

Man gets life for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his wife for dowry in 2003.

Judge Sharif Uddin Ahmed of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal delivered the verdict against Mohammad Sohrab Hossain, 40, son of Didar Hossain of Madarjani Purbopara village under Gopalpur upazila.

The court fined the convict Tk 10,000, in default, he will have to suffer three months more imprisonment, court sources said.

According to the prosecution, Sohrab killed his wife Champa Begum, 30, daughter of Moslem Sheikh of Pachtelilla village under Bhuapur upazila, in his house on October 28, 2003, as his demand for Tk 20,000 as dowry was not met.

The victim's elder brother Minhaz Uddin filed a case with Gopalpur Police Station the following morning.

5 get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhemidih

A Magura court yesterday sentenced five accused to life imprisonment and fine of Tk 10 thousand each, in default to spend six more months in jail, in the Azizar Rahman murder case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge in Magura Sayed Arafat Hossain pronounced the verdict.

The convicted are Sayed Rostom Ali, Habibur Rahman, Sayed Raja Mia, Md Idrish Ali and Saifar Rahman, all of Telepukur village under Mohammadpur upazila.

Seven other accused were acquitted as they were proved innocent. The prosecution said the accused hit Azizar Rahman of the village with sharp weapons on March 17, 2006, over giving money to the imam of Sayeedpara Jame-masjid. Azizar died on the way to hospital.



Farmer Omar Faruk, right, with District Fisheries Officer Shah Imam Jafar Sadeque, at the innovative shrimp farm at Shokher Bazar village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Freshwater shrimp farming sees success in Nilphamari

Farmer shows old age no barrier to innovation

EAM ASADUZZAMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

The English saying 'you can't teach an old dog new tricks' suggests that as people age they are less open to change, that they become set in their ways. Nilphamari farmer Omar Faruk, 60, from Shokher Bazar village in sadar upazila is busy proving the saying wrong. In the latter part of his farming life, this year he's established an innovative shrimp farm in fresh water, a first for the district.

Faruk has traditional aquaculture experience. He has a number of ponds surrounding his house where he raises by habit commonly cultivated fish species like rui, katol, mrigel, kalbaus and carp. He's done that for many years and in the process he established good relations with local fisheries department officials.

That's how he came to hear about the new "Shrimp Cultivation Extension Project in Fresh Water" government project, a project which itself challenges an

old age belief: that shrimps can only be grown in saline water. Faruk found the concept fascinating.

"Most farmers are confused," says district fisheries officer Shah Imam Jafare Sadeque. "They believe shrimp can only be cultivated in salt water. Readily we agreed to give Faruk all sorts of technical and material assistance to establish his project."

On the advice of fishery officials, Faruk emptied a two acre pond, levelled the bottom and refilled it, adding lime to remove acidity and afterwards bleach to purify the water. It would be his shrimp nursery.

"Our fisheries office supplied 12,000 shrimp fry, each about 1 centimetre in length in June 2015 at our cost," says Sadeque. "The aim was to grow the stock in his nursery pond into larger juveniles, after which Faruk sold some and released a good portion into his other ponds."

As shrimp like to live in the

deepest portion of the pond, there was nothing to prevent Faruk continuing his fish species cultivation, since many fish varieties prefer the middle layer of the pond and thus do not hinder the growth of the shrimp.

Faruk also learnt that shrimp are nocturnal, so in the evening and late at night he provides their food, adding palm leaves to the pond floor to provide some shelter for as they rest during the daytime.

Within 10 months of releasing the juvenile shrimp into the pond, they were ready for sale. "The shrimp were so good that just seven or eight of them weighed 1 kilogram. I harvested a total of 300 kilograms, selling them in phases through to last week of June this year. I earned Tk 2.5 lakhs."

Faruk earned additional profit from his fish stocks. The financial outcome of his fresh water experiment in shrimp farming was indeed welcome, as it enabled Faruk to fund his daughter's marriage last month.

His initial success has worked to stoke his enthusiasm further. This season he bought 20,000 more shrimp fry from a government nursery in nearby Parbotipur upazila to increase his own production and also to supply juvenile shrimp to other local farmers.

Indeed a number of previously unemployed shrimp have become interested in fresh water shrimp cultivation after witnessing Faruk's achievements. "I've leased a 2 acre pond to grow shrimp," says one unemployed youth Hamidul Islam from adjacent Angar Para village.

Gone are the days when the beliefs that shrimp could only be cultivated in saline water, and that the industry belonged solely to the southwestern part of Bangladesh, remain unchallenged. "Shrimp cultivation is a great success in this northern region," says the director of the government project Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam. "Omar Faruk is a pioneer. Even old age can't defeat him!"

SNIPPETS

Missing AL leader found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Md Moniruzzaman Mridha alias Monir, general secretary of Zianagar upazila unit of Awami League, has been rescued eight days after his missing. Mridha was found at Joypurhat railway station in senseless condition on Monday night, said AKM Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Zianagar Police Station. On information, police rescued him from the spot. He is now undergoing treatment at Pirojpur Sadar Hospital. Mridha went missing from Dhaka on July 17, two days after his arrival in the capital, said his daughter Shamima Nasrin Hasi. Later, two general diaries were filed with Indurkani PS and Gulshan PS in this connection.

Two held with Yaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police arrested two youths with 850 Yaba tablets from Shibdighi village in Ranishankoil upazila town on Monday. The arrestees are Md Sujan, 25, son of Md Shafiqullah of Nayanpur village, and Rafiqul Islam, 24, son of Lal Mia of Shibdighi village. On secret information, the law enforcers raided the area and arrested the duo with the Yaba. A case was filed in this connection, said Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Ranishankoil Police Station.

Land feud kills man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man was killed allegedly by his rivals over a disputed land at Shibpasa village in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj district on Monday. The deceased was Abdur Rashid, 55, son of Kurban Ali of the village. Police said there was a longstanding conflict between Rashid and his neighbor Nurul Amin over the land. A gang of 3/4 allegedly led by Nurul stabbed Rashid, leaving him seriously injured on Monday night. He later died on the way to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, said Mullah Monir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bahubal Police Station.

Kid dies from hornet bite

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A three-year-old boy died after being bitten by several hornets at Shibganj village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday. The victim is Jaker Ullah, son of Nasirul Islam of the village. Family members said the kid was playing at the courtyard of their house. At one stage, several hornets bit Jaker, leaving him seriously injured. He later died at a local hospital.

Mayor sued for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A murder case has been filed against 55 people, including Mathbaria Municipality Mayor Rafiuddin Ahmed Ferdous. Jakir Pandit, brother of slain Jubo League activist Liton Pandit, filed the case with Mathbaria Police Station on Monday night. They arrested two accused in the case, said Khandakar Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the PS. On Monday morning, Liton was killed in a clash between the men of Mathbaria Upazila Parishad Chairman Ashrafur Rahman and mayor Ferdous, also the president of the upazila unit of Awami League.



A boat moves with difficulty through water hyacinth infested Kaptai Lake.

PHOTO: STAR

Water hyacinth clogs Kaptai Lake

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Waterways in the district are becoming clogged up due to alarming increase of water hyacinth in Kaptai Lake, causing immense suffering to thousands of people in the six upazilas of the district.

"Due to the water hyacinth, it now takes one to two hours longer than usual to reach the destination by boat," said Milton Chakma, 34, a boatman.

Visiting the lake on Friday, this correspondent found some country boats waiting to cross on both sides of the lake near Macche Para, Suvolong, Sahos Banda and Charihong areas under Bondhuk Bhanga and Suvolong unions. They had to cross

one behind the other due to the water hyacinth. Students and locals have been suffering for the last five years due to the increase of water hyacinth, and emergency patients face huge problems to go to the union hospital.

"The increase of water hyacinth in the lake began around seven year ago," said Naba Ranjan Chakma, 40, newly elected member of Bondhuk Bhanga Union Parishad.

Soanli Chakma, a Class VI student at Bondhuk Bhanga High School, said, "We normally go to school by crossing the lake by boat from our village in around 20 minutes. But now it takes double the time due to increase of water hyacinth in the lake."

Sadhon Moni Chakma, 38, of Charihong village under the union, said, "We can't go to the weekly market due to this problem."

Md Masudul Hasan, deputy manager of Bangladesh Fisheries and Development Corporation (BFDC), Rangamati, said the increase of water hyacinth can cause loss of reproductive capacity of fish, resulting in a decrease in the production of fish in Kaptai Lake.

Suchurita Chakma, assistant professor Department of Botany, Rangamati Government College, said if water hyacinth covers the top of the lake, the aquatic plants and fish will suffer due to lack of oxygen. As a result they will not be able to produce food.

Housewife murdered for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was allegedly strangled to death for dowry in Nawabganj upazila of the district on Monday night, police said.

The deceased was identified as Laila Banu, 25, wife of Saddam Hossain of Sonajuri village under the upazila.

Her family members said Saddam Hossain often tortured his wife for dowry ever since they were married a year ago.

Locals said Saddam forced his wife out of their house a month ago as his demand for Tk 20,000 was not met. His in-laws later told him that they would give him the money, and sent Laila Banu back to her husband's home on Saturday.

The couple locked in quarrel over the issue on Monday night. At one stage, Saddam allegedly strangled his wife to death and fled the scene.

Illegal drugs seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized illegal drugs worth about Tk 47 lakh from Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat district early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the border guards raided Radhabari area around 3:00am and seized 1, 90,000 tablets.

However, none was arrested in this connection, said M Ashraf Ali, deputy director of BGB-3 Battalion.

RANGAMATI COURTS Infrastructure crisis causes case backlog

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The Rangamati District Judge's Court and the Judicial Magistrate's Court were established in Rangamati in 2008. The proceedings of the two courts are being run in the same building, resulting in a backlog of cases.

Advocate Mihir Baran Chakma, Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) Rangamati Judge's Court, said, "The main problem is a lack of infrastructure for judges and lawyers. There are only five rooms for 11 judges. Some lawyers stay in rented houses,

but they feel insecure. There should be residential arrangement for lawyers."

Md Rofikul Islam, 35, a litigant, who comes from Longudu upazila under Rangamati district, said, "There is no shed or public toilet outside the court for litigants."

"Many lawyers come from Chittagong town and, due to lack of residential facilities, sometimes they can't be present at the court. As a result, litigants suffer many problems, he added.

At present, 6,000 cases, including 350 murder cases, are pending in the

Rangamati Judge's Court. "A huge number of litigants come from rural area, and they face many problems," said Advocate Susmita Chakma.

Toshon Chakma, secretary, Zila Ayinjibi Samity, said, "We work here by turn with our clients, but it is very difficult due to the scarcity of space. The judges also work by turn, so we face very long delays in court."

Dipen Dewan, ex-judge said, "I urge the government to take immediate steps for building residences for judges and lawyers."

TIGER CUBS SURVIVE THIS TIME



PHOTO: COURTESY

Mother tiger and two 10-month-old cubs, one male and another female, relax at Bangabandhu Safari Park at Dulahazra in Cox's Bazar district. Authorities took measures including special nursing, diet, and monitoring through CC camera, to ensure proper growth of the cubs as earlier three cubs of the same tiger did not survive, said SM Golam Mowla, divisional forest officer, Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, Chittagong.