

Lessees build shops in pond violating rules

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Relatives allegedly of some local leaders of the ruling party have built illegal structures, grabbing two sides of a 300-year-old pond owned by the district council in Nazirpur upazila of the district. Locals said, Zaminder Rudro Narayan Roy Chowdhury dug the pond on over 82 decimal of land at Joypur village to provide drinking water for local people. After partition in 1947, the district took control of the pond and had been leasing out the water body to locals every year for fish cultivation. Last year, relatives of some ruling party men leased the eastern and southern sides of the pond from the district council. As they tried to fill up the two sides of the pond to build shops, villagers and local newsmen raised voice against the

move. In the face of strong protest, the lessees had to postpone the plan. Last month, they again tried to build shops on both sides of the pond, but the district council did not allow them to do it. Backed by local ruling party men, the lessees finally started building shops on two sides of the pond a week ago. While visiting the area on Friday, this correspondent found that 26 shops have already been made, encroaching upon the water body. Nobody dared to protest, fearing backlash by the ruling party men. This correspondent could not talk to District Council Administrator advocate Akram Hossain Khan as he is sick. Locals said, Nazirpur upazila AL General

Secretary Md Mosarraf Hossain Khan, also brother of district administrator Akram Hossain Khan, and upazila AL President MA Malek Bepari are backing the land grabbers. They have already allotted shops to some locals, taking money from them, villagers alleged. Refuting the allegation, both AL leaders said that the district council gave possession of the shops to some locals. Contacted, Md Mokbul Hossain, chief executive officer of the district council, said former chief executive officer Md Golam Mostafa leased the two sides of the pond to build structures, violating the rules of the district council. "We will take necessary measures to stop building structures in the water body," Mokbul Hossain said.



PHOTO: STAR

Allegedly backed by local ruling party men, lessees are building structures, encroaching upon the pond near Kalibari richshaw stand at Joupur village in Nazirpur upazila of Pirojpur district.

Girl 'abducted, gangraped for 5 days' rescued

Main accused threatening victim's mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A teenage girl of the district town has allegedly been abducted and gangraped for five days. The family members rescued the Class VI girl on Saturday afternoon from a house of one Jobed Ali at Lohagara village in Pirganj upazila with the help of their relatives. Now the victim is undergoing treatment at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital in critical condition. Mother of the girl, also wife of a tractor driver Aiyub Ali, of Goalpara village told this correspondent at Thakurgaon Police Station early yesterday that Sumon, 24, son of a fruit trader at Kalibari Bazar and resident of Nischintapur in the municipality, used to tease her for the last six weeks on her way to school. Sumon also made a proposal which was turned down by the girl. About 15/20 days ago, Sumon offered the girl Tk. 2,000 for purchasing a cell phone. As she refused, Sumon and his two accomplices allegedly threatened to throw acid on her. At this, the girl asked her mother to go back to their village home at Salondar in Sadar upazila where from they had come to the town about 7/8 years ago and rented a house at Goalpara. Fearing untoward incident anytime, the girl's parents shifted to another rented house in the same area about 20 days ago. But Sumon traced out the girl's house and again started to tease her. On 14 October, at about

6:00pm, Sumon and his two accomplices -- Sohel Rana, 27, of Bosirpara and Nadim, 25, of Bazarpara in the municipality area -- came to the victim's house and forcibly took the girl to a mess at Boshirpara in the town. On the same night they gangraped her there. As the condition of girl deteriorated due to bleeding, the rapists took her to Sumon's relative Jobed Ali's house in Pirganj upazila on 15 October. The culprits raped the girl for four more days at the house. Meanwhile, the victim's mother was able to contact Sumon over cell phone and trace out the spot. Later she rescued the girl on Saturday and filed a case with Thakurgaon police station against Sumon, 24, Sohel Rana, 27, Nadim, 25, and Jobed Ali, 35, in this connection yesterday. Investigation officer Abdul Mannan said, immediately after getting the complaint of rape on Saturday afternoon, police raided the mess at Bashirpara and arrested Sohel Rana. The victim told this correspondent at the hospital yesterday that the three abductors raped her repeatedly for five days. Gynecologist at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital Dr. Khurshid Jahan said that the minor girl fell sick due to bleeding. She is undergoing treatment and hopefully will recover soon, she added. Meanwhile, the mother of the victim alleged that the main accused was threatening the family of dire consequences for filing the case.

Relatives beat up hospital staffs as patient dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Four staffs of Habiganj district Sadar Hospital were assaulted by the aggrieved relatives after a patient died on Saturday. The attendants of deceased Shafiu Alam Rahi, a local JCD activist, also vandalised the hospital. Protesting the attack, the staffs observed a four-hour work abstention from Saturday night, said sources. Physicians at the hospital advised the relatives of Rahi, who took an overdose of sleeping pills at 2:30pm, referred him to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital as his condition deteriorated. But blaming the hospital authorities for refusing treatment, the patient's attendants became very furious and assaulted four staffs, including medical officer Dr Debashish Das, at one stage. Rahi was declared dead at 7:00pm soon after he was shifted to a local private hospital in the district, said resident medical officer Dr Mohsin Karim.

KILLING OF PABNA COLLEGE BOY 15 sued, supporters of accused BCL leader block roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Fifteen people have been sued on charge of killing a college student at Jalalpur village in Pabna Sadar upazila on Saturday. Meanwhile locals put up barricades on Pabna-Dhaka highway at Jalalpur Bazar yesterday, demanding withdrawal of the case against BCL leader Jinnah Mondol. They blocked traffic on the road for an hour from 11:30am with burning tyres. Being informed, police went to the spot and removed the barricades. The victim, Saiful Islam, 22, son of Jobbar Biswas of Char Varara in the upazila, was a first-year student of social science at Government Edward College, Pabna. Saiful was beaten to death allegedly by the relatives of his friend's girlfriend at the village. They also beat up Saiful's friend Jony Biswas, 22. Md Yunus Ali, uncle of the slain college boy filed the case

with Pabna Police Station on Saturday night. Jony's girlfriend Kona Khatun, her father Abul Kalam, brother Md Jewel and President of Goyeshpur union unit of BCL Jinnah Mondol are among the accused. Police arrested Kona's father Abul Kalam soon after filing of the case while the rest of the accused had gone into hiding. According to the case statement, Jony had affair with Kona, but her family did not approve of the relationship. On Friday night, Kona's relatives picked up Saiful and Jony from Pabna bus terminal and brought them to Jalalpur Government Primary School playground. They beat them with sticks and hammer, leaving them critically injured. Locals took the duo to Pabna Medical College Hospital, where Saiful succumbed to his injuries on Saturday.

Students want post-graduate courses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Honours and degree (pass) students of Brahmanbaria Government College formed a human chain on the campus and then took out a procession in the town yesterday to press their demand for opening post-graduate courses on 13 subjects at the college. At least 15,000 students of 13 honours departments and degree (pass) students joined the human chain programme at around 11:00am and then paraded the main street in the district. The students alleged that the college authorities had earlier submitted several petitions to the National University, seeking permission to introduce postgraduate courses at the college, but to no effect. The honours and degree (pass) students also submitted a memorandum to local lawmaker RAM. o b a i d u l M u k t a d i r Chowdhury to take necessary steps to introduce postgraduate courses on 13 subjects.

SNIPPETS

Dried turtles seized on border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Birampur police seized at least 60kg of dried turtles from bordering Aymaraspur village in the upazila on Saturday evening. Police, however, failed to arrest anyone in this connection. Md Mominul Islam, officer in-charge of Birampur Police Station, said being tipped-off, a team raided the village around 7:30pm and seized 60kg of dried turtle from a field at the village in an abandoned condition.

PCJSS man held, arms seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Police in a drive arrested an alleged cadre of Parbatta Chattagram Jono Sanghaty Samity (PCJSS, MN Lama Faction) along with a foreign made revolver and five bullets from Karbaripara area in Guimara upazila of the district yesterday morning. The arrestee, Kishore Kumar Tripura, 30, son of Dhirandra Kumar Tripura, was a resident of Baillyachhari area of the upazila. Sheikh Md Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of police in Khagrachhari, said on secret information, a police team raided the area and arrested Kishore along with the arms, ammo and an illegal toll collection book.

Missing kid found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidaha

Police recovered the body of a minor boy from Ghighati village in Shaikupa upazila on Saturday night. The deceased is Pranto, 8 son of Asadul Islam of the village. Anwar Hossain, officer in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station, said Pranto went missing around 9:00pm from a neighbour's house after he went there along with his mother. Locals, after a frantic search, spotted his body in a nearby ditch and informed police.

Students boycott classes, exams

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Students of Noakhali University of Science and Technology boycotted their classes and exams yesterday to press home their various demands, including ensuring regular classes and holding exams on due time. They also brought out an agitation rally on the campus protesting session jams in several departments of the university. Meanwhile, students of Computer Science, Microbiology, Economics and Environmental Science departments locked their academic building and boycotted their semester final exams yesterday. Contacted, Professor Abul Hossain, acting vice-chancellor, said he is not empowered to pass any order regarding the students issues. Earlier, former Vice-Chancellor Professor AKM Sayedul Haque Chowdhury handed over his charges to the acting VC, after the end of his tenure on September 26.

'Robbers' kill teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A gang of masked 'robbers' shot a school teacher dead and injured four of his family members while committing a robbery at their house in Digarh Pankhali area in Chokoria upazila early yesterday. The deceased is Narayan Das, 30, a teacher of MH Nurul Adarsha High School in Lohagara upazila of Chittagong. Narayan's parents—Injured Praphullah Das, 70, and Chanchala Das, 65, and brother Shankar Das, 22, and niece Depa Das, 2, -- were admitted to Chokoria Upazila Health Complex. Police quoted the family members as saying that a gang of 12 to 15 masked robbers swooped on the house by breaking open the door around 2:30am. As they tried to resist the gang, the robbers shot Narayan in his chest and beat up four others. Narayan was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries around 4:00am, said Provash Chandra Dhar, officer in-charge of Chokoria Police Station.

Housewife found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was found dead in Kaharol upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased is Beauty Begum, 26, wife of Md Yousuf Ali of Dabor village. She was mother of two children. Locals found the body floating in a pond around 12:00pm and informed police who sent it to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy. The reason behind the death could not be known immediately, said Prethish Kumar Sarker, officer in-charge of Kaharol police station.

Fire at cotton mills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A fire broke out at Maa Cotton Mills in Gobindaganj yesterday, gutting goods worth Tk 25 lakh. The fire originated at the mills and soon engulfed the adjoining two houses. On information, fire fighting units from Gaibandha and Sonatola rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after two hours of hectic efforts. The fire gutted nine rooms and two go-downs at the mills, said its owner Jaharul Islam.

HUGE HUMAN CHAIN IN PIROJPUR

'Bring to justice those who killed Eti after rape'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Hundreds of students from different educational institutions of the upazila yesterday formed a 40km-long human chain in Mathbaria upazila headquarters demanding punishment to the rapists and killers of a nine-year-schoolgirl.

Combined Teachers' Association (CTA), a teacher's welfare body, and students from 167 schools, madrasas and colleges, jointly formed the human chain on Jhautola Bazaar-Mathbaria headquarter- Sapleza Bazaar road around 11:00am.

Mostafa Zaman Khan, convener of CTA, Jahangir Hossain, president of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission district unit, Ashrafur Rahman, chairman of Mathabaria Upazila Parishad, UNO Ahsan Habib, and

victim's father Phool Mia took part in the two-hour long programme.

The speakers at the human chain demanded exemplary punishment of the rapists and killers of Class III student Fatima Akhter Eti.

On October 6, body of the 9-year-old student of Bukhitoila Bandhobpara Hatemiya Government Primary School, was found near her school ground after she went missing the previous day.

Police arrested Sumon, 18, a cousin of the deceased, and Sawpon, 22, in this connection, following a case filed by the father of the girl.

Nasiruddin Mallik, officer in-charge of Mathbaria Police Station, said in primary quizzing Sumon confessed to killing the minor girl after rape.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals join a 40-km-long human chain in Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur district yesterday, demanding capital punishment to the rapists and killers of Fatima Akhter Eti, a class three student of Bandhobpara Hatemiya Government Primary School in the upazila.