

Bid to steal baby from Bandarban hospital foiled
Man arrested
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A man was arrested on charge of trying to steal a baby girl from her mother at Bandarban Sadar Hospital on Wednesday morning.

Md Shahidullah, 50, of Cox's Bazar's Moheshkali area, was caught near the main gate of the hospital while he was fleeing with the four-and-a-half-year-old girl, said police.

Umme Salma along with her child Jannatul Naima had been in the hospital for the last few days as her elder son is being treated for appendicitis problem.

"I went to the bathroom keeping Naima in bed. When I came back, I saw my daughter missing from there," said Salma.

Hearing the mother's cry for her child, relatives of other patients at the hospital rushed to the main gate and started searching for the baby. Shahidullah was caught red-handed near the gate.

Jubo League men assault Prothom Alo journalist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Local Jubo League men allegedly assaulted a journalist of Bangla daily Prothom Alo yesterday while he was covering news of vote rigging at a polling centre during the by-election of Paharpur union parishad (UP) in Bijoynagar upazila of the district.

Locals and witnesses said supporters of AL-backed chairman candidate Abul Kalam Azad led by Kawsar Bhuiyan, joint secretary of Bijoynagar upazila unit of Jubo League, stormed into Shezumura Humayun Kabir Government Primary School polling centre around 10:00am and started stuffing ballot boxes.

"At one stage of vote rigging, Kawsar and his men swooped on me as I was covering the incident from a close distance," said Shahadat Hossain, district correspondent of Prothom Alo, who was injured by the attackers.

Shahadat said as he entered the polling centre Jubo League leader Kawsar asked him to leave the place immediately when suddenly Kawsar's uncle Kalam Mia, who was inside booth number 5, came out and started beating him and drove him out.

As he came out of the polling centre, Kawsar along with other ruling party leaders and activists chased him, Shahadat said, adding that at one stage he entered into a nearby house to save himself from their wrath.

Later, some 15 to 20 local journalists of different print and electronic media rushed to the spot and rescued Shahadat as Kawsar and his associates kept him confined at the house for quite some time.

Officer-in-Charge of Bijoynagar Police Station Ali Arshad said after hearing the news he went to the area, but he did not find anyone at the spot.



Heavy rain and onrush of water from the hills have badly damaged roads in eight upazilas of Sylhet and five upazilas of Moulvibazar, hampering communication. This photo shows Moulvibazar-Barlekha road in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Cops' centre in aid of tortured women

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Police in Barguna have taken a different step to save women, who were tortured by their families, and over 300 victims have already got benefit through counselling in the last seven months.

They set up a counselling centre named 'Jagoroni Nari Sahayata Kendra', a help centre for tortured women, at the police office on November 12 last year.

Barguna District and Sessions Judge Md Hasanuzzaman and Judge for Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Md Julfikar Ali jointly opened the centre in presence of local elites, lawyers, journalists and politicians.

Reshma (not her real name), 20, of Purbochila village in Amtali upazila was divorced by her husband over family feud, when she found out that she became pregnant.

She informed her husband about the matter but he refused to take her as his wife again.

Finding no alternative, Reshma went to the Sahayata Kendra and filed a complaint.

Sahayata Kendra arranged a meeting between both parties several times and finally her husband changed his

decision and they reunited.

"I am very grateful to Sahayata Kendra' as they solved my problem," said Reshma.

Another victim of Barguna Sadar, who was tortured by her addict husband, informed the Sahayata Kendra and filed a complaint.

Jannatul Ferdous, sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station, also coordinator of Jagoroni Nari Sahayata Kendra, called the husband of the woman and started counselling. After some days, the husband realised his fault and changed his behaviour towards his wife.

The Jagoroni Nari Sahayata Kendra is running under the supervision of an additional superintendent of police and an SI is serving there as a coordinator, while a five-member team receives complaints from victims, a source at Barguna police office said.

This different initiative taken by the police will play a vital role in reducing torture on women, said Nazma Begum, chairman of Barguna Mohila Parishad.

"In the last seven months, we were able to resolve 300 tortured women's problems following their complaints," said SI Jannatul Ferdous.

"We also filed nine cases with the court as we failed to solve the problems with counselling," she said.



Like many others, houses at Kina Moni Ghona area of Rangamati, destroyed during the catastrophic landslides on June 12, are yet to be rebuilt.



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Landslide fear haunts victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

One month into the landslide tragedy in the district, most of the victims are living at shelter centres as they cannot afford to rebuild their damaged houses to make those usable.

Besides, there is fear of fresh landslides.

After heavy rainfall stopped one week ago, only a small number of victims returned to their own places.

"My father and five other people were killed due to the landslide on June 12. We 22 families living in the area are still living at a shelter centre. We come to our damaged houses at day and go to stay at shelter centre at night," said Amar Moni Chakma, 45, an inhabitant of badly damaged Kina Moni Ghona area.

I could not repair it yet. We have heard that the administration will shift us from this shelter," Jibon Bosu Chakma, said still we are living at Vedvedi Pouro High School shelter centre.

"But we don't want to go to any other centre because it will be difficult adapt there. Moreover, schooling of our children will be affected," he added.

Sorpa Chakma, a Class IX student of Vedvedi Pouro High School, said, "Our examination is going on. If we have to shift to another shelter centre, there will be problem to adjust with the new situation and it will affect my examination."

Ikhtiar Uddin Arafat, additional deputy commissioner of Rangamati, said the administration is looking for land to rehabilitate the victims.

Prakash Kanti Chowdhury, additional deputy commissioner (Revenue) of Rangamati, said the adminis-