

## Youth shown arrested in Jishan murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A youth was shown arrested on Tuesday in connection with a case for killing a schoolboy in Mymensingh town early Monday.

The arrestee is Nabin, son of Mamun master of Kacharipara area in the town. Monira Begum, mother of slain Mominul Islam Jishan, a Class IX student of Singhajani Multilateral High School, filed a murder case with Sadar Police Station accusing three named and 10 to 12 other unnamed people on Tuesday night, said Sub-inspector Asadul Islam of the police station.

The named accused are Rahi, 22, of Station Road area, Kawsar, 24, of Pathalia area, and Nabin, 28.

Jishan, also convener of the town unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), locked in an altercation with the trio, while entering a cinema hall in the town on Sunday night.

As a sequel, the three accused in the case stabbed Jishan on the stomach when he came out of the hall at midnight, leaving him critically injured.

Local people rescued Jishan and took him to Jamalpur General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries around 2:00am.

Police detained Nabin on Monday for his alleged involvement in the murder.

Meanwhile, speakers at a human chain programme at Doyamoyee Intersection in the town yesterday demanded immediate arrest of the other accused in the case.



Picturesque naturally grown forest on the Chitra river in Chitalmari upazila of Bagerhat.

PHOTO: PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY

# Bagerhat's Chitra river forest at risk

Poaching, conflict between wild animals and poultry farms threaten biodiversity

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY with ANDREW EAGLE

Approximately one hundred kilometres north of the Sundarbans along the banks of Bagerhat's Chitra River is a newer forest which has emerged over the past decade. Locally known as the 'Mini Sundarbans', the tidal forest of keora mangrove-apple trees, sundari mangroves and nipa palms located in Chitalmari upazila is a natural haven for

wildlife, including migratory birds. The ecosystem's integrity is far from secure however, with bird poachers increasingly active and because wild animals in search of food are coming into conflict with nearby poultry farms.

"There are a variety of animal species in the forest," says Vanjon Biswas from adjacent Dumuria village. "The forest is their kingdom. But if the animals sense an opportunity they snatch chickens. Now and then villagers kill the animals

to protect their poultry."

The Mini Sundarbans is home to populations of jungle cat, fishing cat and Bengal monitor lizard, all of which are prone to prey on domestic birds and their eggs. The death of these animals at the hands of villagers is gradually putting their local populations at risk.

Meanwhile, the migratory birds which take shelter in the forest during the winter months face the challenge of poachers. "Dishonest people some-

times trap or shoot wild birds," says Jalil Sheikh from Khiligati village beside the forest.

Among the myriad of avian species to be found in the forest are doves, pigeons, magpie-robins, cranes and hawks. It is also a popular habitat for bats.

As for aquatic species, dolphins can be seen time to time in the river, though due to siltation and declining river navigability the environment is less suitable for dolphins than once it was.

"The forest must be kept as a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife," says District Forest Officer Saidul Islam. "I will visit the area as soon as possible to take necessary steps to protect the forest."

Bagerhat Deputy Commissioner Tapan Kumar Biswas says that all kinds of measures are being taken to increase awareness of the need to protect fauna. "If anybody is killing wild animals, stern action will be taken against them," he says.



Sellers of bamboo items at Kathalbari Haat in Kurigram Sadar upazila pass idle time in absence of customers. Inset, artisans make household items with bamboo slats at Patnipara village in the upazila.

PHOTO: ABDUL WAHED

## Hard days for Kurigram bamboo craft artisans

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

Artisans of bamboo items are worried due to low sales and absence of customers in the district's weekend haats (markets) as they do not have any alternative source of income.

Very little sale is compelling them to maintain their families by taking loans. Some of them go to Dhaka for earning money during this time of the year.

Some artisans at Kathalbari haat in Sadar upazila told this correspondent about their work and seasonal hard time (July to September) when he recently visited the haat and saw no customers.

They make bamboo products like darki (tool for catching fish), ghorpa (cage for keeping poultry), pigeon cage, duli (large pot for keeping paddy), winnowing-tray, winnowing-fan, winnowing-net, mat, hand-fan, basket, jhapi (large hat) and dari-palla (scales).

Mozammel Haque, 55, of Barobari

union in Lalmonirhat, said, "I bought one wicker tray for domestic use. In this season, there is no need for bamboo products, but I need to buy some bamboo items during paddy harvesting time every season."

Mukul Chandra Das, 38, of Shiburam village in Kathalbari union under Sadar upazila said, "We maintain our families by making bamboo handicraft as we have no cultivable land. This is a permanent job for our Das community."

"Most of our bamboo products are used in the agro-based works. Harvesting period of any crop is a good time for our business," Mukul said.

"The products are made with makla variety of bamboo. Farmers normally do not sell bamboo as this season (June-August) is its reproduction period," he added.

Sumon Chandra Das, 18, said, "Our family of nine members depends on the bamboo-craft business. All our family members are involved in producing bamboo items. We sell our

products in various local markets."

Taposh Tarani Das, 23, said, "I am passing a hard time now as our bamboo-craft business is not going well. So, I have decided to go to Dhaka for earning money by pulling rickshaw during the hard time (up to September)."

Bamboo artisan Radha Rani Das, 46, wife of Karendra Taroni Das of the village, said, "My family of nine members is maintained by making and selling bamboo items. Now, the sale of our bamboo products has decreased a lot. Sometimes we take meals only once a day."

"I have already taken loan of Tk 20,000 from my neighbours. I will repay it with interest after some months when I sell my products," Radha Rani said.

"I do not know how to take loan for my handicraft business from a government organisation. I think I could bring solvency in my family if I got government loan for making bamboo-craft," she added.

## Man arrested on charge of killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A youth was arrested yesterday for killing his wife at Konabari village in Trishal upazila of the district.

The arrestee is Jony Mia, 25.

Quoting family members, Officer-in-Charge of Trishal Police Station Md Jakiur Rahman said Jony, an unemployed youth, hit his wife Popy Akhter, 23, with a brick on Tuesday and fled the scene. She died on the spot.

Jony married Popy five years ago, and he and his family members had been pressing Popy for dowry since then, the OC said.

The couple had an altercation on Tuesday and Jony hit Popy on the head with a brick, killing her on the spot, the OC added.

Jony was arrested yesterday from Konabari area.

Victim's mother Monjuara Begum lodged a case with the police station, accusing Jony and his parents.

# Acid thrown by former husband

Woman, two siblings hospitalised with burn injuries

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A woman and her two siblings sustained serious burn injuries as her former husband threw acid on them at their Kalapagla village home in Haluaghat upazila under the district on Tuesday night.

The victims are Morium Akhter, 22, her brother Russel Kabir, 20, and sister Mohiran Akhter, 13.

Morium is a garment worker, Kabir is an honours first year student of English at Government Ananda Mohan College, and Mohiran is a seventh grader, family sources said.

Their parents Abul Kalam and mother Farida Yeasmin are day labourers.

"My daughter Morium married mobile mechanic Sohel Rana, 30, son of Abdul Hye of Raghunathpur of Haluaghat following a love affair two years ago," said Farida Yeasmin, mother of the victims.

"Sohel had concealed that he had already a wife and a daughter. One year after her marriage, Morium learnt about it and protested. Afterwards, Sohel tortured her on various occasions," alleged Farida.

Eight months ago, Morium divorced Sohel and started staying at her paternal house. Later, Morium went to Dhaka and managed a job at a garment factory five months ago, said Ziaul Haque, a cousin of the victims.

"Morium came home during the Eid holidays. When she, her sister Mohiran and brother Kabir were watching television around 10:00pm on Tuesday, Sohel and his accomplice Al Amin,



Russel Kabir, one of the three acid attack victim siblings, at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

25, threw acid on them through the window and fled," said Md Kamrul Islam Miah, officer-in-charge of Haluaghat Police Station, referring to family members.

"Hearing the screams of the victims, family members and neighbours rushed in and took them to Haluaghat Upazila Health Complex. Later, they were shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

"Police arrested Sohel, Al Amin and acid seller

Ujjal Banik from different areas of the upazila and started interrogating them," he said.

The victims' father Abul Kalam lodged a case with Haluaghat Police Station accusing four people including the arrestees yesterday.

Morium and Kabir sustained some 20 percent burn injuries on the upper portions of their bodies including faces, said the OC, quoting Dr Limon Kumar Dhar, head of Burn and Plastic Surgery Department of MMCH.

## 2 militant suspects on 4-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court here yesterday placed two JMB suspects on a four-day remand.

They are Syed Nurul Huda Masum, 34, and Syed Mazharul Islam Khokon, 28, sons of late Syed Abul Hossain Chishtee of Masinda village under Elenga municipality.


Kalihati police produced them before the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Rupon Kanti Das with a prayer for a seven-day remand, but the court granted a four-day remand, said Court Inspector Anwarul Islam.

Deputy Assistant Director of Crime Prevention Company-3 of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-12) Selim Miah filed a case against them on Tuesday with Kalihati Police Station under Anti-Terrorism Act, said Bina Rani Das, commanding officer of Rab-12.

Following a lead, the elite force members raided the suspected hideout and arrested the siblings from there, she said.

Tuesday's raid at Mazar Road in Dhaka's Mirpur was based on the information provided by them, she added.

We deeply mourn the sad demise of  
MR. MD ALAUDDIN AHMED



Mr. Md Alauddin Ahmed, Retd. Chief Engineer, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) passed away on August 28, 2017 at 11:06 p.m. (Innalillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Rajeun). He was buried at his family graveyard at BeaniBazar, Sylhet. He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.