

UP member sued for 'molesting girl'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

The family of a girl, who was allegedly molested by a union parishad member in Munshiganj on August 30, filed a case against him on Thursday.

Following the case, police yesterday detained a local woman Sheuli Begum. However, the main accused Jahangir Talukdar, Joinsar UP member, was not held till last night.

The third-grader on her way home was taken to Jahangir's house by Shueli, mother of one of her classmates, the girl's mother told The Daily Star.

Later, Jahangir sexually harassed her and threatened her with dire consequences if she discloses it to anyone, said the mother.

Md Yeardous Hasan, officer-in-charge of the Serajdi Khan Police Station, said they were trying to arrest Jahangir, who was on the run.



A farmer dries jute after washing it in a pond in Kaliganj of Gazipur. Farmers are hopeful that they will receive a higher price for jute this year compared to last year -- Tk 1,800 to Tk 2,000 per mound. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Woman hands husband over to police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A woman handed her husband over to police for his alleged involvement in human trafficking on Thursday night at Benapole check post.

The arrestee was Lavu Sardar, 33, of Lohagara upazila in Narail.

Lavu's wife said they had married five years back. Three years into their marriage, Lavu asked her to travel with him to India.

In India, Lavu sold her to human traffickers, she claimed, adding that she managed to flee and return to Bangladesh about two months ago.

She said he also sold about five other women to human traffickers.

After she learned that Lavu came back to Bangladesh, she filed a complaint with Benapole Port Police Station.

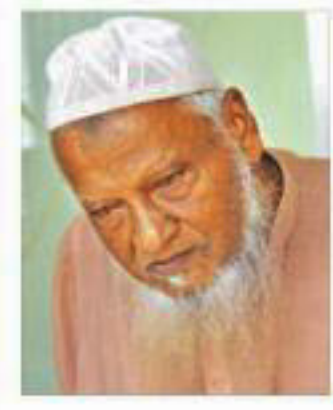
Rafiqul Islam, sub-inspector of the police station, said police arrested Lavu following her complaint.

War crimes suspect Amjad dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A war crimes suspect Amjad Ali yesterday died due to cardiac complications under police custody at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was 88.

Amjad was held on August 11 after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 issued arrest warrant against three war crime suspects of Mymensingh. According to investigation officer (IO) Ataur Rahman, Amjad was the advisor to the anti-liberation Razakar Bahini in Phulbaria. The IO in his investigation found involvement of the three in the killing of at least 50 people in 1971.



RIVER EROSION IN BHOLA
Hundreds of houses devoured by Meghna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Nearly 300 acres of croplands and 800 houses and shops were devoured by the river Meghna in Rajapur and Elisha unions in Sadar upazila of Bhola in the last fifteen days.

At least 40 villages in the upazila are at risk of the disaster, said locals.

Visiting some areas on Thursday and yesterday, The Daily Star found that cracks developed on the roads and land.

In last seven days, the river devoured two small villages, a mosque, the Islamic Foundation Hospital, three markets, two community clinics, Elisha Police Camp, and Taltoli Launch Terminal. Around 13 educational institutes are under threat.

The hospital was eaten up just in one day.

After the cyclone "Komen", the Meghna became "violent" from July 25 devouring a lot of land at that time, said locals.

Although Water Development Board put nearly 50,000 sand bags on the bank of the river to protect the areas, those were washed away by high tide and heavy current, said Abdul Hekim, executive engineer of WDB.

Now they will start dumping more bags carrying 10 times sand soon, he said.

According to him, heavy current of River Meghna developed cracks in 600 meters Bhola-Laxmipur Ferryghat road last year and the authority did not take any action though they arranged several movements to aware them.

The villagers arranged a mass prayers on August 28 on the river-bank at Uttar Ramdaspur so that the almighty save the upazila from river erosion, said Mohammad Yunus, acting chairman of Sadar upazila.



Saifur Rahman worked for country's dev
Speakers tell discussion marking his death anniversary today

CITY DESK

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman had worked for the economic development and wellbeing of the country and its people irrespective of any political calculation, said speakers yesterday marking the sixth death anniversary of the BNP top leader.

Saifur introduced stipends for female students, worked for education and VAT for the development of the people, said former chief election commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda at a discussion organised by Durro Samad Rahman and Saifur Rahman Foundation at Jatiya Press Club.

The foundation's Chairman and Saifur Rahman's son M Naser Rahman was in the chair where former governor of Bangladesh Bank Salehuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chairman Hafiz Ahmed Mazumder, former lawmakers Sultan Mohammad Mansur and Syed Moazzam Hossain Alal also spoke.

On this day in 2009, Saifur Rahman died in a road crash on Dhaka-Sylhet

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Dr M Mohiuddin Khan, a Language Movement hero and renowned physician of Sirajganj district, died of old-age complications in his Sirajganj town residence yesterday. He was 88, family sources said.

Mohiuddin, who belonged to Dhaka Medical College's second batch, left behind his two sons and three daughters.

He was arrested for participating in the Language Movement during his student life.

He was buried at Rahmatganj graveyard in Sirajganj town after Juma prayers following his namaz-e-janaza at Khan Saheb Eidgah.

His qulhwani will be held in his residence at Jubilee Bagan Lane in Sirajganj town today. His relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to join the qulhwani.



Villagers watch helplessly as the Meghna River devours Rajapur village in Bhola yesterday. The mighty river has been eating away its banks for the last 15 days.

PHOTO: STAR

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Abul Mansur was a literary giant

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with readers because of their relevance to today's society and politics.

In his paper, Dr Biswajit Ghosh of Dhaka University said Abul Mansur actually tried to instill his progressive ideas through his creative and political satires.

"He was against the religious fundamentalism and hypocrisy of both the Muslims and the Hindus. 'Food Conference' is but a reflection of the self interests of the then social and political leaders," he said.

In the second session, chaired by Professor Emeritus Dr Rafiqul Islam, columnist Syed Abul Maksud said as a journalist, Abul Mansur focused on the progress of the then backward Muslim society and wrote on how the Hindus and Muslims can together build a nation.

As a professional journalist and a political activist until the 1947 partition, Abul Mansur worked actively for the Krisak, Navajug, Ittehad, Soltan and the Mohammadi among other periodicals.

"Most of the newspapers he worked for were progressive. For example, Navajug and Ittehad played critical roles in inspiring the then Muslim youths," he said, adding that it was the reason the Pakistan government did not allow Ittehad to be published from East Bengal.

Journalist Abul Momen said Abul Mansur had very clear and sharp opinions on the progress of the Muslims.

Ittehad had many sections covering the issues

of women, literature, and entertainment and encouraged the Muslim youths to get into journalism. The ideals of democracy and non-communism were very strong in his writings, said Abul Momen.

Professor Emeritus Dr Rafiqul Islam said Abul Mansur's newspaper articles added new dimension to the language movement.

Journalist Muhammad Jahangir proposed publishing a compilation of Abul Mansur's newspaper articles relevant for today. He also suggested publishing his book "Amar Dekha Rajneetr Ponchash Bochhor" in English for a wider audience.

In the third session, chaired by Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Dr Abul Ahsan Chowdhury of Islamic University termed Abul Mansur an exceptional politician. Unlike the traditional politicians, Abul Mansur was a man true to his words, he said.

Abul Mansur, who started politics by joining the Khilafat Movement, became the acting prime minister of Pakistan in the Awami League government of Prime Minister Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy in 1957.

"He would learn of every aspect of society and politics -- diplomacy, palace conspiracy and the game of thrones, but never try to be involved in it. He was honest," said Dr Abul Ahsan.

Abul Mansur did not spare the mighty like Suhrawardy and Sher-e-Bangla in his political satires, he said, adding that he was connected

with the common people.

"We need to understand Abul Mansur deeply so we can be benefited from his wisdom," he said.

Prof Habib ar Rahman of Islamic University, Kushtia said the North and Northwestern Indians always looked down on the Indians of the East including Bengal.

"Abul Mansur was against such discrimination and on the side of the deprived," he said.

Lauding Abul Mansur Ahmad's role as editor of Ittehad, journalist Kamal Lohani said Ittehad was so progressive that it created discomfort among the newspapers favouring the Hindus.

Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan said Abul Mansur had a very sharp sense of logic, which he properly used in his literature, journalism and politics.

Abul Mansur Ahmad researchers Dr Morshed Shafiqul Hossain, Dr Chengis Khan, Dr Nurul Amin and Dr Mizanur Rahman also spoke.

On behalf of Abul Mansur Smriti Parishad and his families, Mahfuz Anam, son of Abul Mansur Ahmad and editor and publisher of The Daily Star, thanked all the participants, including speakers, panelists, and article writers for their contributions at the conference.

On the occasion, some original books of Abul Mansur Ahmad were republished, while Prothoma published a memorial book on him. An audio-visual presentation on him was also shown at the conference.

Shibir central leader held, 40 crude bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Law enforcers arrested a leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir at Shabgram in Bogra town on Thursday night.

Following his confessional statement, they also recovered 40 crude bombs and sharp weapons early yesterday.

Alauddin Shohel, student welfare secretary of Shibir's central committee, is accused in 52 sabotage, arson and vandalism cases filed during different har-tals.

A court placed him on five day remand yesterday.

Couple dies from electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A couple died after being electrocuted in Chapadal village under Badolghachi upazila of Naogaon early yesterday.

The deceased were Younus Ali, 58, and his wife Rina Khatun, 50, of the village.

Police said Younus was electrocuted as came in contact with a live electric wire in his poultry farm near his house. When Rina tried to save her husband she was also electrocuted.

Man 'kills' wife in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A woman was allegedly killed by her husband following a family feud in Naruli Dhaowapara of Bogra Sadar on Thursday night.

The deceased Shakila Khatun, 17, of the area was an HSC examinee.

Police said the husband Abdul Aziz was addicted and used to stay at his father-in-law's house as his parents did not accept their marriage.

Following the incident Aziz went into hiding, police added.

3 drug paddlers jailed in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three drug traders were jailed in Tangail yesterday.

In Sakhipur, Sanwar Hossain, 32, and Ashraful Islam, 28, were arrested in Kachua Bazar for possessing Yaba tablets and heroin, said police.

Later Ashraful was sentenced to two months' imprisonment while Sanwar was sent to jail following a case filing against him, police added.

Meanwhile in Ghatail, Habibur Rahman Habu, 25, was arrested with 400 Yaba tablets in Murayid Chakpara village and sent to jail following a case.

Bogra youth held with Yaba pills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Rab detained a drug trader with 70 pieces of Yaba tablets, money and two cell phones from Namajara area of Bogra town on Thursday night.

Touhid Sheikh, 24, of Sultangonj Hakimmore had been selling drugs in the district for a long time, Rab officials said.

On information, members of Ra-12 conducted a drive in the area and held him with Yaba tablets, cell phones and drug selling money, Tk 2,785, the officials added.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Saida Muna Tasneem presents her credentials to Crown Prince of Thailand Maha Vajiralongkorn at Ambara Palace last week. She presented the credentials to the crown prince as the Thai King Bhumibol Abulyadej was sick.

Syed Mohsin Ali hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali has been admitted to Birdem hospital in the capital.

Hospital sources said the minister was admitted to the hospital around 4:30am on Thursday with various complications, including pneumonia and kidney problems.

He also suffered a heart attack yesterday while undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital, said a duty doctor.

The minister has been kept under mechanical ventilation, he said requesting anonymity.

Four arrested with fake notes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Four people were arrested with fake Bangladeshi and Indian currencies in Bawra Bazar area of Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat on Thursday night.

The arrestees are Rahider Rahman, Babul Hossain of Jamgram village, Rashed Miah, of Nabinagar village and Abdul Latif, of Banshkata village.

On information, police raided a tea stall and arrested the four with three fake notes of Tk 1,000, one of Tk 500, another two fake notes of Rs 1,000 and Rs 100.

Fake doctor jailed in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A mobile court sentenced a fake physician to one-year imprisonment and fined Tk 15,000 in Thakurgaon Sadar on Thursday night.

Tipped-off, the court led by Executive Magistrate Rifat Ferdous raided New Green Life Diagnostic Centre, adjacent to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, and sentenced Asrafuul Makhluqat, 38, of Syedpur Danarhat for having no legal certificate.

The court also sealed off the diagnostic centre on charge of cheating patients.



Bangladesh's Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque and Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin sign a memorandum of understanding in Canberra city of Australia yesterday to work together to curb inter-country terrorism, and crimesthrough sharing expertise and information.

PHOTO: COLLECTE