksedur Rahman Fizar, president of the school managing committee, said a gang attacked Rezaul Karim with sharp weapon when he was returning home at around 3:00pm.

## AL leader hacked

A CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Criminals hacked an Awami League leader and also madrasa superintendent at Togra village under Zianagar upazila early yesterday.

Seriously injured Mawlana Giasuddin Selim, superintendent of Togra Girls' Kamil Madrasa is president of upazila Olama League and the joint secretary of upazila Awami League.

Family sources said, at about 1:30am, a gang numbering 4-6 entered his house, making hole in the

earthen wall and started to hack him with sharp weapons. Before that they took his wife and daughter hostage.

Hearing his cry for help, the neighbours rushed to his house and saved him. They took him to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital. The attackers fled the scene without taking any goods from the house.

Victim's nephew Kobirul Islam said Selim had no enemy in his locality. They could not identify the attackers who hacked Selim several times.



PHOTO: STAR

The main street in Joypurhat municipality wears a deserted look during yesterday's half-day hartal enforced by Jamaat-Shibir men, protesting alleged abduction of district Jamaat general secretary Nazrul Islam from his residence in the town early Friday.

## Help for family of deceased truck driver

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A United Arab Emirate (UAE) expatriate has donated an amount to the family of the truck driver who was killed by pickets in the town during the BNP-led 18-party alliance enforced hartal across the country on April 5.

Wishing anonymity, the donor, on Wednesday gave Tk 10,000 for education of the son after coming across the news of killing in different print and electronic media.

Trucker Shahidul Islam Khokon, 35, was killed when pickets hit him with bricks while he was driving his goods-laden vehicle through Bogra in the early morning.

Khokon died on the way to the hospital.

## 2 pry teacher candidates jailed for unfair means

UNB, Netrokona

A mobile court here sentenced two examinees for the post of government primary school assistant teacher to three days' jail each for adopting unfair means in the recruitment test in Sadar upazila on Friday.

The convicts were Farzana Akter Mukta, daughter of Faroque Ahmed in Satpai area of the upazila, and Kaniz Fatema, daughter of Altabur Rahman at Boikharhati village in Kendua upazila.

Police said, executive magistrate M Rashedul Hoque Prophan caught the said examinees red-handed at Satpai N Akanda Alia Madrasa centre in the area while they were taking the government primary school assistant teacher recruitment examination with the help from outside by using earphones.

Later the magistrate, through a mobile court, handed down the punishment to the duo.