

# ATTACK ON HINDUS Ankhi on fresh remand

A Brahmanbaria court yesterday granted a two-day fresh remand for Dewan Atikur Rahman Ankhi, a prime accused for carrying out synchronised attacks on Hindus in Nasirnagar upazila of the district in October last year.

Brahmanbaria Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Shafiqul Islam passed the order in a case filed with Nasirnagar Police Station for vandalising the house of Rasraj Das, a local fisherman, whose name was used in a Facebook post to instigate religious sentiment prior to the attack.

Nasirnagar PS Sub-inspector Sadhan Choudhury, also investigation officer of the case, produced Ankhi, chairman of Hariপুর union parishad, before the court seeking five-day remand while the court granted two-day remand, said Brahmanbaria court Inspector Md Mahubur Rahman.

Ankhi, also a local leader of ruling Awami League, was placed on a five-day remand on January 8 in a case filed for attack at a local temple during the October 30 mayhem.

A team of Bhatara Police Station in the capital arrested him on January 5.

Unruly zealots carried out attacks on the Hindus, vandalised around 100 homes and 17 temples and looted valuables in Nasirnagar over an anti-Islam Facebook post on October 30 last year.

The attackers also beat up over 100 people of the minority community.

Six of the accused in cases filed in this connection have given confessional statements in court.



Martyred hero Birshrestha Hamidur Rahman's younger brother Fazlur Rahman in front of the dilapidated memorial building at his native village in Jhenidah's Moheshpur upazila. Inset, Fazlur's wife showing the cracks that developed in the ceiling of the building.

## Son to die for killing father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his father in 2010.

The convict is Mojaharul Islam, 36, son of slain Idris Ali of Charol village in Baliadangi upazila.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Haider Ali also fined the death sentence awardee Tk 10,000.

According to the prosecution, Mojaharul hacked Idris, leaving him dead on the spot following an altercation over sowing seeds on a piece of land on December 13 in 2010.

Following a case filed by the victim's elder son Ansarul Islam, Baliadangi police later arrested Mojaharul.

After investigation, police submitted charge sheet against Mojaharul on February 6 in 2011.

After examining witnesses and evidence, the judge found Mojaharul guilty and pronounced the verdict.



This Himalayan vulture, caught by locals in an injured state in Sreemangal on Sunday, died at Lawacherra Wildlife Rescue Centre in Moulvibazar on Tuesday night.

## Himalayan vulture loses battle for life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The rare Himalayan vulture, rescued from an abandoned house at Jalalia village near Lawacherra forest in Sreemangal, died at Lawacherra Wildlife Rescue Centre in Kamalganj upazila under the district on Tuesday night.

"The vulture was put under treatment at the Lawacherra centre after a villager captured it with injuries in wings on Sunday. But it could not be saved," said Tabibur Rahman, assistant conservator of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Moulvibazar.

"A Himalayan vulture usually weighs 15 to 20 kg and its wingspan measures 6 to 7 feet. But the rescued one was only six kg as it had not eaten enough for a long time," he said.

The bird might have come foraging, said Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon's Sylhet chapter.

"Entrance of wildlife to localities indicates a serious degradation of their habitats in the nature. We should think about the ecological health of the forests," he added.

Wildlife researcher Tania Khan said, "The Himalayan vulture is not sighted often in our country. It lives in the Himalayas, Bhutan, Tibet, China and some other regions in the north. However, the rare species bird flies long distances."

# War hero memorial on verge of collapse

AZIBOR RAHMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

The road is rough, the memorial building dilapidated: plaster is peeling and iron rods protrude. To visit the historic home and sole memorial honouring national hero Birshrestha Hamidur Rahman, in his native Khordakhalipur village of Jhenidah's Moheshpur upazila, is to wonder what it really means to honour a hero, a martyr of the Liberation War.

Born second among his siblings in 1954, Hamidur Rahman joined the Liberation War while serving in the then East Bengal Regiment. On 28 October 1971 as he fought Pakistani occupation forces on the Dhali frontier in Sreemangal in the Sylhet region, Hamidur Rahman sacrificed his life for the country.

To commemorate his sacrifice the memorial building was established on three decimals in his native village in 1981. Since then however, the building has not been maintained. Nowadays the condition of the memorial is so dire that the roof is at risk of collapse.

"An engineer from Jessore cantonment visited the house in 2015," says Hamidur Rahman's nephew Hafizur Rahman. "He proposed a Tk 48 lakh plan to construct a new building in remembrance of my uncle. But nothing has come of it."

"There was also a plan to rename Khordakhalipur village as Hamidnagar in his honour," says Hamidur Rahman's younger brother Fazlur Rahman. "Back in 2007 a declaration on the renaming was made by Bir Uttam C.R. Dutta, a Liberation

War sector commander. But sadly nothing has happened since."

"It's very difficult to reach the historic home of Birshrestha Hamidur Rahman," says one visitor, Monirul Islam from Jhenidah town. "The road is damaged and has hundreds of potholes in it. The authorities should repair the road as soon as possible."

Former freedom fighter commander Md Kamruzzaman of Jhenidah says the file concerning the maintenance and construction of a memorial for Hamidur Rahman is with the Public Works Department. "Building construction work will start as soon as the department hands over the file," he says.

Moheshpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ashafur Rahman meanwhile says he is unaware of the matter.

## 4 'MISSING' GAIBANDHA LEADERS Trace my husband's whereabouts

Wife appeals to law enforcers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Produce him before the court if he committed any crime or is accused in any case, Sathi Begum, wife of missing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), leader Shafiqul Islam Shapla, asked the law enforcers at a press conference in the district town yesterday.

She also urged the law enforcement agencies to take steps to trace her husband's whereabouts.

Demanding return of her husband and three other leaders, Sathi talked to journalists at Gaibandha Press Club.

Shapla, 32, assistant secretary of JCD Naldanga union unit in Sadullapur upazila, and three other local leaders went 'missing' nine days ago.

The three others are Monwanul Hassan Jim, 40, senior vice president of Sadullapur Jubo League, and former chairman of Damodarpur union parishad; Sadequul Islam Sadeq, 35, former BCL president of Damodarpur union, and Moidul Islam Prince, 30, publication secretary of Awami League's Naldanga union unit.

Family members of the missing leaders said the four were picked up by plainclothes persons from different areas.

Police investigation is going on to trace out the four, said OC Farhad Emrul Quayesh of Sadullapur Police Station.

# 3-year conflict led to bloodshed

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According to Sunamganj district administration, the waterbody was leased to Nagergaon Matshajibi Samabay Samity for six years. Locals alleged that the organisation was backed by Mosarraf, also the mayor of Dirai Municipality, who kept control of the waterbody through AL leader Mashuk Miah.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, relatives of some of the injured said Mashuk bought a sub-lease from the Samity three years ago and had been in control of the waterbody since then. During the clash last year, Ekrar's supporters hacked him with a cleaver.

Ekrar also claimed that he purchased a sub-lease from the organisation for six years and was in control of the waterbody, but Mosarraf along with his supporters swooped on his men on Tuesday morning when they were fishing in the waterbody.

Mosarraf, however, outright rejected the allegation, claiming that he had no interest in the waterbody and no influence on the Samity.

Hafizur Rahman, chairman of Dirai Upazila Parishad, said the row over the control of the waterbody was discussed in the annual district law and order meeting last year, but no solution was found.

Dirai Upazila Nirbahi Officer Touhiduzzaman Pavel said the law enforcement agencies were asked to look into the matter so that no untoward incident occurs. But the conflict claimed three lives, which is very unfortunate.

Sheikh Rafiqul Islam, deputy commissioner of Sunamganj, said they ordered the Dirai UNO to investigate Tuesday's clash and submit a report in three working days.

"We are thinking about forming a probe body soon," the DC added.

NO CASE FILED

Dirai police did not record any case in

connection with Tuesday's clash till last night.

Harun-or-Rashid, superintendent of Sunamganj police, said a temporary police camp was set up near the waterbody yesterday to maintain law and order.

Meanwhile, Tajul Islam, 35, Shaharul Islam, 25, and Uzzal Miah, 28, were buried at their villages yesterday after the autopsies were completed. The three died on Tuesday of bullet wounds.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Dhananjay Sarkar, general secretary of the Samabay Samity, over the phone for his comment.



Students of Elbintila Government Primary School in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar often move around on the premises during the class hours as shortage of teachers badly hampers schooling there.

# Lone teacher for 200 kids!

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Classes of around 200 students of Elbintila Government Primary School in Juri upazila under the district are suffering due to shortage of teachers for long.

Nilanjana Roy, headmaster of the school, said her father Harinarayon Kurmi joined as headmaster there in January 2013 while she joined as an assistant teacher in April the same year.

"We used to manage all the classes, despite huge workload. After my father died in January last year, I got promoted as headmaster and started

managing classes as well as official works all alone. For obvious reasons, it is not possible for me to manage all the classes," she said.

Several students including Ruma Kurmi of Class III and Swapon, Mohon and Sobuj of Class IV said they often pass time gossiping and playing as all the classes are not held.

"We are worried about the future of our kids as they are not getting proper schooling due to shortage of teachers," said Moni Baori, mother of Shanta Baori, a student of the school.

Several other guardians expressed

the same.

"Besides managing classes, the headmaster remains busy in office work and upazila level meetings. Now two volunteers arranged by local guardians are trying to take the stopgap classes but they are too inexperienced for the task," said Md Foyaz Ali, chairman of 7 No Phultola Union Parishad.

"We wrote to the higher authorities about the problem more than once but to no effect yet," he said.

Md Sirajul Islam, district primary education officer of Moulvibazar, said he is not informed about the matter.

## 8 fishermen arrested in Sundarbans

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Six fishermen were arrested for fishing and two people were arrested for catching crabs in the sanctuary in West Sundarbans under Satkhira range yesterday.

The detainees are Anwar Hossain, Jakir Hossain, Nazrul Mollah, Abdul Razzak Faraji, Abu Zafar, Abdul Hannan, Mohammad Ozair Mollah and Shamim Mohammad Abul Kashem from different villages of Patuakhali.

Members of Sundarbans Smart Patrol team arrested them in a drive at Mandarbaria sanctuary in the Malancha river and Maitta canal and also seized their fishing trawler, fishing nets and a large quantity of fishing hooks.

Nazrul Islam, leader of Sundarbans Smart Patrol team, and officials of Koikhali Station of the Forest Department said they raided the area at 4:30am and arrested the six fishermen.

Another two were detained at 5:00am while they were catching crabs during breeding time.

Nazrul filed a case against the arrestees under the Forest Act.

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