

**SAGOR MURDER**  
Prime accused still at large

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Four days into the brutal killing of teenage Sagor, the prime accused are yet to be arrested.

Witnesses said Akkas Ali and his men beat dead Sagor Mia, 16, bringing allegations of attempt to steal a water pump from Gauchhia Hatchery owned by Akkas at Charisrampur village beside

Mymensingh-Kishoregani road in Gouripur upazila of the district on Monday morning.

Sagor, second among seven children of Shipon Mia of Mymensingh town's Nookoghar Lane Railway Colony area, went out of their home around 4:00am on Monday with a rickshaw-van to collect scraps, family members said.

On Tuesday the victim's father filed a murder case against 12 people, including Akkas, his brothers Hashu Mia, Abdus Sattar Chibto, Jewel Mia and Sohel Mia, and Akkas's employee Kaum with Gouripur Police Station.

But police could not arrest main accused Akkas and Kaum as of filing this report yesterday, said Debar Ahmed, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station.

"Police arrested Reza Uddin, 50, of the village Tuesday night and on Wednesday afternoon, produced him before a Mymensingh court that sent him to jail after recording his confessional statement under Section 164. Drives were made on the same case accused," said the OC.

Protesting the gruesome murder and demanding immediate arrest of the killers, a group of 100 Bandhusas organised a human chain at Shaheed Firoz-Jahangir Square in Mymensingh town yesterday afternoon.



Farmers harvest Aus paddy at a field under Dynna union in Tangail Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

# Aus farming raises hope among Tangail farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Aus paddy is once again being cultivated in the district as farmers are getting good profit in a short time from it.

Earlier, Aus had lost its appeal to Boro, which provided higher yield.

This year the government provided Tk 31 crore in an interest-free package to encourage farmers to grow paddy during the Aus season that began in March.

Under the package, the local agriculture department selected 350 farmers of Sadar upazila to cultivate BRR1-48 variety of paddy on 150 hectares of land this season, and provided seeds and fertilisers for free, said acting Deputy Director (DD) of the District Department of Agriculture (DDA) Abu Adnan.

Following the direction of the local agriculture officials, farmers cultivated Aus paddy on fallow land just after harvesting the Boro paddy (before planting of T-Aman paddy) in the

middle of March, and started harvesting from the middle of July, he said, adding that they got good yield.

Some farmers, however, cultivated it in middle of June on the lands where Boro harvesting was late. Adnan said, adding that harvesting on those lands ended about two weeks ago.

Around 100 farmers from different villages in Dynna union, with one bigha of land each, were provided help for cultivating the paddy, said Osman Gani, upazila sub-assistant agriculture officer.

The farmers got 12 maunds to 15 maunds of paddy from each bigha of land, he added.

After harvesting of Aus, most of the farmers have already cultivated T-Aman paddy, he added.

Expressing satisfaction, farmer Satya Rajibonshi, 70, of Dorijpara village in the union cultivated Aus paddy on his 40 decimals of land and got 17 maunds from it.

"I had got 5 kg of HYV seeds of BRR1-48, 20 kg of urea, and 10 kg of Diammonium Phosphate and Muriate of Potash for the cultivation of rice on one bigha of land. I had also got Tk 400 for weeding and other work," he said.

"I am very happy as I got Tk 18,700 by selling the paddy at Tk 1,100 per maund. Besides, I got Tk 3,000 extra by selling the straw," he added.

Bellal Hossain of Rampal village, Mohammad Fatik of Khanpur, Akbar Hossain of Bausa and Hazrat Ali of Gopalpara village in the union also expressed their satisfaction over the yield and profit from Aus cultivation.

Sadar upazila Agriculture Officer Faruk Ahmed said Boro and Aus in a cultivate two paddies – Boro and Aman – in 2016. Now they are cultivating Aus paddy as extra crop on the fallow lands after Boro harvesting and before T-Aman plantation.

"Cultivation of the short duration Aus paddy needs less irrigation and fertiliser, while the yield is comparatively better than other varieties," he said.

# Harmful items in bakery foods

Children in Bagerhat are often affected with diarrhoea

A CORRESPONDENT, *Bagerhat*

Unhealthy locally made low-quality bakery items like biscuits, breads, huns, cakes and coloured juices are being sold in various markets and stores in Kachua upazila without any permission from Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI).

In the absence of the administration's surveillance, these food products are being made and sold freely.

People, including children, are often affected by diarrhoea and other diseases of stomach after having these food items, alleged locals.

The food items are being manufactured in Srirampur, Bakter Kathi, Badhal, Kakarbil, Dhopkhalhi, Kachua, Ariyaraman and Barukhalhi villages in the upazila.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found these unhygienic food items being sold on footpaths, stores, local haats and markets in the upazila.

Some owners of small shops – Manik Das, Suvankor Das and Rustom Sheikh – said these foods are not suitable for health. They have to sell it as the products of standard bakeries are not available as well as the company's representatives do not even come to them with their goods.

"They sell the food items because of their low prices, said the owners.

Upazila Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr Taposh Kumar Das said various harmful items including saccharin, different dyes and yeast-powder are being mixed carelessly without consultations with any chemists in locally made low quality biscuits, breads, cakes, sweet, sugar toast and coloured juices.

Meanwhile, the children often drink different coloured juices which can cause fatal diseases of stomach, kidney and liver, he said.

Upazila Health Inspector Narayan Chandra Halder said they are conducting awareness campaign against the local bakery made foods which have no BSTI certificates.

If Food Security Act 2013 is fully implemented, the purchase and sale of these food products will be stopped, he said.

Kachua Upazila Nirbahi Officer Tasmin Farhana said immediate action will be taken against such harmful food items.

# Incomplete for 10 yrs

Work of bridge over Boral river disrupted several times due to negligence of construction firms

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPLU, *Pabna*

Residents of around 50 villages in Santhia and Faridpur upazilas of the district are suffering immensely as the construction of a bridge over the Boral river at Narapur-Sonahara point has not been completed in the last 10 years.

Executive Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Faridpur Md Mizanur Rahman told this correspondent that the construction of the bridge in Narapur-Sonahara point has not been completed in the last 10 years.

"Two construction firms left the work without finishing it. LGED authorities fined them a total Tk 10 lakh according to the government rule, but those firms filed cases against LGED, causing a delay in the work," the LGED engineer said.

Construction firm Sarkar Golam Mohammad Company started building the 180-metre-long bridge in March 2008, but stopped the work without giving any reason. The work order was then given to Amin Traders and construction work resumed in March 2012 with an estimated cost of Tk 5

crore, but they also stopped the work.

LGED later issued the work order in 2016 to NM (IV) of Bera in Pabna for finishing construction of the bridge after revising the project cost to Tk 2.42 crore. The work is going on now. Those locals told this correspondent that they face difficulties to go to the upazila headquarters due to the lack of a bridge.

"Every day, I along with other schoolboys cross the under construction bridge amid the risk to go to our school in the upazila headquarter," Class X student Abdur Rashid of Punglia village in Faridpur upazila said. Their sufferings mount during the rainy season, he added.

The bridge is very much needed for over one lakh people of around 50 villages in Santhia and Faridpur upazilas as it is their only way to go to other places.

Five out of six spans of the bridge have already been completed and they hope to finish the work within this year as the construction work is proceeding quickly, engineer Mizan said.



Lying incomplete for the last 10 years, this under construction bridge on the Boral river at Narapur-Sonahara in Pabna remains a mockery for locals, as communication of over one lakh people in Santhia and Faridpur upazilas badly suffers due to the situation. Negligence of two earlier appointed construction firms is responsible for the unusual delay in construction, said officials of LGED.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPLU

# Sorrow of Sakhipur

The road becomes muddy in rain, causing sufferings to thousands of villagers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Residents of at least ten villages have been suffering immensely for long due to the three-kilometre muddy road from Borochowcha area to Namdarpur area in Sakhipur upazila of the district.

The people of Borochowcha, Shuknar Chhit, Binoripara, Charbaida, Sultan Nagar, Khaliar Rai, Abed Nagar, Isuria Para, Ghonabari, and Hossain are the residents of the area.

There are around 900 agricultural, poultry and dairy farms in the villages, and the road is the only way to go to those places, they said.

Rain makes the road almost impassable for people on foot or on any vehicle. Sometimes, passengers of rickshaws, vans and three-wheelers have to help in pulling the vehicles out of the mud, they added.

Several hundred students of different educational institutions, including Borochowcha School and Borochowcha-Kutubpur College, in the area use the road regularly, said Ismail Hossain, a resident of the area.

The students have to walk through the thick mud after folding their trousers, he said, adding that they sometimes slip on the muddy

road, dirtying their uniforms and boots.

"Poultry farm owners in the area have to spend Tk 100 to Tk 200 instead of only Tk 20 to Tk 50 as rickshaws van fare to take poultry feed to the farms only two to three kilometres from Borochowcha Bazar," poultry farm owner Sabuj Miah of the area said.

"Although local people have been requesting the authorities through the local public representatives to build a concrete road on the three-kilometre area, nothing has been done so far," he added.

Halim Miah, president of a committee formed by the villagers to implement the road construction, said people of the area struggle to take their products to the local markets.

"The authorities concerned should build a concrete road as soon as possible considering the woes of several thousand villagers," he added.

Upazila Engineer in Sakhipur Kazi Fahad Qudus said a tender has been called for constructing a one-kilometre-long section of the road and the work will be started after the rainy season ends.

"A proposal will also be sent for constructing the remaining two kilometres of the road," he added.

# Three murdered

STAR CITY NEWS

Three people were found murdered in Netrakona, Chapainawabganj and Jessore.

Police recovered the body of a quack, known as village doctor, from the Betal river in Netrakona's Mohanganj upazila yesterday, three days after he went missing.

The deceased was Kazi Mujibur Rahman, 45, of Jalalpur village in the upazila, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

Ansari Zinnat Ali, officer-in-charge of Mohanganj Police Station, said Mujibur used to run a medicine store at Jaintpur Bazar.

On Monday, Mujibur informed his wife that he would not return home as he would visit his in-laws' house near the bazar and since then he went missing.

Informed by locals, the law enforcers recovered the body, which bore injury marks, from the river yesterday morning.

Criminals might have killed Mujibur, the OC said, adding that nine people were detained for interrogation.

Meanwhile, the body of a teenage boy was found hanging from a tree at a mango orchard at Baliaadanga village in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila the same day.

The victim was Masum, 19, son of Golam Kabir of the village, reports our correspondent.

Locals found Masum's body with his hands and legs tied with ropes, said Sabur Reza Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

Police primarily suspect that criminals killed the boy and later hung the body from the tree.

In Jessore, an unidentified man was found dead in a fish enclosure in Monirampur upazila on Tuesday night, reports our Benapole correspondent.

He might have been killed by a gang, said police.

# UNO at 17!

FROM PAGE 20

work by being made the upazila nirbahi officer for a day.

Daughter of Iqbal Abedin, hailing from the Goadhili (Telipara) village of Dinajpur, her achievement has become a great source of pride for both her family and her community.

A student of Ranibarabad Ichhamati Degree College, Jimi was handpicked for the position through an initiative of Plan International Bangladesh under their 'Girls Takeover' programme.

"It is memorable day in my life", Jimi said, on Wednesday, as she went about her duties.

For the exciting day began at the UNO office in Khanama upazila right before 9:00 am on Wednesday morning. She was handed the position from Sajibur Rahman, the existing UNO of the biggest upazila in Dinajpur. After that, she held a meeting with her officials and staff at the conference room, discussing and deliberating on a variety of issues.

Later on, she visited a local school, meeting the students there and exchanging views. She also conducted a Bangla class for the students.

She also took part in a public hearing at the UNO office complex. But it was that happened next that excited her the most.

Taking part in anti-adulteration drives in

the upazila, Tahrima termed the moment exhilarating. "It was quite exciting to be part of this drive which helped put an immediate stop to such harmful activities," she said.

Working in The Daily Star, Tahrima Aktar Jimi said the UNO post was the highest post in any upazila in the country and she was proud to have served in it for the day. "I am really fortunate. After this, now, I want to be a real UNO", the 17-year-old said, adding that it takes a lot of courage to hold this position.

"I will now concentrate even more on my studies so one day I can permanently get this post and help by being part of the government," she said.

Officials of Plan International Bangladesh said that they started the Girls Takeover programme in 2016 to encourage girls to strive for important leadership positions in the country and serve the nation more effectively. "Such initiatives strengthen your confidence and encourage you to concentrate more on your studies, while helping to turn your dreams into reality," said Jimi.

Sajibur Rahman UNO of Khanama congratulated Jimi and said she had done the job very well.

This was the first time such an initiative was taken in the upazila, said Aminul Islam, a local journalist.