

AFROZA'S SUICIDE IN SATKHIRA

Call to punish instigators

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A large number of people from cross section of society joined a human chain in front of Satkhira Press Club yesterday demanding punishment of the people who instigated suicide of teenage girl Afroza Begum in Kalaroa upazila of the district on December 10.

Afroza took her life out of shame and agony following utter humiliation and brutal torture by a few locals, including Sonabaria Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Monirul Islam, speakers said at the programme organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's Satkhira district chapter.

Police arrested four accused including UP chairman Monirul and recharge shop owner Hasan Ali, but influential people have become active to save them, they said.

Mahila Parishad leaders gave a memorandum to the Satkhira deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police demanding punishment of the perpetrators.

Abdul Hamid, principal of Satkhira Commerce College, and Joshna Datta, general secretary of Mahila Parishad's Satkhira district unit, spoke at the programme, among others.

On December 9, Afroza went to Sonabari Bazar to recharge her mobile phone when a few people caught her with a boy and brought allegation of 'unwanted relationship' against them.

They tied them up and made them move around in the bazar area. Then a few people including a local chowkidar (guard) took them to the office of the UP chairman who, in the name of asalish (local arbitration), scolded and beat the boy and the girl. The scene was also videoed and uploaded in Facebook.

Afroza committed suicide the next morning.

Names of razakars removed from roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

The nameplates of two razakars have finally been removed from two roads in Natore.

The district administration yesterday removed the nameplates of the roads which were named after razakars Abdus Sattar Khan Madhu Mian and Kacher Uddin in Natore municipality.

Deputy Commissioner Shahina Khatun and Natore municipality Mayor Uma Cowdhury Jolly were present when the nameplates were removed.

The road from Chayabanani Cinema Moor to Natore Sadar Hospital was named after listed razakar Abdus Sattar Khan Madhu Mian while Baro Harishpur Chairmanpara road was named after rajakar Kacher Uddin in 2012 when BNP leader Emdadul Haque Al Mamun was the mayor of the municipality.

On December 6, the High Court asked the government to remove the names of rajakars from all roads and institutions.

The mayor said the two roads will be named after Bir Protik Solaiman Ali and freedom fighter Motahar Ali.



Dablu Mia, right, receives advice from an agriculture officer at his bean plantation at Kornibari village in Mohishaban union in Bogra's Gabtoli upazila a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Changing life through bean farming

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Dablu Mia of Gabtoli upazila under the district has gained solvency by changing his farming pattern, thanks to his sincere efforts and proper suggestions from the Department of Agriculture Department (DAE).

"Earlier we had to struggle much to maintain the family as paddy cultivation did not bring much profit. As a way out, I started cultivating bean and other vegetables on my three bighas of land five years ago," said Dablu, 50, of Kornibari village under Mohishaban union of Gabtoli.

"I spent Tk 10 thousand for bean

farming on each bigha of land and hopeful of getting Tk 35-40 thousand by selling the produce this season. I am also growing papaya, cucumber, pumpkin, potato and ginger on small plots of land," he said.

"Despite owning around 30 bighas of land, my father could not gain solvency by cultivating only paddy there. Even he could not arrange my schooling.

"Finally I started growing other crops on a few bighas of land that inherited from my father. Now with the good earning from bean cultivation, we are living well and sending my son and daughter to school," said

Dablu Mia.

The farmers of the district have cultivated developed varieties of bean including Ishwardi variety on over 500 hectares of land this season, DAE officials said, adding that now cultivation of a multiple crops is becoming popular among the farmers.

Pratul Chandra Sarker, deputy director of Bogra DAE, said proper suggestion through yard meetings about the use of fertiliser, selection of developed variety of seeds, time of plantation and irrigation, and visiting fields of the farmers by the DAE officials worked behind making the farmers interested in bean cultivation for better profit.

Girl's obscene photo posted: Youth held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police yesterday arrested a youth on charge of posting a college girl's obscene photos in Facebook.

The arrestee, Sohanur Rahman Sohan, 23, son of Saidul Islam of Khordosaptana Dalatari in Lalmonirhat, stalked a college girl of Surkimil Colony area in the town for long, said Siddiquil Islam, sub-inspector (SI) of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station.

"As the girl rejected Sohan's love proposal, he got furious. He collected a photograph of the girl, made it obscene through computer photoshop work and posted it in Facebook a week ago.

"The girl's father lodged a case in this regard with the Sadar Police Station two days ago. We arrested the culprit from his residence and made him delete all the obscene photos from Facebook," SI Siddiquil Islam said.

"The arrestee was produced before a judicial magistrate's court and the court ordered sending him to jail, rejecting his bail prayer today [Thursday]. I will submit charge sheet of the case to the court very soon," he said.

Police assured security of the college girl and her family members, said Sadar Police Station OC Rafiqul Islam.



Students attend classes on the veranda of Uttar Char Jabbar Government Primary School in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila as the classrooms of the dilapidated school building have turned too risky for them.

PHOTO: STAR

Untold story of a war-ravaged mother

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

For Latifa Khan, December 16 is a horrific day while the entire country wears a festive look on the occasion of the 45th Victory Day of Bangladesh.

The 75-year-old hailing from Purbo Adalat Para in Tangail town lost her mental balance after the tragic death of her three minor sons in a mine explosion just five days before the country's Victory Day in 1971.

But the story did not end here. Her husband Ibrahim Khan, who worked in the intelligence unit of the freedom fighters (FF) during the whole nine months of Liberation War, died 16 years ago without getting any recognition of his contribution, said family members.

On the morning of December 9, Ibrahim, then an agriculture officer, came to the house and asked Latifa to leave it with the children immediately as a fierce fight between the FFs and Pakistani soldiers might take place in the town the following day just after landing of the Indian paratroopers.

Latifa along with her five sons and two

daughters then went to take shelter at her in-laws' house at Chheuri Tholpara village in Mirzapur.

Meanwhile, the freedom fighters of Kaderia Bahini set a mine on a bridge in Baoikhola area previously so that the Pakistani army from Dhaka could not enter Tangail through the road.

The bus driver, however, failed to see the signal given by the freedom fighters not to move forward.

When the bus got on the bridge, the mine exploded, leaving four people including three sons of Latifa -- Montu, 8, Prince, 6, and Duke, 4,--dead on the spot and others injured.

"Our mother lost her mental

balance since the day of the dreadful incident," said Farida

Khan, daughter of Latifa.

Abdul Kader Siddique, chief of Kaderia Bahini, gave their family Tk 4,000 as compensation just after the independence, she said, adding, "My freedom fighter father, however, died in 1990 without getting any recognition of his contribution."



Latifa Khan

Fugitive Hizb ut-Tahrir member in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a member of banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh from Banogram village in Abhaynagar upazila of Jessore on Wednesday.

The arrestee is Ataur Rahman, 45, son of Yakub Ali of the village.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Md Khodadad Hossain, also assistant director of Rab-6 Jessore, said, acting on secret information, a team of Rab conducted a drive at the village and arrested the fugitive accused.

Later, Rab handed him over to Abhaynagar Police Station, he added.

Learners, teachers at risk

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Risking their lives, over 336 students are attending classes at Uttar Char Jabbar Government Primary School in Subarnachar upazila of the district, as the school building is in a dilapidated state and may collapse anytime.

Headmaster of the school Mohammad Amin Ullah said the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) declared the school abandoned in 2012 due to its terrible condition and informed the higher authorities.

"However, for the lack of alternative arrangement, we have been continuing classes in the risky building, taking the future of the students into consideration," the headmaster added.

In a recent visit to the school, it was seen that plaster at many places of the building had fallen off and water entered the building during the rainy season. The heavy monsoon of last year made the roof damp and the doors and windows are broken.

In spite of the awful condition of the one-storey building, classes are being held in every classroom, with 65

to 85 students in each room.

The children cannot concentrate on their studies as they are afraid that the building might collapse anytime, Abul Karim, a guardian, said.

Subarnachar Upazila Primary Education Officer Mohammad Rezaul Karim said construction of a new school building, which has been included under a World Bank project, will begin after completion of soil test and planning.

Engineer of Noakhali LGED MA Sattar said they are waiting for approval of the proposal.

Laudable initiative of an artiste

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A group of youths in Jaldhaka upazila are teaching students of different primary schools about the proper method of singing national anthem during school assembly.

They have voluntarily been running a campaign entitled 'Suddha Jatiya Sangeet Charcha Karmoshala' (workshop on singing national anthem correctly) for the last six months by turn.

The youths, who arranged a three-day workshop in each school, have already trained students of 35 schools. The kids now can sing national anthem properly.

They have a plan to continue more six months with a target to cover 100 schools, said radio artiste Rubel Huque, pioneer of the great effort.

As per education directorate rule, national anthem must be sung in every school during assembly.

"We initiated the campaign when we noticed that in most primary schools, national anthem is sung without following right rhythm, tune, scale and mode," said Rubel.



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