

Man gets death for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife over dowry in 2010.

The convict -- Moniruzzaman alias Selim, 36, of Digalpara village in Phulbaria upazila of the district -- was also fined Tk 10,000.

Helal Uddin, judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Mymensingh, delivered the verdict.

Quoting the case statement, Nowjesh Ali Mian, court inspector of Mymensingh, said Moniruzzaman married Papi Akhter, 28, of Sushati village in Phulbaria upazila on October 9, 2009.

After a few months of their marriage, Moniruzzaman demanded Tk 2 lakh dowry and sent Papi to her parent's house for the money.

Papia's father Safar Ali expressed his inability to pay the dowry and kept his daughter at his house.

Later, Moniruzzaman brought his wife from her father's house and started torturing her for dowry.

On April 27 of 2010, following an altercation over the issue, he beat Papi to death and the following day he informed his in-laws that Papi was critically ill.

When Papi's family members reached Moniruzzaman's house, they found her already dead.

Following the incident, Papi's father lodged a case with Phulbaria Police Station accusing Moniruzzaman and Nazrul Islam, a relative of Moniruzzaman.

After examining witnesses and evidence, the court sentenced Moniruzzaman to death and acquitted Nazrul from the charge.



Partially submerged houses in Jamgora area of Savar's Ashulia. Poor drainage system, coupled with incessant rainfall over the last few weeks, has contributed to this waterlogging problem, causing immense sufferings to the residents for nearly a month. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

AGONY OF ASHULIA

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

The residents of different areas in Savar's Ashulia have been in the grip of perennial waterlogging for a month.

Poor drainage system, coupled with incessant rainfall for the last few weeks, has contributed to this woe, said the residents.

They said this is not the first time they are experiencing such; every year, they have to deal with waterlogging for at least four months during the monsoon.

Currently, a number of areas were under knee-deep water. Of them, Jamgora, Gazirchat, Baipail, Sreepur, Chettoshail, Vadail, Pobnartak and Kurgone were the worst affected areas.

Ali Hossen, a trader in Jamgora area, said even a light shower, let alone heavy downpour, causes waterlogging in the area as there is no drainage system.

Anis Mia, a rickshaw garage owner in the same area, said his garage had gone under water, halting his business activities.

If the situation does not improve, he



A poultry shop under knee-deep water in the area.

will have to suffer financially as he solely depends on this business, said Anis.

Meanwhile, garment workers, who live in the area in abundance, are having a tough time running daily errands and

travelling to and from their workplaces.

"We are suffering. As the gas stove of my house is completely submerged, I cannot prepare food for the family," said Kalpona Akter, a garment worker. "Every morning,

we have to eat dry food."

Nurunnahar Begum, a resident in Gazirchat area, said as the area is waterlogged, toilets and electric water pumps for extracting groundwater have gone under water, posing a health threat and contributing to drinking water crisis.

Mokbul Hossain, who rents out houses in Jamgora area, said some of his tenants had already left due to the waterlogging.

Expressing frustration, he said they have to face such situation every monsoon.

Saiful Islam, chairman of Swanirvor Dhamsona union parishad that covers Jamgora, Gazirchat, Baipail and Pobnartak areas, said he had informed the higher authorities of the problem.

He will talk to the authorities concerned to bring a solution to the problem, he added.

UN treaty curbing mercury emission comes into effect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Minamata Convention -- a UN treaty aimed at curbing worldwide extraction, usage and emission of mercury in order to protect human health and the environment -- has come into effect on Wednesday, said a press release.

Michael Bender, coordinator of Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG), said, "While there are alternatives to mercury, there are no alternatives to global cooperation."

"Mercury respects no boundaries and exposes people everywhere," said Dr Shahriar Hossain, secretary general of Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO).

Expressing their concern over the emission of mercury, both the experts in the press statement said, "Only a global pact can curtail this dangerous neurotoxin."

"We are now on the right track," said Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, project manager of European Environmental Bureau and ZMWG co-coordinator.

In October 2013, the convention text was adopted and signed by 128 countries. The convention was ratified in May this year and it entered into force on August 16.

The first conference of the Parties will take place from September 24 to 29 in Geneva, Switzerland.

SC VERDICT ON 16TH AMENDMENT Lawyers' face-off continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers' groups aligned with the Awami League and the BNP staged demonstrations at different bar association premises across the country yesterday, for the third day, over the Supreme Court verdict on the 16th amendment case.

Pro-AL lawyers held rallies and human chains under the banner of Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad (BAAP) as part of their three-day protest programme demanding expunction of "unexpected, irrelevant and unconstitutional observations" made by the chief justice in the verdict.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF), a platform of pro-BNP lawyers, held rallies at different bar associations including the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), demanding resignation and arrest of Law Commission Chairman Justice ABM Khairul Haque for "breaching code of conduct" by holding a press conference on the SC verdict.

They also protested the ministers' "provocative comments" about the SC verdict and AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Kader's move to meet the chief justice at his residence over the SC verdict.

Earlier on August 13 and 16, both the lawyers' groups organised similar programmes across the country.

WHAT PRO-AL LAWYERS SAY
At the meeting of BAAP at SCBA's south hall, its member secretary Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said the SC judgement on the 16th constitutional amendment "came through a pen drive from a laptop".

"We know the laptop in which the judgment was produced. We will disclose it in time," he said.

Barrister Taposh also urged the SC to expunge "irrelevant" observations from the judgement on a suomoto (of its own) move.

Expressing solidarity with BAAP, Barrister Nazmul Huda, a former BNP minister, said the authority to remove the SC judge for incapacity and misconduct should be given to parliament, as it represented the 16 crore people of the country through their elected lawmakers.

He proposed that the three-member Supreme Judicial Council led by the chief justice would probe the allegation against any SC judge and send the probe report to the parliament for its decision and the president would execute the parliament's decision.

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WHO CARES?...Ignoring a no-parking sign, vehicles are parked on Abdul Gani Road near the secretariat in the capital yesterday. Such illegal practice blocks almost half of the road, causing traffic jam in the area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

TV anchor-actress sues co-artist for rape

Ninth grader 'raped' by school teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A television presenter and actress on Wednesday night filed a rape case with the capital's Kadamtali Police Station against one of her co-artists.

In the case statement, the 23-year-old woman, also a university student, alleged that actor Shariful Islam alias Nantu developed a love affair with her while working as a co-actor.

On July 12, the two along with 26 artists went to India to participate in a fashion show. There, he promised to marry her, claiming that he was single. After returning home, the actress started putting pressure on him for marrying her, according to the statement.

On August 2, Shariful, a father of two, came to her Kadamtali house on the pretext of discussing their marriage issue, and in the absence of her family members, he raped her, she said.

The complainant claimed that Shariful also set a camera in the room when she went to the kitchen for making tea for him and subsequently filmed the rape.

Officer-in-Charge of Kadamtali Police Station Kazi Wazed said the accused were trying to blackmail the girl threatening her with circulating the video clips. Police are looking for him, he said.

SCHOOLGIRL 'RAPED'
Meanwhile, police arrested Sujan, 24, an assistant teacher of a private school, on the charge of raping a class-nine student in Pallabi area on Wednesday night.

The girl's father filed a case with Pallabi Police Station, saying Sujan, also a student of Government Titumir College, asked her daughter to stay for taking notes after ending coaching classes at around 8:00pm. When she went to his office room at the school, Sujan raped her, he said.

CU Chhatra Front stages demo for Cucusu polls

CU CORRESPONDENT

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) of Chittagong University unit yesterday staged a demonstration to press home their five-point demand including holding of CU Central Student Union election and resolving the transport crisis immediately.

They brought out a procession on the campus around 1:30pm and paraded the important thoroughfares of the university.

Their other demands include ensuring treatment for all without discrimination at CU Medical Centre and improving the standard of food provided at university halls.

Leaders of the organisation at the demonstration urged the authorities concerned to meet their demands immediately, otherwise they will launch tougher movements.

Addressing the rally, SCF CU unit Convener Fazle Rabby alleged that despite repeated appeals from the student bodies, the university authorities did not take any step to hold the CUCSU election.

Around 50 leaders and activists attended the programme.



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