

Woman killed by husband, in-laws

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A housewife was murdered allegedly by her husband and in-laws over a family feud in Madhukhali upazila of the district on Monday.

Nabial Sheikh, father of deceased Shirina Begum, 30, of Maghami village filed a murder case with Madhukhali Police Station the same night.

Victim's family members said Shirina, also mother of an eight-year-old boy, was married to Murad Sheikh of Swaruppur village about ten years ago.

Neighbour said the couple, who had a quarrel over piling up of jute stalks at their courtyard on Sunday, went to sleep after having their meal at night.

Local people found Shirina's body hanging from the ceiling of her room, but did not find any of the family members, who fled the scene, leaving the body there.



Massive earth cutting by an influential syndicate from the Pungli river in Kalihati upazila of Tangail poses threat to a nearby rail bridge on Joydevpur-Bangabandhu Bridge route.

PHOTO: STAR

4 abducted fishermen rescued after gunfight

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Members of Bangladesh Coastguard rescued four abducted fishermen from the den of Boro Mia Bahini after a gunfight with forest robbers in Harintana Khal area under Chandpai Range of the East Sundarbans in the district yesterday afternoon.

They also recovered nine bullets, 13 mobile sets and a boat from the spot.

The rescued fishermen are Rubel Jamadder, 22, Jahidul Hawlader, 19, Suman Akon, 24, and Isa Hawlader, 14, of Sharankhola upazila.

Lt Commander M Faridzaman Khan, operations officer of Mongla coastguard, said on secret information, they raided the area.

Sensing the presence of the coastguards, forest robbers opened fire on them, forcing them to retaliate, triggering a gunfight. However, the robbers managed to flee the scene.

DOUBLE MURDER IN BAHUBAL CLASH

Males flee home in fear of arrest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A large number of males from Mukkandi village in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj have left the area amid fear of arrest in connection with Saturday's clash that left two people killed and 50 others injured.

Matin Mia, 50, and Abdul Kabir, 50, died and about 50 others were injured as two groups of villagers attacked each other with sharp weapons and sticks at Mukkandi village on Saturday morning, said Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bahubal Police Station.

The clash followed a quarrel between two groups after the Juma prayers on Friday over appointment of the imam of a local mosque and formation of its management committee, locals said.

On Sunday, Sub-inspector Abdul Rahim of Bahubal Police Station filed a case accusing 76 named and 200 to 250 unnamed people.

A large number of males left the area in fear of arrest although no one has so far been detained in connection with the incident, said Sanu Miah, a resident of Mukkandi village.

"We are in fear of arrest as most of the accused are unnamed," said Moinul Islam, another local.

Several women of the village said their husbands have gone away as often police comes to the area.

"Some Awami League activists told me to give money for omitting my husband's name from the list of the accused," a woman alleged.

Raselur Rahman, assistant superintendent (South) of Habiganj police, said there is nothing to fear for the innocent locals as only the guilty people will face action after investigation.

Additional police forces have been deployed as the area remains tense, he said.

Earth lifting puts rail bridge under threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A syndicate of influential people is lifting earth from the Pungli river at Kalihati upazila of the district illegally, putting a nearby rail bridge on Joydevpur-Bangabandhu Bridge route under threat.

The earth traders are lifting earth from a depth of 10 feet to 15 feet with dredgers, locals said.

The traders, led by Jakir Hossain of Mohela village and Bondez Ali of Fatikjani village, are also using railway land for their illegal earth business, they added.

A case was filed against Jakir last year for lifting sand from under the rail bridge and he was arrested, said Assistant Executive Engineer of Bangladesh Railway in Joydevpur Mohammad Abdur Rashid.

Jakir later resumed the illegal activities after getting bail from the court, he added.

The influential earth traders, having political clout, are still continuing their illegal earth cutting in the same place under

the nose of the authorities, locals said.

Asked about the allegation, Jakir claimed that this time they are cutting earth far from the rail bridge. He, however, admitted that they were using railway land for keeping the lifted earth.

He also claimed that they are doing it after taking verbal permission from the railway authorities.

Engineer Abdur Rashid told this correspondent that the railway authorities did not give Jakir any permission for cutting earth or doing business on railway land.

"Being informed, I visited the spot recently and stopped their illegal activities," he said.

"I also gave evidence at the court a few weeks ago in the under-trial case filed against Jakir by the railway authorities for lifting sand from under the rail bridge," he said.

"Necessary steps will be taken against him if he resumes the illegal earth business on the railway's land again," he added.

4 electrocuted

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Four people, including a man and his son, were electrocuted in Tangail and Thakurgaon yesterday and on Monday night.

Our Tangail correspondent reported that, a 50-year-old man and his son were electrocuted in Kalihati upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Abdul Karim and his 22-year-old son Abu Darad, were residents of Deopur village under Salla union in the upazila.

Quoting villagers, police said Karim, owner of a poultry farm, came in contact with a live electric wire at his farm around 12:00noon.

Darad, who was working nearby his father, was electrocuted when he tried to rescue his father. Officer-in-Charge Mosharaf Hossain of Kalihati Police Station said.

Neighbours rescued the tow and took them to Tangail General Hospital where doctors declared both of them dead, the OC said, adding that the bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for autopsies.

Away in Thakurgaon, a couple were electrocuted at Pashchim Milonpur village in Sadar upazila on Monday.

The deceased are Nazrul Islam, 40, son of late Keramat Ali of the village, also general secretary of Thakurgaon Fish Farm Owners' Association, and his wife Shewly Begum.

Quoting villages Sub-Inspector of Sadar Police Station Golam Mortuza said Shewly came in contact with a live wire around 7:00pm while switching on a light at their kitchen.

Seeing his wife dying, Nazrul tried to rescue her but was also electrocuted.

Family members took them to Sadar Hospital where doctors declared them dead.



Women workers engaged in the seasonal job of separating jute fibre from stalks at Rautara village in Magura Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Wooden platform on collapsed bridge

It has been lying unrepaired for four years causing suffering to Barguna people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Villagers have built a wooden platform over Badura Varani canal in Amtali upazila of Barguna in place of the bridge that has not been repaired after it collapsed in 2013, being hit by a sand-laden vessel.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) built the bridge in 2007 to ease communication for over 30,000 people of Athorogachia union in Amtali upazila of Barguna and Amkhola union in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali.

There are six educational institutions -- Sonakhali School and College, Sonakhali Government Primary School, Modhya Sonakhali Government Primary School, Garabunia Government Primary School, Purbo Sonakhali Government Primary School and Mahub Mollah Dakhil

Madrassa -- near the bridge and most of the students have to use it to go to attend those.

Tanjila Akhter, a student of Class VII at Sonakhali School and College, said they cross the bridge daily at great risk as it might collapse anytime.

Athorogachia Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Md Harun-ur-Rashid said they informed LGED about the collapse of the bridge, but no steps have been taken to repair it as yet.

UP Member Md Jalal uddin said around 30,000 people of two unions are suffering due to the broken bridge, adding that the authorities should take immediate steps to repair it to end the people's suffering.

LGED Engineer in Amtali Md Nazrul Islam said they could not repair the bridge due to lack of funds, adding that they are planning to build a new bridge there.

SEPARATING RAW FIBRE FROM JUTE STALKS IN MAGURA, JHENIDAH

Over 50,000 women earn extra money to support families

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Over 50,000 women in different upazilas of Magura and Jhenidah have engaged themselves in separating raw fibre from jute stalks and helping the family with their additional income.

Many girl students in the areas are also seen engaged in the job to help their families by earning some extra money during their holidays.

Sources at Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Magura and Jhenidah said about 40,600 women are engaged in the work in Magura and 10,750 in Jhenidah this season and earning Tk 250 to Tk 300 per day.

According to the DAE around 40,444 hectares of land have been brought under jute cultivation in four upazilas of Magura while 24,172 hectares were cultivated in six upazilas of Jhenidah in the current season.

A number of women and girls in the area said they can separate 100 bundles of jute (each bundle containing of 25 to 30 jute sticks) and earn Tk 250 to Tk 300 per day.

Anjana Rani of Rautara village in Magura Sadar upazila said, "It is quite impossible for my day labourer husband to run the family with his little income. I am doing the job to help my family by earning some extra money."

Shefali Khatun of Gangnalia village in Sreepur upazila of the district said, "I earn Tk 300 per day by separating raw fibre which help my rickshaw puller husband to run our five-member family."

Sumi Khatun, a school student at Rautara in Magura Sadar upazila, said, she earns Tk 200 by separating the raw fibre in holidays which helps her buy pen, exercise books and pay tuition fees.

Deputy Director Partha Pratim Saha of Magura DAE said a good number of women and girls in the district are engaged in separating raw fibre from jute stalks and earning some additional money to help their families.



Local people crossing the wooden platform, built by the villagers over Badura Varani canal in Barguna's Amtali upazila, amid risk as the bridge has not been repaired since its collapse in 2013.

PHOTO: STAR