

Five die taking toxic alcohol

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Five people died and another fell sick reportedly after consuming toxic alcohol in Pargachha upazila of Rangpur in last two days.

The dead are Anwar Hossain, 40, and Abdul Kalam Azad, 42, of Mahindra village under Rangpur city corporation, Shahjahan Ali, 43, of Kalyani Taltola village, Mujibor Rahman, 45, of Chhoto Kalyani village, and Shuvasish Chandra Roy, 55, of Jharindra village in Pargachha upazila.

Golap Hossain, 44, is now undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Police said the six fell sick after having some toxic alcohol bought from two separate homeopathy shops, owned by one Prashanto Kumar Roy and his brother Komol Chandra Roy, at Borodargah Bazaar in Pargachha on Saturday night.

Family members took Shahjahan and Mujibor to RMCH in a critical condition on Saturday night. They died at the hospital the following morning.

Meanwhile, Anwar and Azad were admitted to the same hospital on Sunday noon, where they died yesterday noon.

Rangpur Additional Superintendent of Police Ataur Rahman said after the incident came to light yesterday police detained the two shop owners for quizzing in the afternoon.

On July 11 this year, police pressed charges against 24 people after eight people died consuming toxic liquor in Rangpur city in between September 28 to October 4 last year.

Man gets life for killing son in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A Bogra court yesterday sentenced a drug addict to life imprisonment for killing his son in 2015.

The convict is Bidhan Chandra, 43, son of Shirish Chandra Sarkar of Darugram village under Sherpur upazila of the district.

Judge ANM Abu Sayeed of District and Sessions Judge's Court also fined the convict Tk 10,000. In default, he is to suffer two years more in jail.

District Public Prosecutor Abdul Matin said after failing to realise money from his wife for buying narcotics, Bidhan stabbed his son Durjoy, 10, to death on August 31, 2015.

Deceased's mother Agomoni Sarkar filed a murder case with Sherpur Police Station against her husband the same night.

Gaziur Rahman, senior ASP, said they arrested Bidhan from the village the following day.



A farmer inspecting the bumper crop of aman paddy that survived the recent flood at his field in Teesta river char Dawabari under Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: STAR

MYMENSINGH DIVISION INFRASTRUCTURE

'Spare farmlands, dwellings from acquisition'

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The people of several villages in char (landmass emerging from riverbed) areas of Sadar upazila are passing their days amid serious worry after the local administration released a list to acquire some 4300 acres of land for infrastructure development for proposed Mymensingh division.

They have demanded sparing their homesteads and farmlands from proposed acquisition list, and suggested using large areas of khas and barren lands on either side of the Brahmaputra river.

The officially proposed acquisition area includes vast tracts of farmland and household areas in Char Anandipur, Char Gobindapur, Char Ishwardia, Char Bhawanipur, Char Durgapur, Char Jelkhana and Char Laxmir Algi in Mymensingh Sadar upazila.

There are some 20,000 families in the listed area and most of them are

small and marginal farmers and sharecroppers, said locals.

"I have to maintain a four-member family by cultivating vegetables on 20 decimals of inherited land and we have dwelling house on 10 decimals but the land is in the acquisition list," Babul Miah, a marginal farmer of Char Anandipur village told this correspondent on Friday afternoon.

"I have two primary school going sons. What will I do if I have to leave the land?" said an upset Babul.

Harun Rashid, a sharecropper of the same village, said different types of vegetables are cultivated in the area and it is the best support for hundreds of small and marginal farmers.

Centenarian Sohrab Hossain of Char Gobindapur said, "Where will I go at such an age if my ancestral homestead is acquired?"

At least 98 percent of the families living in the areas under the acquisition list are directly dependent on agriculture, are in deep fear after releas-

ing the acquisition list, said several affected people while talking with this correspondent at Joybangla Bazar on October 30.

Demanding to spare their homestead and farmland from proposed acquisition list, hundreds of people joined a rally at Joybangla Bazar in Char Sirta union of Mymensingh Sadar on Friday afternoon.

Speakers at the rally suggested using large areas of khas and barren lands on either side of the Brahmaputra river to save farmlands and land acquisition cost as well.

They submitted a memorandum to Religious Affairs Minister Principal Motiur Rahman and Mymensingh Deputy Commissioner Md Khalilur Rahman in favour of their demand on Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

Contacted, the deputy commissioner said, "We have received the memorandum and are thinking about the matter."

Not scenes

FROM PAGE 2

Police arrested Wahab from Sadarghat and Razia from Munshiganj yesterday, said Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Kadamtoli Police Station.

Razia, who had been blackmailed by Sumon into continuing the relationship, aided and abetted her husband, added the OC.

The two arrestees confessed to killing Sumon, a fish trader in Jatrabari area.

Police said Razia, as planned, called Sumon over phone and asked him to go to Kadamtoli area. As Sumon reached there, Wahab and his men, who were hiding there, killed him and dumped his body in Shyampur Wasa sluice gate area.

Police recovered the body from the same area yesterday and caught the killers following investigation.

Sumon was jailed five years ago for torturing his wife while Wahab, who faces various cases including murder and robbery, was sent to jail some 12 years ago.

Bumper aman yield despite flood

Lalmonirhat char farmers happy

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Farmers in the char areas of the Teesta and Dharla rivers are happy as they are getting bumper production from flood-resistant variety of aman paddy in the district this year.

They had given up hope of getting expected production of paddy this year as the aman plants in char areas were under floodwater for 15 to 21 days, but the special variety survived and overcame the natural calamity, farmers said.

Nazrul Islam, 62, of Teesta River char Purbo Dawabari, said, "The aman paddy I cultivated on eight bighas of land were under floodwater for a long time so I gave up hope of getting the expected output, but I got 19 maunds of paddy from each bigha, while it was 15 to 16 maunds in the past."

Samad Miah, 55, of char Dakhkhin Dawabari of Hatibandha upazila said, "I got 102 maunds of paddy from five of 15 bighas and I will start harvesting the crop on the rest 10 bighas within 10 to 12 days," adding that he had never seen bumper production of aman on flood-affected fields.

Nurul Islam, 48, of char Dawabari said he

is feeling happy seeing the bumper output of aman paddy on his six bighas of flood-affected land, and is expecting to start harvesting the paddy within two weeks.

Azizul Islam, 55, of Bowalmari in Lalmonirhat Sadar said it rained after the floodwater receded from the paddy fields, giving fresh life to the aman plants. "We always cultivate flood-resistant variety of aman paddy in the char areas to be safe from the floodwater, but the water stayed for a long time this year," he added.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said aman paddy on 10 thousand hectares of land got damaged due to flood this year, especially in the Teesta and Dharla river char areas in the district. Aman was cultivated on 84,848 hectares against the target of 81,500 hectares in five upazilas of the district this year, they added.

DAE Deputy Director Bidubhuson Roy said the rain after the floodwater receded was the reason for the bumper production, especially in char areas. Also, it was sunny while the aman plants were under floodwater, so the plants got the nutrients they needed, he added.

JMB leader involved in doctor killing

FROM PAGE 1

He also said JMB was behind the murder of secular homeopath Sanaur on May 20 this year.

According to a statement read out by the DIG, JMB cadres killed Sanaur and injured Saifuzzaman, a teacher of Bangla department of Islamic University, who was with Sanaur during the attack.

There were deep gashes on the heads, shoulders and chests of the victims, likely to have been caused by machetes. The attack had similarities with previous attacks on bloggers and secular activists across the country.

The divisional police chief claimed that police recovered a smart phone from the scene. After investigation based on the mobile phone call records, police arrested three JMB men Azizul, Saiful and Zoynal from a hideout in Kushtia town on Saturday. They were now on remand.

During interrogation, the trio admitted that the JMB was involved in the killing of Sanaur. They also mentioned Tulu as the regional commander of the outfit and said

Tulu was involved in the murder.

The statement said Tulu came into contact with JMB's operation commander Abu Musa alias Robin alias Talha when he worked at a rice mill in Pabna's Sujanager in 2015.

They agreed to start the activities of JMB in Kushtia. Musa used to frequent the house of Tulu in Khajanagar.

"They had planned to kill some secular people in Kushtia," the DIG said.

As per the plan, they first targeted Sanaur.

Led by Musa, JMB collected some cadres to carry out the operation. The others are Azizul, Saiful, Saijuddin, Bikash, Shaful, Kabir and Zoynal, the DIG said.

On May 20, three youths aged between 25 and 30 ambushed Sanaur and Saifuzzaman at a secluded place in Bottoil area of the Sadar upazila when they were going to Sanaur's village home on a motorbike.

The assailants forced them to get down from the vehicle and hacked them repeatedly. Sanaur died on the spot.

Locals said Sanaur was an ardent lover and promoter of Baul philosophy. Known to the villagers as Sana Daktar (doctor), he gave free treatments and homeopathy medicine to the poor for free.

DECEASED'S FAMILY CLAIM
Family members of Tulu claimed that they had no information of his links with any militant group.

An uncle of Tulu, who preferred not to be named, said Tulu was out of touch with his relatives for a year.

A cousin of Tulu who received his body from police said some unknown people often visited Tulu.

Talking to this correspondent, Abdul Momin Mondol, chairman of Bottoil union, said Tulu's activities were suspicious as he often said "Jihad means arms struggle and it is the key in Islam".

'GUNFIGHT'
After gleaning information from three arrested JMB activists Azizul, Saiful and Zoynal, a team of Kushtia Detective Branch of police raided the hideout of JMB regional chief Tulu around 3:30am.

The detectives had information that militants were holding a meet-

ing there. They cordoned off the spot, said Sabirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kushtia DB.

Sensing the law enforcers' presence, the militants opened fire, forcing them to retaliate which triggered a "gunfight", he claimed.

After the gun battle, the detectives found Tulu lying on the spot and sent him to Kushtia General Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Others managed to flee, he added.

Police claimed to have recovered a foreign pistol, two bullets, three sharp weapons and some cartridges from the spot.

Police also claimed that four detectives were injured in the incident and took treatment at the hospital.

They vote

FROM PAGE 16

"I have voted an honest candidate with the hope that he will work for the development of this area after being elected," said Meherun Akhter, 19, of former enclave Bhitorkuti in Lalmonirhat sadar upazila.

8,500 children die

FROM PAGE 2

The East Asia and Pacific region has 450 million children living in areas that exceed guideline limits.

The study also examines the heavy toll of indoor pollution, commonly caused by use of fuels like coal and wood for cooking and heating, which mostly affects children of the low-income groups in rural areas.

Together, outdoor and indoor air pollution are directly linked to pneumonia and other respiratory diseases that account for almost one in 10 under-five deaths, making air pollution one of the leading dangers to children's

health. A study on Bangladesh found that children under 5, regardless of gender, spend an hour a day in cooking areas because of their reliance on their mothers, said the Unicef report.

From age 5 to 60, women's hours in cooking areas steadily rise from 1 hour a day to 3.8 hours a day, while men's hours in cooking areas decline from 1 hour a day to 0.2 hours a day. After age 60, women's hours in cooking areas rapidly fall, averaging at 1.5 hours a day.

However, women's time in cooking areas beyond the age of 60 still remains higher than men's (averaging at 0.2 hours per day).

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