

Youth held for killing widow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police yesterday arrested a youth on charge of killing a Hindu widow after failing to rape her at Shayestaganj in Habiganj Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The arrestee is Sailu Mia, 25, son of Abdur Nur of Suroboy village in the upazila.

A group of local youths, allegedly led by Sailu, used to stalk victim Sukhia Robidas, 20, widow of late Moni Lal Robidas, police quoted the deceased's family members as saying.

On Friday night, Sailu entered Sukhia's house when she was alone and tried to violate her.

Sukhia tried to resist and Sailu stabbed her to death.

The following morning, locals spotted Sukhia's body in a nearby water body and informed the police, said OC Md Nazim Uddin of Shayestaganj Police Station.



Lands on the bank goes into the riverbed due to illegal sand lifting from the Jhinai at Kajirapara in Basail upazila of Tangail.

PHOTO: STAR

Sand lifting from Banshai, Jhinai rivers

The illegal act poses erosion threat to houses, schools, croplands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A syndicate of influential people has been illegally lifting sand from the Banshai and Jhinai rivers in Basail upazila of the district, threatening erosion of dwelling houses, educational institutions and croplands.

The sand traders have been lifting sand by sinking pipes into the bed of the rivers with dredgers from at least fifteen spots in Kashil, Kanchanpur and Kawaljani unions for long, causing erosion of nearby croplands and different structures, locals said.

Some of the spots are Duminibari Bazar at Kawaljani, Abbasia High School in the same area, Suinna Dakkhin Para area, Chonabari area, Suinna Purbopara and Ishwarganj Bazar area, Naikanbari area, Habla Bilpara Bazar to Kanchanpur Kajirapara Bridge and Kathaltoly area.

"We cannot stop them from lifting sand

as they are influential and have political clout," locals said.

None of the alleged sand lifters could be reached for their comments on the matter.

Many farmers lost their dwelling houses and croplands, and two schools were washed away during the monsoon last year, said Ashraf Ali, a farmer of Nothkhola area under Kashil union.

Though the sand lifters had left due to mobile court drives, they returned after only a few days, he added.

Croplands, dwelling houses and other structures are under threat of erosion due to lifting of sand, Ashraf said.

Locals said they have informed the officials of the union land offices, but nothing has been done so far to stop sand lifting.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer in Basail Saima Akter told journalists that she does not know about the issue and will take necessary steps in this regard after investigation.

BSTI fines 8 traders

Selling of low quality vermicelli, cheating alleged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Fight traders were fined Tk 54,000 for selling low quality vermicelli and using sub-standard meter and weight in Patgram upazila of the district yesterday.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) fined four traders for selling low quality vermicelli, two meat traders for not using standard weight and two cloth traders for not using standard metre.

The Field Officer in Rangpur BSTI Delwar Hossain said they conducted the drive with the help of local administration.

'Ensure punishment of college girl Jobeda'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Teachers, students and staff of Khondaker Delwar Hossain College formed a human chain yesterday, demanding capital punishment for the killers of Jobeda Akter, a student of the college.

The human chain was formed in front of the college on Shaheed Swarani Road.

Jobeda Akter, 18, daughter of Joynal Haque of Paikha village in Dhamrai upazila of Dhaka, was a first year student of humanities department of the college.

Principal Prof Md Fazlul Haque and lecturers Hedayetul Haque and Shahinur Islam of the college spoke at the rally. The speakers demanded capital punishment for Jobeda's alleged killer Hamid Mia, son of Nuru Mia of Paikha village.

Jobeda's mother Firoja Begum, brother Shafikul Islam and relatives also joined the programme.

The incident occurred after Jobeda went out of her house around 8:00pm on April 8 after receiving a phone call. Her body was found at a maize field near her house the next day.

Firoja Begum filed a murder case with Dhamrai Police Station on April 9. Hamid was arrested on April 20.

Sub-Inspector Enamul Haque, also investigation officer of the case, said Hamid strangled Jobeda with her scarf.

Hamid gave a confessional statement about the killing, the SI said, adding that they will submit the charge sheet to the court after getting reports of the medical and DNA tests.

Robber held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police yesterday arrested a robber and recovered one shutter gun, two cartridges and two sharp weapons from Churaman Kathi area in Sadar upazila of Jessore.

The arrestee is Abbas Ali, alias Mosto, 46, son of Adil Uddin of Rambhadrapur in Chowgachha upazila.

Ajmal Huda, officer-in-charge (OC) of Jessore Kotwali Police Station said acting on a tip-off police raided Churaman Kathi brick field where a gang of robbers was holding a meeting at around 1:30am.

They arrested Mosto and seized one shutter gun, two cartridges and sharp weapons from him. The other members of the gang managed to flee, the OC added. A case was filed.

Schoolgirl tortured for refusal of marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A 15-year-old schoolgirl, who was brutally tortured allegedly by her step uncle for refusing to get married to an elderly man, is now undergoing treatment at Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

The victim, Smrity Akter, daughter of expatriate Humayun Kabir of Baniajuri village in Ghior upazila of the district, is a Class IX student at Joynagar High School in Sadar upazila.

Smrity has been living at her maternal grandfather's house at Gilondo village in Sadar upazila since her mother Nargis Akter died soon after her birth about 15 years ago.

While talking to this correspondent Smrity said her uncle Rezaul Karim Saju, brother of her step mother, fixed her marriage with a 60-year-old man, also father of two children, about couple of weeks ago.

As she refused the marriage proposal, Saju and his mother Lovely Akter Dolly beat her up mercilessly and later confined her to a room at his house on April 30, Smrity added.

On June 5, Smrity somehow managed to free herself from the confinement and went to her paternal grandmother's house at Baniajuri village.

Later, her grandmother Momtaz Begum, 65, uncle Lutfar Rahman and other relatives admitted her to Manikganj Sadar Hospital for treatment.

Momtaz Begum filed a case with Sadar Police Station against Dolly, Saju, Samsul Haque and Maleka Begum on Friday night.

Police arrested Dolly and her son Saju from their house the same night, said Officer-in-Charge Habibullah Sarker of Sadar Police Station, adding that they are trying to arrest the other two accused of the case.



Young crabs are being put into cages specially made for farming of the crustaceans at a large pond in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali.

PHOTO: STAR

Cage-farmed crabs prove a money-spinner in Patuakhali

The innovative farming sees bright prospect in coastal districts

SOHRAB HOSSAIN with ANDREW EAGLE

For the past eight years Moazzem Hossain from Tulatali village in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila has been busy farming crabs, with mixed success. This year, he decided to try the cage farming method, which has been growing in popularity thanks to proven good results.

"When I started crab farming I used an open pond," explains Moazzem, "and there were many problems. The crabs often died. Food costs were high and with the soft mud at the bottom of the pond, collecting the crabs was difficult."

"Recently I have switched to using cages," he continues. "I set a total of 250 cages in the pond at a cost of around Tk 10,000. It's much better than before. I already earn

Tk 17,000 per month and once my farm is fully established I should earn up to Tk 20,000 per week."

Like Moazzem, Abdul Bareq from nearby Badurtali village is making a living from cage-farmed crabs. Without a pond of his own, Abdul relies on the reliable water flow of the public Badurtali Canal as the site for his farm.

"I started with 300 sizeable cages," he says. "I bought crabs weighing up to 180 grams each from the market at a cost of, at most, Tk 450 per kilogram. I keep up to six crabs in each cage and after rearing them for between ten and eighteen days, I sell the crabs for as much as Tk 1,300 per kilogram." Abdul sold crabs three times over the past four months and earned around Tk 1 lakh.

Given the potential to make

solid profits from cage-farmed crabs, the activity is becoming popular locally, according to the Kalapara fisheries office. Moreover, cage-farmed crabs can be combined with other aquaculture projects.

"I farm cage-reared crabs along with various species of fish in my pond," says Monobrat Sarkar from Mohipur village. "I make a decent living from it."

Kalapara fisheries officer Md Kamrul Islam says cage-reared crabs have significant potential in coastal areas where there are ample rivers, ponds and canals to support such enterprise. "Crabs are in great demand at home and abroad," he says. "We are providing technical support to local farmers interested in cage-farmed crabs."

Man killed for land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was killed over a land dispute in Parbatipur upazila of the district on Wednesday.

The victim, Md Mukul Hossain, 45, son of late Monsur Ali of Shibnagar village in Phulbari upazila, had a dispute over land with Shamsul Haque and Nazrul Islam of Ulipur village, police quoted family members as saying.

They locked in an altercation on Wednesday, when Shamsul and Nazrul's men hit Mukul with iron rods. He died at Parbatipur Upazila Health Complex.

Mukul's brother Delwar Hossain filed a murder case with Parbatipur Police Station on Thursday, accusing seven people, and police arrested one of the accused, said OC Moshtaq Ahmed.

Girl raped earlier, now abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police are yet to rescue a 15-year-old domestic help, who was abducted by her alleged rapists in Gouripur upazila of the district on June 7, after three days into her abduction.

Quoting victim's family members, police said a gang of 12 to 14 youths led by Kala Chand, entered the house on June 7 and forcibly picked up the girl, also daughter of a physically challenged beggar of Echhulia village, after tying her mother and sister-in-law with ropes.

Victim's father lodged a complaint with Gouripur Police Station, accusing Kala Chand and 14 others on June 8, said Sub-inspector Abdur Razzaq of the police station.

Earlier, Kala Chand, 19, and some of his close accomplices of neighbouring Krishnapur village in the upazila, raped the teenage girl when she went out of her room to respond to the call of nature on the night of May 26.

The following day, victim's father lodged a case with Gouripur Police Station against Kala Chand, son of Arshad Ali, and another unidentified youth, said Officer-in-Charge Delwar Ahmed of Gouripur Police Station.

Since the filing of the case, Kala Chand and his men had been putting pressure on the plaintiff to withdraw the case, otherwise they would face dire consequences, victim's family members alleged.

Youth killed by cousin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A young man was killed allegedly by his cousin over a trifling matter at Chandpur village in Akhaura upazila of the district on Friday.

The victim was Sabuj Mia, 28, son of late Sundor Ali of the village.

Quoting locals, police said Sabuj and his cousin Daru Mia locked in an altercation over their children's quarrel at Sabuj's house on Thursday afternoon.

At one stage, Daru strangled Sabuj. He later died at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Officer-in-Charge of Akhaura Police Station Mossarrar Hossain Tarafder said the victim's family filed a written complaint in this connection.

Youth dies in AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A youth was shot dead and three others were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League at Dakkhin Charamshura village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Masud Dhali, 22, of the village.

Md Tarif, 20, who was hit by bullet, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Two other injured Saiful Khan, 16, and Islam Dewan, 22, were admitted to Munshiganj General Hospital.

Police and witnesses said, the clash occurred between the supporters of former chairman of Charkeora union parishad Afsaruddin Bhuiyan, also the president of Sadar upazila unit of AL, and incumbent chairman Akhteruzzaman Jibon over establishing supremacy in the area. Tension was prevailing between the two groups for a few days.

Officer-in-Charge of Sadar Police Station Yunus Ali said, additional police have been deployed in the area and the situation is under control.



Relatives wail the death of Masud Dhali in a clash between two rival groups of local Awami League at Dakkhin Charamshura village in Munshiganj yesterday. Below, bullet-hit Md Tarif being carried on an ambulance for sending to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. PHOTO: STAR