

Fresh organ trading racket in Kalai of Joypurhat



PHOTO: STAR
LURED INTO ORGAN SELLING: Belal Uddin of Borai village, Chhakoat of Shimrail village and Azadul of Ulipur village in Kalai upazila under Joypurhat district underwent operation abroad for removal of one kidney each after agents of a human organ trading racket enticed them into the risky act for some money.

20 sold their kidneys in last 6 months

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Arrest of two people of an organ trading gang on Thursday and some other evidence reveal return of the racket to Kalai upazila of Joypurhat.

The gang had stopped their activities following busting of the country's first organ trading racket in the area in late August of 2011.

At least 20 people including three females of different villages sold one of their kidneys in last six months as the organ traders managed to 'motivate' them, police said.

The kidney transplantation took place in different hospitals abroad including India and Singapore and brokers prepared passports with fake identities and addresses of the kidney donors, they said.

The two arrested on Thursday are -- Md Abdus Sattar, 45, also accused in a previous case for involvement with organ trading, and Mizanur Rahman of Bohuti village under Kalai upazila.

Md Manikul Islam, an ASI of Kalai police station, filed a case against eight people including Sattar and Mizanur.

Md Azadul, a residence of Ulipur village under Kalai upazila, sold one of his kidneys for Tk 2 lakh. The transplantation took place

in India. But the passport he used for going there mentioned his name as Md Azad Hossain and location Japan Garden City of Mohammadpur in Dhaka.

Similarly, Jyotsna Begum of Borai village under the same upazila, sold her kidney and travelled abroad with a passport that mentioned her as Mahfuza Begum, a residence of Gulshan in Dhaka.

The brokers prepared the treatment and travel documents.

Contacted, Md Ramjan Ali, OC of Kalai, confirmed the incident.

In late August of 2011, F. Karim, the then officer in charge of Kalai police station, detected an organ trading network. Consequently, 10 people including Tareque Azam, ringleader of the network, were arrested from different place of the country within September 20.

Later they got bail from the High Court and allegedly returned to their business, said police.

Meanwhile, Nur Hossain, former OC of Kalai, submitted a charge sheet to a local court accusing the arrested people in October last year. The case is still pending with the court.

The district health department prepared a list of 42 people who sold their kidneys in 2011.

Safe roads demanded

Human chain by medical students in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A human chain was formed in the city yesterday, demanding safe roads and highways across the country.

Students of 41st batch at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital formed the human chain, protesting a road accident which injured their four fellows in Bogra district on September 4.

Expressing solidarity with them, teachers and students of Northern Medical College, Community Medical College, Rangpur Dental College and Prime Medical College took part in the human chain.

The participants said Mehnaj Sultana Happy, Paromita, Tamanna and Nishat were injured in a road accident in Bogra on the day.

Of them, Happy was admitted to National Institute of Traumatology Orthopedics and Rehabilitation (NITOR) in the capital where her right leg had to be amputated from underknee.

The participants also demanded exemplary punishment of the bus driver responsible for the accident and immediate measures to stop issuance of fake driving licenses and plying of unfit vehicles on roads and highways.

Among others, Prof Nurunnabi Laizu, acting principal of Rangpur Medical College and Hospital, Dr Shamiul Fahad Rifath, general secretary of Intern Doctors Association of the hospital and students Sumon Prodhan and Mahmudur Rahman, were present.

Earlier on the day, teachers and students of the medical colleges brought out a procession in favour of their demands.

Two youths electrocuted in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur

Two dish line workers died from electrocution in Taltali area of the district town on Saturday.

The victims were identified as Khokon, 26, son of Azahar Ali of Paka Masjid area of the town, and Alamgir, 28, son of Basu of Anandapur village of Shahrasti upazila of the district.

Witnesses said Khokon and Alamgir came in contact with a live electric wire while giving dish line connection to a house in front of LGED office of the area around 1:00pm.

Critically injured, they were admitted to Chandpur Government General Hospital where doctors declared them dead.



PHOTO: STAR
Locals, including school kids, cross Shalikhra River in Tala upazila under Satkhira district using this risky bamboo structure in the absence of a permanent bridge there.

SAODA MURDER

Agitation at BU mounts as Russel still scot-free

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Students of Barisal University (BU) continued agitation for the third day yesterday, demanding arrest of Russel, also a student of the university, who killed fellow student Saoda Akhter

on Thursday.

Saoda was hacked with a knife in the neck and back by her once intimate friend Russel on the campus at around 8:30am. The first-year accounting student was brought to the intensive care unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital by an air-

ambulance at around 1.30pm where she died at 5:30pm.

Students of the university began agitation on the following day, demanding arrest of killer Russel. They also announced a three-day mourning programme that ended yesterday.

They under the banner of 'general students' forum' took out a procession in the city yesterday morning, blocked the road at Kakoli crossing and held a rally there.

At the rally, the BU students announced that they would continue to hold rallies and processions, boycott classes and block roads until the killer Russel was arrested.

The BU authorities yesterday held a condolence meeting on the campus with Vice Chancellor Prof Harunor-Rashid in the chair.

Police are yet to arrest Russel. They picked up Bipul Baroi, a friend of Russel, and also a first year accounting student of the university, from a students' mess in the city yesterday for quizzing.



PHOTO: STAR
Students of Barisal University block road at Kakoli crossing in Barisal city yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the killer of fellow student Saoda Akhter.

UNEASY CALM AT IU

Hundreds sued, none held yet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Uneasy calm prevailed at Islamic University (IU) yesterday, a day after a fierce clash on the campus between BCL and JCD and Shibir activists.

University sources said most of the classes were suspended due to poor attendance of the students.

"A good number of students did not come to the university as they feel unsafe walking across the campus," said Saifa Tanzan, a second year student of applied chemistry and chemical engineering department.

Additional police were deployed at the main

Follow-up

entrance and different points to fend off further trouble. Leaders and activists of different student bodies, including Bangladesh Chhatra League, were not seen on the campus.

JCD and Shibir men are avoiding campus to escape arrest as three cases were filed against them following the clash on Saturday, sources said.

One case was filed by Registrar Dr Mosleuddin, accusing 100 JCD and Shibir men of vandalising the administrative building while the two others by two

BCL leaders of the university unit.

The BCL leaders sued around 300 JCD and Shibir men on charge of launching an armed attack on their party men on the campus. None of the accused in the cases was arrested as of filing of this report at 5:00pm yesterday.

At least 40 people were injured as activists of BCL clashed with JCD Shibir men on IU campus on Saturday.

During the fight, Shibir and JCD activists vandalised the university's administrative building and two cars, and torched six motorcycles, the IU proctor alleged.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Two college students stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A BCL leader and another college student were seriously stabbed by a group of youths over past enmity at Akhaura Shaheed Smrity College in the district yesterday noon. The injured two are Shamim Molla, upazila convener of BCL and Shafiqul Alam Bari, a second year student of the college. According to college and police sources, on Saturday, Shafiqul Alam Bari slapped one Mushfiqur Rahman of his class following an altercation over a trifling matter. When Shamim Molla and BCL college secretary Shafikuzzaman Lion sat with them to resolve the problem, Mushfiqur along with his group and some outsiders stabbed Shafiqul Alam Bari. As Shamim tried to resist the attackers, they also stabbed him. Both were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

BSF picks up cattle trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) of Fatehpur camp on Saturday picked up a Bangladeshi cattle trader. The arrestee is Saidur Rahman, 30, son of Moinuddin Hossain of Dakatia village under Moheshpur upazila. BCG sources said, at around 8.30pm, a group of 10/12 cattle traders went to bring cattle from India. When they reached near Fatehpur camp in India through Kushumpur border point in Bangladesh, BSF chased them. They caught Saidur while the rest managed to flee.



PHOTO: STAR
The Daily Star correspondent Ahmed Humayun Kabir Topu receiving the award for best reporting on Saturday.

2 Pabna newsmen honoured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna Press Club has honoured two journalists for best newspaper reporting in 2012. Ahmed Humayun Kabir Topu, district correspondent of The Daily Star received the award for best reporting in national daily while Mostafa Satej, executive editor of Daily Ichhamoti got the award for best reporting in local newspaper. The club recently introduced AKM Azizul Haque Smrity Padak in the name of its founder for best newspaper reporting. State minister for science and technology Yafes Osman gave away the crests and cheques at a function held at the Pabna Press Club auditorium on Saturday night.

Couple killed in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A couple was murdered by criminals at Junail Nayapara village in Madarganj upazila on Saturday night. The deceased are Rabijal Islam, 45, a farmer and his wife Marjina Begum, 35, of the village. Police said the body of Rabijal was found in the bathroom of their house while his wife's body spotted at the courtyard of the house around 9:00pm. Rabijal's body bore some marks of injury, police said.

BARGUNA-2 BY-ELECTION

Nomination papers of 2 found valid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Election Commission (EC), after scrutiny on Saturday, cancelled nomination papers of two independent candidates in Barguna-2 by-election for not following the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

They are Prof Humayun Kabir Hiru and Abdus Sobhan.

The EC declared valid nomination papers of two other candidates. They are Shawkat Hasanur Rahman Rimon of Awami League and Golam Sarwar Hiru of Islami Andolan Bangladesh.

The last date for withdrawal of nomination paper is September 15. The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is boycotting the by-election slated for October 3.

The parliamentary seat fell vacant following the death of AL lawmaker

Golam Sabur Tulu in a road accident on July 26 this year.

The nomination paper of Prof Humayun Kabir Hiru was cancelled as he failed to provide all necessary information with affidavit signed by a first class gazetted officer or notary public as per Article 12 of RPO, said Mustafa Faruk, Barisal regional election officer and returning officer of the by-election.

Nomination paper of Abdus Sobhan was cancelled as he failed to submit signatures of one percent of the total voters to become eligible for contesting the by-poll, the returning officer added.

Regional election office sources said as many as 2, 31,003 voters are expected to cast their votes in the by-poll in Barguna-2 constituency, comprising Patharghata (1, 04,368 voters), Bamna (47,926 voters) and Betagi (78,709 voters) upazilas.

ACUTE GAS CRISIS

Highway blocked, Titas office besieged in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

People of the district town blocked Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday, demanding smooth gas supply to houses.

They also brought out a procession and besieged the office of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited in the town to press their demand.

The protesters who participated in the programmes said the townspeople have been facing acute gas crisis for over a year.

Due to poor gas supply, locals could not prepare food which compelled them to use earthen oven in their kitchens.

We have been giving bill for long despite low or no supply of gas, said.

If the authorities did not take any steps to improve the situation, the townspeople will stop payment of gas bill, the protesters warned.

Demanding gas supply at least two times a day, they also threatened to go for tougher programmes if the demand was not met immediately.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner in favour of their demand and sent its copies to relevant departments.

Contacted, manager of

the regional office of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited M Sirajul Islam said that his office already wrote to the higher authorities for an immediate solution.

He also assured the protesters that the situation would improve within the next 10 to 15 days.



PHOTO: STAR
Locals block Dhaka-Aricha road in front of the regional office of Titas Gas at Jagir in Manikganj town yesterday demanding gas supply to residential houses in the area.

50 Jamaat-Shibir men sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A case was filed on Friday against 50 activists of Jamaat-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir following a clash between the activists of Jamaat-Shibir and Chhatra League in Sarsha upazila head-quarter on Thursday.

Sarsha upazila unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) president Rahim Sardar on Friday night filed the case against 24 named men and 26 unnamed ones in this connection.

According to police, several hundred activists of Chhatra Shibir gathered in front of local Jamaat office on Kazirber Road in Navaron area for bringing out a procession at about 10:00am on Thursday.

At the same time, a group of BCL activists brought out a procession from nearby Navaron Bazar.

At one stage, Shibir activists hurled several crude bombs on the BCL procession, triggering a clash that left nine people injured from both sides.

HUMAN CHAIN

AM College students demand arrest of Afsari's killer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A human chain was formed in front of Government Ananda Mahan College in the town yesterday, demanding immediate arrest of the alleged killer of a female student at the college.

Bangladesh Mohila Parishad Mymensingh unit organised the programme attended by teachers and students of different colleges in the town.

On September 1, Abdus Samad Raju, a fourth year student of the college and son of Abdus Salam of the town, allegedly hit Afsari Akhtar Swarna, 17, a first year student of the institution, with a brick, leaving her critically injured at the botanical garden of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU).

Swarna was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital where she died on September 6.

The participants expressed concern as police were yet to arrest Raju. They threatened to stage a sit-in in front of police superintendent's office if Raju was not arrested by today.

They also urge the college authorities to cancel Raju's studentship by today.

Among others, chairman of Bangla Department at the college prof Ratan Siddique, and president of the Mahila Parishad unit Ferdous Ara Mahmuda Helen, spoke.

Contacted, Golam Sarwar, officer in-charge of Kotwali police station, said police were raiding different areas to arrest the accused.

Earlier, a case was filed with the police station in connection with the killing.