

Maimed by stalkers

Man brutally beaten up for protesting stalking of two daughters in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Both legs of a mid-aged father were amputated after stalkers of his daughters assaulted him with iron bars and left him for dead.

Brother-in-law of the victim, Shahanur Alam, 52, father of three from Nalbhanga village of Kaliganj upazila in the district, filed a case in this connection on Sunday evening with the Jhenidah court.

Shahanur's legs were amputated earlier that day at Dhaka Orthopaedics Hospital where he had been undergoing treatment since he was transferred there on October 31 from Jessore Medical College Hospital (JMCH).

Shahanur's brother in law, Eakub Ali of Dadpur village, said he had to file the case with the court after Kaliganj Police Station refused to record it there.

According to the case statement, the prime accused in the case is Kamal Hossain, secretary of Nalbhanga Union Awami Jubo League as well as a UP member.

Kamal, along with six other accused -- Billal Hossain, Jahid Hossain,

Imdadul Haque, Tuku Mia, Hasan Ali and Motaleb Hossain -- waylaid and attacked Shahanur on October 16 around 9:30am when Shahanur was out on some errands for his household.

Kamal and his gang were aggrieved and threatened to kill Shahanur after Shahanur complained to village leaders that the gang had been stalking his daughters -- Sharmin Aktar, 22, a student of 3rd year Honours in Bengali at Jessore Women's College and Shahnaz Aktar, 13, a seventh-grader at Nalbhanga Secondary School -- on their way to their educational institutions.

On the day of the incident, the accused individuals attacked and beat up Shahanur indiscriminately with iron bars. Locals came to the rescue and sent an unconscious Shahanur to Jessore Medical College Hospital after the attackers left him, mistaken for dead, the case statement added.

The victim was transferred from JMCH to Dhaka Orthopaedics Hospital in a critical condition as the

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With both his legs amputated, Shahanur groans in pain in his Dhaka Orthopaedics Hospital bed yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'TOXIC' SHIP IN CTG Probe body yet to visit the spot

Deadline for probe report expires

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

The probe committee, formed to find whether an imported scrap vessel contains any toxic residues, did not inspect the ship till yesterday, the last day for filing its report.

On Sunday, the Department of Environment (DoE) formed the seven-member committee to detect if MT Producer, now at a shipbreaking yard in Chittagong, had any toxic residues.

The committee, formed following an order of the director general of the DoE, was asked to submit a report in three working days, said a press release.

Contacted yesterday, officials of the DoE, however, claimed that the deadline for filing the report has been extended by four more working days. The number of the committee members has also been increased to nine.

A weapons expert from the Arms Forces Division and another expert from the customs have joined, they claimed.

The committee, formed on November 5 and led by Masud Karim, director of DoE, Chittagong region, also includes two experts from Nuclear Energy Commission, an explosive expert, a professor of chemical engineering at BUET and a maritime expert (captain rank) from the Marine Academy and also a representative (expert) nominated by Bangladesh Ship Breakers' Association (BSBA).

Asked why the committee did not inspect the ship, Masud said it was difficult to have all the committee members together as they live in different parts of the country.

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Maruf powers Dynamites

FROM PAGE 1

Hossain hit the last ball of the 16th over for four. Maruf hit five fours and as many sixes in a blistering unbeaten innings.

In the afternoon match, which was the opening match of the rescheduled tournament after Cyclone Nada washed out the scheduled opener on November 4, a Tamim Iqbal special and a Mohammad Nabi four-for led Chittagong Vikings to a 29-run win over defending champions Comilla Victorians, led by Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

In the evening match, in chase of a modest yet competitive total Maruf started like a house on fire, putting on 88 runs in just 8.4 overs for the first wicket with Sri Lanka batting legend Kumar Sangakkara. The Sri Lankan great was more a spectator than a star as Maruf declared the

fireworks open with a swivel-pulled six off the second ball of the innings delivered by Al-Amin Hossain.

A huge six over midwicket followed in Al-Amin's next over, before Maruf and Sangakkara combined to hit three boundaries in the next over bowled by off-spinner Mahedi Hasan. The last of those, hit by Maruf, was a delectable back-foot cover drive that sped to the boundary on a slow outfield. Thisara Perera got the same treatment in the sixth over, this time with Sangakkara hitting two and Maruf one.

Sangakkara eventually departed for a 24-ball 30 when a ball from left-arm spinner Taijul Islam kept low and bowled the Sri Lankan, who was shaping to pull. But the opening stand did the damage. Skipper Shakib Al Hasan came out to the middle and supported Maruf, who reached his half-century from 30

balls in the over following Sangakkara's departure.

He had settled down with the target in sight, and added 48 runs with Shakib, the partnership ending when the skipper was bowled by Monir Hossain in the 15th over with just 13 runs to get.

Earlier, skipper Mushfiqur Rahim put on an 82-run fourth-wicket partnership with Shahriar Nafees to take Barisal Bulls to 148 for six.

The pair came together at 44 for three after Dhaka Dynamites skipper Shakib Al Hasan called correctly at the toss and was rewarded by Mohammad Shahid having Shamsur Rahman caught at slip in the third over. That was soon followed by a screamer of a take by Nasir Hossain at point to have Dishan Munaweera caught off Dwayne Bravo in the sixth over. A powerful cut seemed to be destined for the boundary, but Nasir

dived to his left and plucked the ball out of thin air.

Dawid Malan then holed out to Bravo at deep midwicket off Shakib in the eighth over. Barisal seemed in trouble on a tough pitch and a slow outfield, but the subsequent 82-run stand between Nafees and Mushfiqur gave them a fighting chance. Nafees was the aggressor in the partnership, scoring a 34-ball 55 with seven fours and two sixes. His dismissal, bowled by Shahid, ended the 51-ball association.

Thisara Perera soon followed with the score on 129 in the 18th over, before Shahid claimed his third wicket by having Rayad Emrit caught by Nasir at deep midwicket. Mushfiqur however carried on, taking the side to a competitive total with an unbeaten 36-ball 50 with four boundaries and two sixes.

Without trial

FROM PAGE 1

It also asked the legal aid office of Dhaka to furnish bail bond for Shipon and provide him with relevant legal support.

The HC observed that the state and the judiciary are responsible for ensuring justice quickly in line with the constitution, but they failed to do so in case of Shipon, and that's a shame for them.

Earlier in the day, the authorities of Kashimpur jail-2 produced Shipon before the bench following an earlier HC order.

The court asked Shipon where he will go after getting out of prison.

"I will go home," he said.

In reply to a question, he said he has parents, six sisters and a brother but could not say where they are now. He could not specifically say his address; he only could say his home was in Old Dhaka.

Shipon believes that his family members are alive, saying that he would have been informed if they died.

He was arrested on November 7, 2000, in the case filed with Sutrapur Police Station on October 25, 1994, on charge of killing one Mahtab.

The following year, police submitted a charge sheet against six, including Shipon, to the trial court.

Yesterday, replying to another query, Shipon said he heard about the killing, but he was not involved in it.

He said criminals chopped one of his hands after the killing. He, however, could not explain the relation between the two incidents.

Following a report broadcast by a private television channel on October 26 about sufferings of Shipon in jail and not disposal of the case in 22 years, the HC on October 30 asked for the case records from the lower court and ordered the jail authorities to produce him before it yesterday to hear his statement.

Cumar Debul Dey, a Supreme Court lawyer, who placed the record of the TV report before the HC, told The Daily Star yesterday that some people from Sutrapur area phoned him recently and said they assumed that Shipon had already died.

Minimum age of freedom fighter 13

FROM PAGE 1

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman between March 26 and December 16 in 1971 will be recognised as freedom fighters.

People who had registered with different training camps in India during the war after crossing border, professionals and eminent Bangladeshis who had played an active role abroad in gaining world support for the war effort, people who had been engaged in running the then Mujibnagar government and members of national assembly (MNA) and members of provincial assembly (MPA) who had taken part in the Liberation War and had been involved in the Mujibnagar government, members of the armed forces, police, EPR and Ansar who had participated in the

war, members of medical teams that had treated the wounded freedom fighters and players of Swadhin Bangla Football Team, members of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra and journalists who had been in the country and abroad during the war and women who had been violated and tortured by the then Pakistan occupation forces will be eligible for freedom fighter status.

The process of recognising Biranganas (war heroines) as freedom fighters began after a High Court order on January 27 in 2014, and the government for the first time in October in 2015 recognised 41 Biranganas as freedom fighters.

A total of 146 women have been honoured as freedom fighters in the phases by the government.

In October, 2014, the Jatiya

Muktijoddha Council (JMC) decided that those who were at least 15 years old on March 26, 1971, could apply for obtaining the freedom fighter status.

The decision faced huge criticism, as the minimum age of 15 excluded many noted freedom fighters like Taramon Bibi, Abu Salek Bir Pratik, Shahidul Islam Lulu and Jahiruddin Jalal (known as Bichchu Jalal during the war) who were below 15 when they had participated in the Liberation War.

Revising the decision to address the issue, the JMC in July last year said people who were 13 on March 26 in 1971 would be able to apply for the status of freedom fighter.

According to the Bangladesh (Freedom Fighters) Welfare Trust Order, 1972, a freedom fighter is a "person

who served as a member of any force engaged in the war of liberation but shall not include the serving members of the defence services, police or the civil armed forces, or any government pensioner, or any other person having any regular source of income."

Considering the definition incomplete, the liberation war affairs ministry had taken initiatives to change the definition.

There are some 2.12 lakh freedom fighters. The number was 1.98 lakh in the 2002 gazette published during the BNP-Jamaat rule.

At present, freedom fighters, their children, and grandchildren enjoy 30 percent quota in government jobs. In addition, freedom fighters' children and grandchildren get special quotas in public schools, colleges, and universities.

Trump hopes for a miracle

FROM PAGE 1

Americans cast their ballots ahead of yesterday -- potentially one-third of the overall vote -- and data showed Hispanics coming out strong for the Democratic nominee.

On a state level, though, polls showed the critical battlegrounds of Florida and North Carolina -- which award a combined 44 electoral votes -- on a knife's edge, injecting a considerable level of drama into Tuesday's final showdown between the two bitter rivals.

In the waning hours of the presidential campaign, the two candidates furiously crisscrossed the country, with both candidates eager to leave no votes on the table.

Trump managed to maintain a level of discipline, and his Twitter feed stayed on message, despite his aides pushing back against a New York Times report that included the juicy detail that they had pried away control of Trump's social media account.

But the Republican nominee's true stripes broke through -- his final rallies included no shortage of bombastic claims, including the statement that he was responsible for the Obama administration's disclosure of spiking Obamacare premiums and for the tanking of NFL game ratings during the election season.

He also continued hammering Clinton for her email scandal, despite FBI Director James Comey's announcement on Sunday afternoon that new evidence in the previously assumed closed investigation into Clinton's private email server proved to be a dud.

Trump asked Monday afternoon during a rally in Raleigh, North Carolina. "Did you ever see? Of course, the FBI, the director, was obviously under tremendous pressure."

He also hinted that the FBI doesn't need any additional evidence to convict Clinton of a crime.

"She still deleted them after getting a subpoena from Congress. I mean, that's a crime!" Trump said. "What happened? That's a crime! You don't even need the new stuff. She shouldn't be allowed to run."

During an election-day appearance on "Fox & Friends," Trump stayed true to form, bouncing from one topic to another and demonstrating the kind of shaky message discipline that's endeared him to many supporters but horrified political operatives.

Trump promised to rebuild a depleted military, take care of veterans and repeal and replace Obamacare before distracting himself with a mention of his ability to draw large crowds and patting himself on the back for his stamina.

"We had probably 21,000 people. Can you imagine that? Twenty-one thousand people," he said, referring to his final rally with Indiana Gov Mike Pence in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "And I'm up this early. Well, I have no choice because I'm doing you folks, right?"

Clinton, ever the diligent if scripted candidate, took no chances in the final stretch. Her voice hoarse, she hit up Michigan, North Carolina and Pennsylvania -- twice, as she enlisted both celebrity and political star power to boost voter turnout.

The Democratic nominee, long stung

by her loss to then-Sen. Barack Obama in 2008, relied heavily upon her former rival and his dynamic wife to try to close the deal for her own presidential bid.

"I'll be honest, I've had to bite my tongue after hearing some of the things people have said about Hillary Clinton," Obama said during an impassioned address on Monday night in Philadelphia. "I am betting that tomorrow that you will reject fear and choose hope."

For yesterday night, both campaigns have scheduled victory parties in New York City -- the town that made Trump a self-proclaimed billionaire and the same one that helped launch Clinton's independent political career as a senator.

The setting of Clinton's potential celebration has special significance. The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan is an imposing glass structure -- an on-the-nose reference to the "glass ceiling" that suffered 18 million cracks in 2008 but failed to break.

But Clinton and her campaign have been careful to not outwardly project overconfidence, especially because Trump has proven to be an X factor that rivals and political pundits have struggled to grasp.

And Trump has not definitely backed off his pledge at the final debate to keep America "in suspense" about whether he will accept a loss on Election Day -- a stunning statement that upends decades of smooth transfers of democratic power.

Trump, for his part, cast the election in epic terms, telling supporters on Monday evening in Scranton, Pennsylvania, that he alone could give the American people prosperity and hope.

Another Santal dies

FROM PAGE 16

present when a police van took the body of Mangol Majhdi to the village, told The Daily Star over phone that they found stamp ink on the thumb of the corpse.

"There is stamp ink in his hand which means somebody took his thumb print before his death," said Rafel.

Santal man Shyamal Hembram, 35, who was injured during the clash, died of his wounds Sunday night at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

The clash had left 20 people including policemen injured.

Fear has gripped the indigenous community people there. Men were not going out of their homes and there was a crisis of food.

"We are living as if we are in detention in the village and we have no communication with relatives, even locals do not allow the relatives to come here," said Gonesh Kisku of Joypur village.

"Most of the Santal people there are labourers and live hand to mouth ... as all work stopped and they are starving," he added.

His wife said they had food for the four-member family for just two days.

Gonesh said, "On early Monday morning a section of people from nearby Goyalpara, Rampur and Saptmara villages thronged here and started looting cattle and valuables. Hearing about this, people from Khamarpara rushed there and resisted the looting...."

"It's a miracle that my house was safe from looting, but in sugarcane farm my 22 bamboo poles, 10 chairs and other equipment were looted Sunday night," he added.

Police arrested four Santal men in connection with shooting arrows and the clash at Shahebganj sugarcane farm, said Subrota Kumar Sarker, OC Gobindagnaj Police Station.

During the Pakistan regime in 1952, the government acquired 1,840 acres of land at Shahebganj to set up a sugarcane farm.

The deputy commissioner's office acquired the land for the then Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation, which established Rangpur (Mahimaganj) Sugar Mills between 1954 and 1957. The original land owners were given only Tk 8.07 lakh for the vast land. Later in 1962, the DC office, on behalf of the land owners, signed an agreement with the corporation.

The deal stated that the land was acquired for cultivation of sugarcane by the mill authorities. If the land was used for farming any other crops, the corporation shall surrender the land to the government (the DC office).

However, the agreement was violated as the mill authorities leased out most of the land for cultivation of crops like rice, wheat, mustard, tobacco, and maize.

According to the Gobindaganj upazila land office, 1,502 acres of the total 1,842.3 acres was leased out and used for farming other crops. A

letter of the office, dated June 28, 2015, says only 92-97 acres of the total land was being used for the cultivation of sugarcane in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Four months ago, indigenous people occupied around 100 acres of land and built makeshift sheds and homes on the plea that the land belonged to their forefathers.

The indigenous people of Rangpur Divisional Adivasi Forum yesterday urged the government to return the acquired land to families that were evicted for the farm and demanded a probe committee to identify the people responsible for Sunday's clash.

Michael Malo, a lawyer of Dinajpur, at a press conference of the forum in Dinajpur Press Club yesterday said the sugar mill illegal leased out the land to influential people when sugar production at the mills ended on March 31, 2004.

The land was being used for producing tobacco, wheat, paddy and other crops, he said.

Ain O Salish Kendra in a statement expressed concern and demanded the government take necessary steps to prevent such incidents.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh and BSD formed a human chain along DB Road in Gaibandha Town yesterday to protest police firing on the minority group.

Meanwhile, police around 1:30am today took away the body of Mangol Majhdi without specifying any reason, some villagers told The Daily Star.