

MP LITON MURDER

Kader Khan on fresh remand in arms case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A Gaibandha court yesterday granted five days' fresh remand of Abdul Kader Khan, mastermind of lawmaker Manzurul Islam Liton murder case, in connection with his illegal arms case.

Police produced Abdul Kader Khan, also a former Jatiya Party lawmaker, before the Court of Additional Judicial Magistrate Mainul Hasan Yusuf with prayer for seven days' remand, and the magistrate granted five days' remand after hearing, said Atiar Rahman, OC of Sundarganj Police Station.

"The assailants used three pistols for shooting Manzurul Islam Liton and the arms were supplied by Kader Khan, mastermind of the killing, Kader Khan confessed it during interrogation by police," said Rabiul Islam, additional superintendent of police, Gaibandha.

"Of the three arms, one is Kader Khan's

licensed pistol and two others are illegal. As per his confession, police recovered one illegal pistol and some ammunition after digging the ground at his Khanpara house, but police are yet to trace out another illegal pistol," he added.

Earlier on February 22, the same court allowed ten days' remand after his arrest from his Bogra house. On the fourth day of remand, Kader Khan agreed to give confessional statement under Section 164 before a magistrate.

On March 7, the court allowed the police one day's remand for Kader in connection with the illegal arm case.

Lastly the same court yesterday allowed five days' remand for massive interrogation of Kader Khan in this connection.

Assailants shot dead Manzurul Islam Liton, Gaibandha-1 lawmaker from ruling Awami League, at his Masterpara house on December 31, 2016.

Man gets life for killing son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A Chapainawabganj court yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his one year and six months old son in 2011.

Judge Enamul Bari of District and Sessions Judge's Court pronounced the verdict.

The convict is Abdul Halim, 32, son of late Nuhu Munshi of Laxmi Narayanpur in Gomostapur upazila.

The judge found Halim guilty after examining eight prosecution witnesses and relevant documents. The judge also fined him Tk 50,000.

According to the prosecution, Halim strangled his son Rifat at his in-laws' house in Bholahat upazila following an altercation with his wife around 12:30pm on October 4 in 2011.

FREEDOM FIGHTER FARUK MURDER

Hearing on charge framing deferred

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Hearing on charge framing against Awami League lawmaker of Tangail-3 (Ghatail) constituency Amanur Rahman Khan Rana and the other accused in freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case was deferred again.

First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in Tangail yesterday set April 24 as the date for the hearing, said Court Inspector Anwarul Islam.

The hearing was deferred as Rana is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he added.

Hearing was deferred on the same ground on September 29 and November 9 last year and January 10 this year.

Faruk Ahmed, former publicity secretary of Tangail district unit of Awami League, was shot dead near his College Para residence in Tangail town on January 18 in 2013.

A charge-sheet in the case was submitted by Tangail DB on February 3 last year.

The Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in Tangail accepted the charge sheet against 14 accused of the case on April 6 last year and issued arrest warrants for the 10 fugitives, including MP Rana and his brothers.



A farmer holding a maize cob without grains in Jamgram village under Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: STAR

Low quality seeds cause sterility in maize in Lalmonirhat

Suppliers assure farmers of compensation if seeds are substandard

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Allegedly poor quality seeds of maize is worrying maize farmers in Hatibandha and Patgram upazilas as the grain does not develop on the cob.

Siraj Uddin, 60, of Paruliya village in Hatibandha said, "I planted Kaberi Seed Limited's Kaberi-50 variety on three bighas but no maize grains developed on the cobs, whereas the growth of another variety on three bighas is normal."

Mafizul Islam, 55, of the same village said they got bumper production of Kaberi-50 variety last year, so they were highly interested

in growing it this year. "There are no grains on the cobs of Kaberi-50 variety as the seeds are substandard," he added.

Hamidul Islam, 58, of Jamgram village in Patgram upazila said he cultivated maize of National Agricare Hybrid Seed Limited's CP-988 variety on 10 bighas of land but no grains developed on the cobs on five bigha lands, while grains on the other five bighas are normal.

"If we don't get compensation from the seed companies we will face many problems as we took loan from non-governmental organisations and banks," said Nur Islam, 48, of Nabinagar village.

National Agricare Hybrid Seed

Limited's Marketing Officer Masud Rana said if the seeds supplied by them were proved to be substandard they would give compensation to the affected farmers.

Senior Marketing Officer of Kaberi Seed Company Limited Shahinur Kibria said agriculture officials visited the areas to find out why no grains developed, adding that it might have been caused due to soil problem or shortage of micro nutrient. "We always import best quality seed for supplying in the local markets," he added.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation's (BADC) Assistant Director Sohel Rana (Seed) said maize seeds are

mainly imported by private companies. "The agriculture department monitors the quality of the seeds in the open market," he added.

Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in Lalmonirhat Bidubhushon Roy said soil samples from the affected areas were collected and sent to the lab for testing. "We do not know why these grains are not growing on the cobs, it may be soil problem, low quality seed or shortage of micro-nutrients," he added.

Twenty two varieties of seeds were supplied by 10 seed companies for 25,000 hectares of land in the district this season.

To stop nuisance of challenged son!

Poor widow struggles for survival as well as maintenance of mentally challenged boy

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A poor widow of Beelbuka Charpara village in Trishal upazila under the district is struggling for survival as maintenance of her 14-year-old mentally challenged son poses an additional challenge.

The boy, Abu Hanif, the eldest among three children of Shefali Begum and late Abdus Salam, has to be kept chained as he has become a 'nuisance' for the villagers.

"Now Hanif's treatment seems a dream for me as I am unable to feed him and two other kids Sadia Akhter Bristi, 8, and Mohammad Yeasin, 3," said Shefali, 35.

"When Hanif was six-month-old, he showed signs of abnormal attitude. His father, a small cloth trader, arranged treatment for him but it failed to cure the kid," said Shefali.

"Woe befell our family as my husband was stabbed to death by



Shefali Begum fondles her mentally challenged son Hanif. The boy is chained to a tree during the daytime as neighbours find his 'mischievous acts' too much to tolerate.

PHOTO: STAR

hijackers at Gazipur Chowrasta in 2013. I and my three children are passing days half-fed," said a tearful Shefali.

"I have no landed property

other than the dwelling house and a small yard. I rear a few hens, ducks and goats to manage food for my kids.

"It is impossible for me to

arrange Hanif's treatment. Will not my son ever return to normal life?" cried the helpless mother.

"Tired of hearing neighbours' complaints about Hanif's erratic behaviour, his mother keeps him chained to a tree adjacent to the house during the day. At night he is chained to the cot. It is unbearable to see the sufferings of the boy," said Hanif's aunt Suma.

Sometimes Hanif is seen crying for food as his mother cannot manage it, said Abdul Quddus, a neighbour.

Delwar Hossain Kamal, chairman of Kanthal Union Parishad, said, "The boy is not listed for allowance for the disabled people yet. I will arrange reasonable support for the boy and his mother."

Abu Jafor Ripon, upazila nirbahi officer of Trishal, said he will visit the boy soon to do everything possible.

Minor girl raped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A minor girl was raped on Tuesday evening in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur.

The girl hails from the same village and is a Class III student of a local primary school.

Police arrested the alleged rapist Isaq Ali, 35, son of late Yaz Uddin of Madhuban village, from Birganj town yesterday.

A rape case was filed with Birganj Police Station on Wednesday, accusing Isaq. Police said the girl had gone out of her home on Tuesday afternoon for playing with her friends when Isaq Ali took her to a maize field and raped her.

Locals took the girl to Birganj upazila Health Complex from where she was referred her to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital. The girl underwent surgery yesterday, said Officer-in-Charge of Birganj Police Station Akkas Ali.

FOUR KIDS KILLING Case transferred to Sylhet tribunal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The four kids murder case was transferred to Sylhet Speedy Trial Tribunal by a Habiganj court yesterday.

Public Prosecutor Trilok Kanti Chowdhury Bijan said Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs SM Tauhidul Alam sent the letter for transfer of the Habiganj four kids murder case to the Sylhet Speedy Trial Tribunal on order of the president.

Habiganj District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Atabullah sent the case to the tribunal.

A total of 43 witnesses out of 57 gave testimony. Five accused are in custody while three are absconding.

Monir, 7, Zakaria Shuvo, 8, son of Abdul Wahid Mia, Mohammad Tajel Mia, 10, son of Abdul Aziz; and Ismail Mia, 10, son of Abdul Kader, went missing on February 12 in 2016 after they went to a nearby playground at Sundrateki village in Bahubal upazila of the district.

Five days later, their bodies were found buried under sand at a place adjacent to the village.

A case was filed with Bahubal Police Station on February 17. Officer-in-Charge Moktadir Alam of the Detective Branch of Police pressed charges against nine people in the case on April 5.

Habiganj Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal took the charges into cognisance and issued arrest warrant against the three fugitives on June 28.

Another accused Bachchu Mia was killed in a 'gunfight' with Rapid Action Battalion soon after the murder.

FARID MURDER

AL leader on 3-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court here yesterday placed a Bhuapur upazila unit Awami League leader and a local union parishad (UP) chairman on three-day remand in Farid murder case.

They are upazila AL joint convener Taherul Islam Tota and Aloa UP chairman Nurul Islam Sarkar.

Detective Branch (DB) of Police produced the duo before the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court seeking ten-day remand but it granted three-day remand, said Court Inspector Anwarul Islam.

On Tuesday, the law enforcers arrested the two from Gulshan area in the capital, said police.

Rokibul Islam Farid, former organising secretary of Bhuapur upazila unit of AL, went missing on December 5. His throat-slit body was found in a pond at his village Bharoi Modhyapara the following day.

Farid's younger brother Fazlul Karim filed a case with Bhuapur Police Station accusing unidentified criminals the same day.

Fanai now a stream

Encroachment on riverbanks led to drastic fall in its navigability

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The Fanai river flowing through Kulaura upazila has turned into a narrow stream due to encroachment on its banks by land grabbers.

Some influential people have been grabbing the riverbanks by planting bamboo trees and erecting boundary walls, said locals.

Boro farmers and fish cultivators are the worst sufferers due to narrowing of the river, said Moulvibazar Environmental Journalists' Forum General Secretary Muhaimin Milton.

Due to mindless encroachment over the past few years, Fanai has now turned into a narrow stream, creating a negative impact on agriculture and fish cultivation, he said.

Md Moynul Islam, a resident of Noldori village near the river, said a section of local people grabbed the river land by erecting boundary walls there.

During a recent visit to the nearby village Aggorabad, this correspondent saw that farmers are facing problems in cultivating crops as the river contains very little water in the dry season.

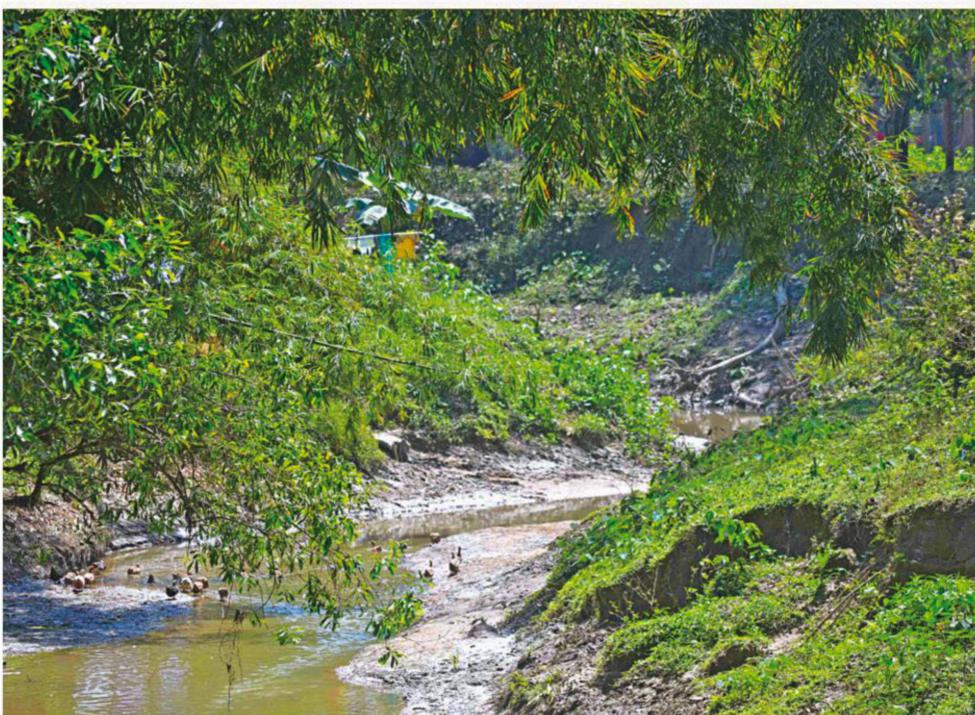
Due to irrigation problem, growers of the nearby villages have abandoned boro farming and switched to vegetable cultivation but that is also hampered due to lack of water in the river, said Milton.

With less availability of fish in the river, many fishermen have changed profession, he said.

MA Rahman Atik Chowdhury, chairman of Karmadha Union Parishad, said some people planted trees and bamboo plants in the river.

Moulvibazar Water Development Board Executive Engineer Bijoy Indra Sankar Chakrabarty said encroachment of the bank of Fanai has led to alarming decline in its navigability, which hampers smooth movement of vessels.

They sought fund from the higher authorities but no response has come as yet, he said.



The Fanai river flowing through Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar has turned into a narrow stream due to mindless encroachment over the past few years.

PHOTO: STAR