

Santals at Khalippur still under threat of attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 60 Santal families of Khalippur village in Nawabganj upazila of the district are still under constant threat of attack by the culprits who physically assaulted four indigenous people of the village on May 9.

The villagers, including the school going children, have stopped going outside the village, fearing fresh attack. They are guarding the

village round-the-clock to prevent any further attack by the criminals who recently got bail from a court in the case for May 9 incident.

"We don't feel safe as the accused are threatening us for filing a criminal case against them," said Ilias Soren of the village.

Locals said a gang led by Mahbubur Rahman, an influential man of Kazipara village, swooped on four indigenous people when they were loading their paddy onto a tractor at the

village on May 9 and beat them up with iron rods and wooden sticks. The attackers also hung the four from a banyan tree and brutally tortured them, they added.

The victims are Som Soren, Babulal Soren, Sonaram Tudu and Bablu Soren. Their hands, legs and other parts of the body were badly injured. Villagers said the victims returned home from hospital recently without completing their full course of treatment for want of money.

The victims alleged that a motive of grabbing their cultivable land is the reason behind the attack.

Sonaram, one of the torture victims, filed a case with Nawabganj Police Station on May 14, accusing eight people. The accused are Mahbubur Rahman and Hafizur Rahman, sons of late Nur Islam, Md Kalam and Nur Islam, son of late Kawser, Rafiqul Islam, son of late Ansar Ali, Rezaul Islam, son of late Mofa Mia, and Atul Mia and his son Khorsheed Ali. They all are from Khalippur-Kazipara village.

Mahbub was arrested on May 26 while the rest seven were at large. They all were granted bail by a court recently.

Advocate Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Shalish Kendra and former adviser to the caretaker government, visited Khalippur village on May 31. During the visit, she talked with the victims. She urged government to ensure security of the indigenous people.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous People Forum, Khandaker Rezwanul Karim, programme manager of Manusher Jonno Foundation, and Prof Nur Mohammad Talukder of Bangladesh Agriculture University, visited the village and talked with the victims Wednesday afternoon. Sanjeeb gave the victims Tk 39,000 for their treatment.



Khalippur village in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur wears a deserted look as most of the members of 60 Santal families of the village stay inside their houses, fearing fresh attacks by the criminals who brutally tortured four members of the community on May 9. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR



People of Munshiganj Sadar upazila bring out a procession in the town yesterday, demanding capital punishment for Nazmul and his accomplices who killed Afroza Akhter Shanta, a student of Government Haraganga College in Munshiganj, three days into her abduction.

PHOTO: STAR

3 housewives murdered in two districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three housewives have been murdered allegedly by their husbands and in-laws over family feud and dowry in Jamalpur and Netrokona districts.

A woman was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Sengua village in Sarishabari upazila of Jamalpur on Sunday evening, reports our correspondent.

The deceased is Jesmin, 25, second wife of Mukul, a local businessman and daughter of Rafiqul Islam, a farm labourer.

Family sources said, Jesmin, a divorcee married Mukul about a year ago.

After a few months of their marriage, Mukul started to torture Jesmin in a bid to get rid of her and marry someone else. Sensing her husband's ill intention, Jesmin tried to stop him but in vain.

On Sunday, at one stage of their altercation over some family matters, Mukul beat up Jesmin indiscriminately, leaving her dead.

After killing his wife, Mukul allegedly managed to establish the murder as an unnatural death and buried the body, locals said.

Despite several attempts over cell phone, Billal Uddin, officer in-charge of Sarishabari Police Station could not be reached for his version.

Contacted, Nazrul Islam, Superintendent of Police in Jamalpur, said none had filed any complaints in this regard.

Away in Netrokona, a housewife was killed by her in-law allegedly over a family feud at Kandapara village in Kalmakanda upazila of the district on Sunday night.

The deceased is Nasima Akther, 30, wife of Billal Hossain of the village, reports our correspondent.

Abdul Karim, OC of Kalmakanda PS, said an altercation took place between Nasima and her husband's younger brother Abdul Hannan over sharing of their family properties. At one stage, Hannan got furious and hacked Nasima with an axe, leaving her dead around 8:00pm.

Meanwhile, a housewife, who was tortured allegedly by her husband for dowry at Monang village in Sadar upazila on Monday, died at Sadar Hospital on Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Rina Akter, 32, wife of Saiful Islam of the village, reports UNB.

Rina's brother Fazlur Rahman said his sister had been married off to Saiful a few years back.

One year after their marriage, Rina's husband and his family members stated to put pressure on her for dowry and torture her mentally and physically.

Saiful had an altercation with Rina over the issue on Monday evening. At one stage, Saiful beat Rina up mercilessly, leaving her

CHAR PEOPLE'S SHELTER

Earthen 'killa' to save life and property

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

The people of remote Kisamoter Char in Teesta River basin area in Dimla upazila under the district are happy to have a spacious earthen 'killa' to take shelter for saving life and property during devastating floods, thanks to the initiative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Locals use the word 'killa' to indicate a safe place made with earth and sand, which is higher than usual floodwater level and provides shelter for people in time of flood.

During the rainy season, Indian authorities open all the gates of its Gozaldoba barrage in the upstream of the Teesta River and heavy onrush of water hits Kisamoter Char in Khaga Kharibari union of Dimla

upazila, causing serious floods that wash away houses, properties and cattle and make people run for safeshelter.

In absence of any safe place, not even a school building, people take shelter on roofs of houses or on floating rafts and live there for days, even weeks, said locals.

To mitigate their sufferings, concerned union parishad (UP) and upazila administration submitted a proposal to the UNDP office in Dhaka, seeking assistance for making sustainable remedy for flood victims, said sources at Dimla upazila administration.

Under its Compressive Disaster Management Programme in 2013-2014 fiscal year, UNDP approved the proposal for building a killa and a connecting road and renovation of two

flood protection earthen embankments in the same union at a cost of Tk 74 lakh.

The three-month-long work for construction of the 290-foot-long, 190-foot-wide and 6.5-foot high killa was completed under the monitoring of UNDP officials last month.

A large pond dug nearby to manage earth for the purpose can now be used for fish cultivation, said upazila officials.

"Floods visit our area every year. We now feel safer as the killa has been made in our char," said Abdul Motin Manik, 60, an inhabitant of Kisamoter Char.

All the 220 families of the char can take shelter with their belongings at the killa, said Khoga Khoribari UP Chairman Rabiul Islam Lithon, also president of the project committee.



A newly constructed earthen 'killa', a safe place higher than usual floodwater level, at Kisamoter Char in Teesta River basin area in Dimla upazila of Nilphamari. UNDP provided financial, technical and monitoring support for construction of the shelter for people of the area in times of flood.

PHOTO: STAR

Youth to die for killing schoolgirl

Body of 'missing' schoolgirl recovered in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A court here yesterday sentenced a youth to death for killing a schoolgirl of class VII in Sadar upazila in 2011.

Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court Judge Dr ABM Mahmudul Haque handed down the verdict in presence of the convict Raju Mia, 26, son of Moshirur Rahman of Bokultala-Namatari village of the upazila.

According to the prosecution, Raju had long been trying to woo Shahnaj Parvin Bithi, 13, daughter of Shahidul Islam of Paglapir area of the upazila which she turned down.

On December 27, 2010, Raju picked up Bithi on her way to school and took her to Jigatala area of the capital, where he confined the girl at a house for about three and half months.

The girl's family members rescued her from the capital on April 7, 2011 and her father filed an abduction

and rape case accusing Raju of April 9 with Sadar Police Station.

Aggrieved with the filling of the case Raju stormed into Bithi's house and stabbed her indiscriminately with a kitchen knife on April 27, leaving her dead on the spot.

In Natore, body of a schoolgirl was recovered from Bogatipara upazila on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Informed by locals, police recovered the schoolgirl's body, which bore marks of stabbing, from a jungle at Panka village in the upazila in the afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Lucky Akhter, a class X student of Panka High School.

The family members of the deceased said lucky went out of the house on Tuesday evening and did not return home since then.

Police arrested one Tufan for his alleged involvement in the killing.

SIRAJGANJ DISTRICT

Extortionists of outlawed parties target bankers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Bank officers of Sirajganj district are passing time amid worry as extortionists in the name of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP -- Janajuddha faction) have demanded huge amounts from several managers of Sonali Bank and Agrani Bank branches in the district.

In this regard, 10 GDs -- four in Shahzadpur police station, two each in Tarash, Belkuchi and Sirajganj Sadar police stations under the district were filed last week.

According to the GDs, one Hatkata Biplob introducing himself as the commander of PBCP (Janajuddha) called the bank managers and demanded money, saying that their men were injured in a gunfight with police and so, they needed money for treatment, said Hasan Shamim Iqbal, officer in charge of Shahzadpur police station.

The extortionists also warned of dire consequences to the bank managers and their families in case of failure to give the money, he said.

"The so-called Janajuddha commander demanded Tk 2 lakh from me on June 2. We the bank officials are worried due to the repeated threat from outlaws," said Ratan Kumar Sarkar, manager of Shahzadpur branch of Agrani Bank.

Most of the threatened bank managers in the district, however, declined to say anything about this matter.

SM Emran Hossain, superintendent of police of Sirajganj, said, "Police is investigating the matter and trying to find out the criminals through mobile tracking. There is also possibility that some bank loan defaulters might have done the evil act to prevent the bank authorities' attempt to recover loans."



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Mahila Sangstha forms a human chain at Kalgari in Bogra town yesterday, protesting child marriage. Similar campaign against early marriage was also arranged in other districts across the country.

We Mourn



With sheer sorrow, we mourn the sudden demise of Mr. Md. Anwar Jamil Siddiqui, Director - AB Bank Limited.

We, from Otobi family, express our truest grief. We have no words to console his nearest and dearest ones at this moment. We extend our deepest sympathy and sincerest condolences to his wife, three sons, his daughter, and all his friends and well wishers who mourn his departure with us.

We pray to the Almighty Allah (SWT) to grant the departed soul eternal peace and salvation.

otobi

OTOBI Family