



MITU MURDER

CMP declares Tk 5 lakh bounty for accused Musa

Police yesterday offered a bounty of Tk 5 lakh for the capture of Kamrul Islam Sikdar Musa, an accused in the Mahmuda Khanam Mitu murder case.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Iqbal Bahar announced it at a press conference organised for acknowledging security measures in three major upcoming events -- Durga Puja, Ashura and Bangladesh-England cricket match -- at the CMP headquarters.

"So far, seven people were arrested over the murder. And on the confessional statements of two of them, we found in the investigation that a team led and coordinated by Musa killed Mitu," said Iqbal.

"We have... imposed an embargo on Musa's departure from the country," he said.

If anyone can give information about Musa that can lead to his arrest, they will be given the money, the official added.

Addressing the news conference, Iqbal denied the claim of Musa's family that police picked up Musa on June 22.

He said former superintendent of police Babul Akter, also husband of Mitu and complainant of the murder case, will come to Chittagong soon to provide information about the suit.

A letter will be sent to him officially in this regard, if necessary, he said.

On June 5, three assailants stabbed and shot Mitu dead when she was taking her son to his school bus stop at GEC intersection in the port city.



A woman busy making pottery items on her house premises at Moheshpur Paul Para in Bakerganj upazila of Barisal recently.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

Barisal women doing double duty

They not only take care of families, but also make pottery items; still their contribution remain unrecognised

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

Even though the female potters in Barisal district are involved with the trade from primary to its finishing stage, in addition to taking care of their families, their contributions remain mostly unacknowledged and they are deprived of their professional recognition.

This correspondent recently visited places in Bakerganj and Agailjhara upazilas which basically represent the overall pottery situation of the district.

In Moheshpur Paul Para of Bakerganj, where at least 200 families are engaged in this profession, it was found that women, who are almost half of them, were busy making different items like -- curd pots, tali pots, chari, flower tubs and vases -- with clay on their house premises.

On top of doing their household chores, the women have been working from morning to evening for decades making these pots but still are unaware of their rights as no government or non-government organisation work there to inculcate their spirit.

"Before marriage, we used to help our fathers in making clay items while after getting married we work for our husbands," said Juti Rani Paul, a resident of Paul Para.

All they know that they have to support their families. "We want our children to go to schools. We want to change our fate," said Sumoti Rani Paul of the same area.

When asked about the contributions of women, a male potter, Madhusudan Paul, said, "They (women) mould clay, give them different shapes and dry in the sun. And after finishing the rest of the work, we sell those in the market."

Shibu Paul of Gaila Paul Para in Agailjhara upazila said, "Our family members -- both men and women -- work together to make pottery items and idols and it is the tradition of our community. The female members have always played the main role."

But, Buli Rani Paul of the area said, "We do not receive any money..."

Meanwhile, the clay artisan community is losing interest in continuing the business as their items often remain unsold.

"We used to collect clay from the nearby riverbank. We buy a boat of soil at Tk 7,000," said Dilip Paul of Maheshpur, adding, "It is difficult to sell those now."

Dipak Chandra Paul of the area. "We generally make 2,000 curd pots in a week with a production cost of Tk 5,000. And the market price is Tk 10,000," he said, adding, "But we cannot make such profit anymore as most of them remain unsold."

Many have already left this profession, said another craftsman, Laxsman Paul. "With low profit our financial situation is steadily deteriorating over the past few years," he said, adding, "We did not receive assistance from any government."

To uphold the image of pottery in the country, the community needs training as well as economic assistance, said Bappy Majumder, member secretary of Mritshilpi Sammelon o Sammanona, which awards the potters for their professional contributions to encourage them.

National Consultation on Gender Sensitive Guidelines for Women in Media in South Asia

6 October 2016, Dhaka

ORGANISED BY United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) South Asia Women's Network (SWAN) Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)



From left, Daily Ittefaq acting editor Tasmima Hossain, eminent writer Selina Hossain, Prof Gitara Nasreen of mass communication and journalism department at Dhaka University (DU), Chief Information Commissioner Dr Golam Rahmat and president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Monjurul Anshur Bulbul at the national consultation "Gender-Sensitive Guidelines for Women in Media in South Asia". Manusher Jonno Foundation, Unesco and South Asia Women's Network jointly organised the programme at DU Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban yesterday.

Media should recruit at least 30pc women

Suggests journalists, rights activists at Manusher Jonno Foundation, Unesco and SWAN consultation

At least 30 percent of posts in the country's mass media houses should comprise women for their empowerment, suggested journalists and rights activists at a national consultation yesterday.

Besides, women should be ensured equal opportunities, removing barriers they face in assuming posts at the policymaking level, they added at Dhaka University's (DU) Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) and South Asia Women's Network (SWAN) jointly organised the programme, "Gender-Sensitive Guidelines for Women in Media in South Asia".

The consultation was organised as part of the South Asia regional initiative of Unesco and SWAN on formulating a guideline for women in the media.

Foundation, a member of SWAN, will present the draft guideline at a conference of SWAN this month's end.

Dozens of journalists, women's rights activists and academicians yesterday came up with several suggestions for inclusion in the guidelines.

Media house authorities should provide transports for female journalists as the latter in many cases face problems in getting it while performing duties, said Nasimun Ara Hoq, president of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra.

Citing that there are some incidents where maternity leave acted as a barrier for women to get promoted, she opined removing such obstacles.

Eminent writer Selina Hossain said male journalists should have a positive mindset towards female colleagues so that the latter do not become victims of any kind of discrimination and exploitation.

Although many women are now apparently working in the media, some research

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Pro-AL man found murdered in Turag river

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A Jubo League activist was found murdered in the river Turag in Savar yesterday two days after he had gone missing.

Police recovered the body of Al Arafat Sajal, 22, an activist of Birulia union unit of the youth wing of the ruling Awami League, with his hands and legs being tied up.

SM Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station, said Sajal's father filed a general diary as he did not return after going out of home following a phone call of his friend Rocky on Monday night.

Following Rocky's

2 female students missing in Ctg boat capsized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two madrasa students went missing as a boat carrying female students of Jata Nurain Senior Madrasa capsized in the Shankha river after its propeller got entangled with a fishing net at Anwara upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

Out of the nineteen students, locals and fishermen rescued 17 instantly.

The missing students are Jannatul Mawa, 12, daughter of Md Siraj and Hanufa Akhtar, 14, daughter of Mostaque Ahmed of Purba Jun Dandi village, also class VI and class VII students of the madrasa respectively.

"Around 9:30am, we saw the boat being capsized," said Md Ilias, a local farmer, who along with others rescued the students and the boatman.

"My daughter went out of the house around 8:00am to attend an exam. Now we do not know if we would ever see her..." said a grief-stricken Md Siraj, Jannatul's father, who was seen next to the river bank, searching for his daughter.



The search for the two missing students continues in the Shankha river yesterday.

"Firemen and divers are searching for them," said Md Jasimuddin, deputy assistant director of Agrabad fire service. The coast guards were also patrolling the river, he added.

"The boatman Parvej was detained for questioning," said Dulal Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Anwara Police Station. The search for the missing students was still on till filing of this report around 5:50pm.