

Indigenous college boy found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Divers of Mymensingh Fire Brigade and Civil Defence recovered the body of an indigenous college student from a water body in Durgapur upazila of Netrakona yesterday.

The victim was Arnab Hajong, 18, a higher secondary student of Mymensingh Nasirabad College, and son of Sumon Hajong of Muktarpara area in the upazila.

On Eid vacation, Arnab went home from Mymensingh town and he along with some of his friends went to take a bath in the waterbody near his house on Saturday afternoon, said Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Durgapur Police Station.

At one stage, Arnab drowned in the deep water while his friends managed to swim ashore.

On information, the divers recovered the body from the water body the following day, said the OC.



Dulal Hossain takes care of his cauliflower seedbed at Chawratari border village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila after leaving his former profession. Earlier, he used to peddle drugs.

Son traceless in Malaysia

Father lodges complaint against trafficker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Family members of one of the victims who fell prey to a human trafficking gang active in shoal areas of Rangabali upazila, lodged a complaint against one of the suspected human traffickers.

They alleged that Shafiq Hawlader, acting superintendent of Rangabali Hamidia Rashidia Madrasa in Rangabali upazila and a resident of Kachiabunia village under the upazila is engaged in human trafficking.

He sends people to different countries, including Malaysia, on student visa offering high salary and opportunity by forging false certificates, they added.

"Taking advantage of illiteracy and unemployment, Shafiq offered me a job for my son promising a higher pay. He demanded Tk 4.3 lakh for sending my son to Malaysia, Fakhru Hawlader, father of the victim, said.

Instead of sending Sajal on a work visa, Shafiq sent him to Malaysia on January 14 on a student visa. Sajal has remained traceless since his arrival in Malaysia, Fakhru added.

Fakhru filed a general diary (GD) against Shafiq with Rangabali police on September 1.

On September 7, Mizanur Rahman Khan, father of another trafficked victim Obaidul Kabir submitted written complaints to Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and Anti-Corruption Commission.

Shafiq Hawlader could not be reached over phone for his comments despite repeated attempts.

Train kills couple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A young man and his wife were crushed to death under the wheels of a train at Talora railway station in Dupchanchia upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were Ariful Islam, 25, and his wife Hasina Begum, 22, residents of Debkhanda Moddayapara in the upazila.

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Dupchanchia Police Station, said Shantahar-bound Dolonchapa Express hit the couple when they were crossing the railway station.

Man found dead

Our Dinajpur Correspondent adds: Police recovered the hanging body of a man from Damuapara village in Parbatipur upazila of the district on Saturday.

The deceased was Azizul Islam, 46, son of late Foriz Uddin of the village.

Surrender gives the drug peddlers new lease of life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The drug peddlers who returned to normal life have started their new lives farming vegetables and doing different household activities in a drug-free environment at the border villages.

They have not only returned to normal lives leaving their former profession but are conducting campaigns against drug abuse, smuggling, peddling and transporting.

There are at least 250 drug smugglers, peddlers and transporters in eight villages in the upazila. Of them, 85 have surrendered, 80 have been arrested and 85 have gone into hiding, police said.

Residents of Chawratari village said they are now living in a drug-free society where a month ago the locality was polluted due to drugs. "We don't know how long this environment will last if they go back to their anti-social activities," the villagers said. They hope the

law enforcing agencies will continue their vigilance on the peddlers for their sustainable drug-free environment.

Bakul Hossain, 48, once known as a drug smuggler has started farming vegetables. "I have come back to normal life with the help of police. Smuggling drugs brings handsome profit but did not bring any peace, brought only insult and hate from the society," he said, adding that he is now happy and will never go back to the illegal ways.

Dulal Hossain, 38, said he always lived in fear when he was engaged in smuggling drugs from India, but he is not afraid today as he has returned to normal life and started farming vegetables leaving aside the anti-social activities, he said. Promising to uproot drugs from his village, Dulal said if anybody tries to smuggle drugs he would stand against him or her.

Mogholhat Union Parishad Chairman Habibur Rahman said drug

smugglers, peddlers, users and transporters crowded the border villages in his union a month ago, but the villages are now drug-free. The former drug peddlers have started earning in an honest way as they realised illegal trades never gives happiness and peace, he added.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shafiqul Islam said the surrendered drug peddlers who own land have started farming vegetables and those who have no land will be taken under social safety-net programme.

Lalmonirhat Superintendent of Police SM Rashidul Haque said police are keeping watch on the surrendered drug peddlers in the border areas.

"If any one goes back to the illegal trade, we will, of course, take stern action against him immediately," Rashidul said, adding that drives against drugs would continue in the district.

Another victim of savagery

SI closed for not taking action against criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

With his hands tied behind him, he was beaten mercilessly for 'stealing' T-shirt and trouser from a mess in Thakurgaon town.

The 19-year-old boy screamed for help but the brutes laughed at him.

On Saturday, a group of local youths including Rasel and Sujun tortured Ramjan Ali in front of Amader Bazar shopping centre in the town, bringing charge of stealing T-shirt and trouser against him, alleged the victim's father Hasibul Islam.

Rasel and Sujun, employees of a local cable operator, picked up Ramjan from in front of their mess in Hazipara-Shimultola area of the town around 10:30am on charge of stealing the clothes, said a local youth wishing anonymity.

Later, they brought the boy to in front of the office of Shitol Cable Network at the shopping centre, he said.

The duo along with some other youths tied his hands behind him and beat him with firewoods mercilessly while another enthusiastic offender was seen taking snaps and videoing the scene, said the victim's father Hasibul, quoting the young witness.

On information, a police team led by Sub-Inspector Sirajuddoula of Thakurgaon Police Station went to the spot and rescued the boy but they did not take action against the offenders, he added.

After giving primary treatment, police took Ramjan into their custody and later handed him over to his father.

Rasel and Sujun claimed that Ramjan stole a T-shirt and a trouser from their mess in the morning.

Meanwhile, the SI was closed for 'not taking action' against the torturers of the teenage boy.

Sirajuddoula was closed to the district Police Lines on Saturday evening after the allegation was brought against him, said Additional Superintendent of Police Dewan Lalon Ahmed.

The victim's father filed a case accusing at least nine people, including Rasel, 23, of Dhangipukur village, and Sujun, 24, of Tiariagon village in Sadar upazila, said Moshir Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The accused went into hiding soon after the incident, said the OC.

Brisk business in deep freezers, refrigerators ahead of Eid

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Sale of refrigerators and deep freezers has risen sharply in Bogra and Pirojpur ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, a festival marked by sacrifice of animals.

In Bogra, hundreds of buyers are crowding the showrooms selling local and foreign refrigerators and deep freezers.

Showroom sources said 30-35 refrigerators are being sold daily, whereas only 2/3 are sold per day during the rest of the year. Twice as many deep freezers have been sold just before Eid than the rest of the year.

The prices of refrigerators and deep freezers range between Tk 15 thousand and Tk 80 thousand.

Visiting Sherpur road, Thana road, Gohail road, Shatmatha, Borogola, Mohila College road and Chelopara area, this correspondent saw that around 50 showrooms of Butterfly, LG, Walton, Myone and other companies in Bogra were crowded with customers.

A customer at an LG showroom in Shatmatha area Ali Ahmed said he wanted to buy a new refrigerator before Eid. A female customer at the Walton company showroom said she wanted to buy a locally made refrigerator. Hasan Ali of Bagbari under Gabtoli upazila said he needed to preserve beef for his relatives as they are abroad.

An official of LG Butterfly in Shatmatha Ashif Ahmed said sale of refrigerators doubles during two weeks before Eid-ul-Azha. Sale of other items like ovens also increases ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, he added.

Shovon Ahmed of Singer said sale of deep freezers and refrigerators has increased due to Eid and high temperatures.

Sale of refrigerators has increased ahead of Eid-ul-Azha in Pirojpur district town and the upazilas.

Huge numbers of buyers were seen going to different electronic showrooms like Singer, LG Butterfly, Rangs,

Walton and Vision electronics for buying refrigerators. Middle class people were also visiting the non-branded electronic showrooms as their prices are less compared to branded products.

"Refrigerator sale has been good at our showroom from the beginning of this month," said Md Abdul Hannan, manager of Walton Plaza in Pirojpur. He added that they sell over 60 refrigerators every day, and the prices are affordable.

"My wife has come with me to choose the colour and size of the refrigerator," said Abdul Mannan, a buyer. "I will buy it after comparing the refrigerators in different showrooms," he added.

People are buying refrigerators mostly for storing kurban meat. Another reason is that they can pay in installments. Besides, different electronic companies have announced various offers for their products, sellers said.



A youth beats 19-year-old Ramjan Ali mercilessly on theft charge while another films the scene of brutality at Amader Bazar Shopping Centre in Thakurgaon town.

PHOTO: STAR



Students of Nurar Potal Government Primary School cross the bamboo bridge over the Lohagora-Kodomtoli canal risking their lives. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

'Build concrete bridge'

School students, elderly people cross it risking lives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Due to the lack of a concrete bridge over the Lohagora-Kodomtoli canal, people, especially students and elderly people, of eight nearby villages have to cross a damaged bamboo bridge in the area at great risk.

The bridge is situated on the border of Jorgaca and Dikdair unions under Sonatola upazila.

Many students of Nurar Potal Government Primary School, elderly people, patients, traders and farmers of nearby Lohagora, Mohicharan, Nurar Potal, Katlahar, Chillipara, Koyalipara, Laxshinarayanpara and Korpurpara villages use the bridge.

Locals have been demanding construction of a concrete bridge over the canal, but their demand is yet to be fulfilled.

Alam Mia and Rebeka Afroj of Class IV and Keya Khatun and Debashis Roy of Class V of the

school said they are afraid of crossing the bridge to go to school.

Aleya Khatun of Nurar Potal village said they send their children to school amid tension as a few students have fallen from the damaged bridge and got hurt.

Locals Mostafizar Rahman, Rafiqul Islam and Nazrul Islam said the bridge turns riskier during the rainy season as the connecting roads become unusable. Many students and elderly people have fallen from the bridge, they added.

Chairman of Jorgaca Union Rostom Ali Mondal said he will try to erect a concrete bridge over the canal during his tenure.

Upazila Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department of Sonatola Shaikat Das said that the construction of the bridge was a burning issue and he had informed the higher authorities about the matter.

Abducted NGO officer rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Jhenidah Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rescued an abducted officer of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) from Courtpara of the town on Saturday.

The abductee is Anisur Rahman, 36, son of Nur Mohammad of Shibanandapur under Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah. He is branch manager of ASHA, an NGO in Shailakupa upazila.

Company Commander of Jhenidah Rab Major Monir Ahmed said in a press conference on Saturday that a girl named Marya Merry Mohana had an affair with Anisur. She told Anisur to meet her at Chudanga bus stand of the town on Friday morning.

As soon as Anisur reached the bus stand she, along with three accomplices on two motorbikes, abducted him. They later demanded a ransom of Tk 3 lakh from his family members over mobile phone. His family members informed Rab.

Rab launched a drive in Courtpara area and rescued Anisur early Saturday, and arrested Marya and her husband Humayun Kabir Ripon of the same locality.

Major Monir said Ripon and his wife Marya had been realising ransom from people for long by trapping them in so-called love affairs.