

## Woman poisons daughter, then kills herself

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A woman killed herself after poisoning her three-year-old daughter at Sahadar village of Ranisahnkoil yesterday. The deceased were Kohinur Akhter Konika, 22, and her daughter Mahi. The incident took place when Kohinur's husband went to their farmland, said police and locals. In the afternoon, Kohinur hanged herself from the ceiling of her room after giving Mahi insecticide. Mahi was rushed to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital. Reason behind the incident could not be known, said Abdul Mannan, officer-in-charge of Ranisahnkoil Police Station.

## Mother, son beaten on theft charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A woman and her son were beaten up on Friday on suspicion of stealing coconuts from a neighbour's tree in Amtali upazila of Barguna. The victims were identified as Joygunnesa, 35, and her son Bayazid, 10, of Nayabhangoli village in the upazila. Locals said some coconuts were stolen from Eunos Gazi's trees a few days ago, and his housekeeper suspected that his neighbour Siddik Mir's son Bayazid was the thief. On Friday afternoon, Bayazid and his mother were passing by in front of Eunos's house when he, his wife Amena Begum and their son Rabbi caught Bayazid and started beating him up. They also beat up Joygunnesa when she tried to save her son. Bayazid was also taken to Eunos's house and beaten up there. On information, police rescued Bayazid and took him to Amtali Upazila Health Complex. Later on, Joygunnesa was also admitted to the same complex. "I want justice as they tortured my son on charge of stealing coconuts, but he was not involved in the matter," said Joygunnesa. Eunos Gazi confessed to beating up Bayazid, but denied torturing Joygunnesa. Officer-in-Charge of Amtali Police Station Md Shahid Ullah said nobody filed any complaint over the matter, but if any case is filed, they will take steps after proper investigation.



Arum plants cover hills at Taingong in Matiranga upazila of Khagrachhari. Rising cultivation of different crops, often in utter disregard for environment and ecology, poses threat to forest resources and natural balance in Chittagong Hill Tracts region. PHOTO: SAIKAT DEWAN

# More harmful hill farming

Mainly Bangalee people are involved in hill cultivation in the CHT

SAIKAT DEWAN, Khagrachhari

A new method of jhum cultivation, called 'hill cultivation' by locals, is becoming common in the three hill districts, although experts say that this method of farming is unscientific and harmful for the environment.

Recently, vast areas in the district, mainly hilly land, have been brought under 'hill cultivation.'

Jhum cultivation is a traditional method of farming in the slopes of hilly areas. Rice is the main crop, while other crops and vegetables are also cultivated. Crops are cultivated in the same field after a gap of three years to allow the land to regain fertility. Although jhum is cultivated on the hill slopes, the soil is not ploughed, causing less erosion. Pesticides are not used in the fields.

Jhum cultivation has increased along with the increase in population. It is now practised every year or two years instead of three years in many areas.

In recent years, a different method of farming, 'hill cultivation,' has started in the hills. Mainly Bangalee people are practising it. Arum, locally called muki kachu, is the popular crop in this cultivation. Fertilisers and medi-

culation' is practised are Matiranga, Guimara, Ramgarh and Manikchhari upazilas. Arum cultivation has been spread over hundreds of acres of hills in Taingong area in Matiranga upazila for many years, and is increasing every year,

protected. Over the last few years, the environment has been harmed due to 'hill cultivation,' and big trees are being cut down," said Sodesh Priti Chakma, a local leader of the indigenous people.

The new farmers who are cultivating in the hills are not jhum cultivators. Jhum cultivation does not need ploughing of the soil, but 'hill cultivation' needs ploughing, he added.

"We are against 'hill cultivation.' We advise them to cultivate on low hills as it is dangerous to cultivate on steep hills and also harmful for the environment. The land is ploughed twice during arum planting and harvesting, which makes the soil soft and increases the possibility of hill collapses. Besides, a lot of fertilizers and medicines are applied during cultivation which is harmful for the environment," said Deputy Director of Khagrachhari Department of Agriculture Extension Tarun Bhattacharya.

*In recent years, hill cultivation has started in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Mainly Bangalee people are practising it. The land is ploughed twice during planting and harvesting, which makes the soil soft and increases the possibility of hill collapse.*

cines are widely used and the land is ploughed twice, during planting and harvesting. Agricultural experts say this farming method is unscientific and harmful for the environment.

The main places in which 'hill farmer Md Alamgir said. "Jhum cultivation is practised not only in the Chittagong Hill Tracts but also in many countries of the world. It does not harm the environment and the hills. The balance of the environment is



Santwana Rani Ray with mother Jamuna Rani Ray. PHOTO: STAR

## Emblem of success

Int'l taekwondo bronze medallist Santwana achieved the feat thru' struggle against odds

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Santwana Rani Ray of Haridas village of Sarpukur union in Aditmari upazila under the district has set a glorious example of defying odds, achieving success in education as well as martial art through dedication and perseverance.

She won bronze medal in the 20th Taekwondo World Championship arranged by International Taekwondo Federation (ITF) in North Korea's capital Pyongyang on September 15-21.

Earlier she won in second Fazilatunnesa Muzib ITF Championship in Dhaka in 2012, seventh Asian Taekwondo Championship in Nepal's capital Kathmandu in 2014, and Walton seventh National Taekwondo Championship in Dhaka in 2015.

Santwana Rani Ray, 32, daughter of Subhas Chandra Ray, a farm labourer, and Jamuna Rani Ray of the village, is the eldest among four siblings.

She completed honours in history from Rangpur Government College in 2008 and masters from Rajshahi Government College in 2009. She also achieved LLB degree from Rangpur Law College in 2013.

"After my admission to Rangpur College, I started practising martial art in 2004. As my parents are poor, I had to earn by working in an NGO alongside study. Now I support my younger siblings, especially for their education," said Santwana Rani Ray.

"Despite applying to different institutions, I failed to get the job of a sport teacher as authorities demanded handsome amounts as donation," said Santwana, who has continued her NGO job still now. "I am still single as nobody wanted to marry me without a good amount of dowry money. But I am determined not to marry anyone who will demand dowry.

"I teach martial art to village girls to help them build self confidence for own defence," Santwana said.

Her younger brother Ratan Chandra Ray and sisters Babita Rani Ray and Popy Rani Ray are reading in different institutions.

Babita Rani said, "Didi (Santwana) always tries to meet our family requirements. She is very much keen to our education. We also learn martial art from her," she said.

"I feel proud of her," said Santwana's father Subhas Chandra Ray.

## OC assaulted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Police arrested 12 people on charge of assaulting officer-in-charge of Mathbaria Police Station, when he went to stop an angry group from vandalising shops in Tushkhali launch terminal area of Mathbaria upazila on Saturday.

Himu Talukder, an accused in the case for killing BNP leader Habibur Rahman Talukder on September 4, and his son-in-law Salim Panchayet had an altercation with Manik Talukder, one of the sons of deceased Habibur, and Tuku Talukder at Tushkhali on Saturday morning, locals said.

Manik and Tuku beat up Salim. As Sumon from nearby Harinpala village of Bhandaria upazila went to save Salim, they chased him.

In the evening, Sumon, also cousin of Pirojpur district council Chairman Mohiuddin Maharaj, went to the launch terminal with around 100 followers and looked for Manik and Tuku but did not find them there.

Then they vandalised some shops of Manik and Tuku and their men.

Mathbaria Police Station OC KM Tarikul Islam, who was returning to Mathbaria from Pirojpur, went to the spot to stop the mayhem.

"As I protested the act, they assaulted me," Tarikul said. Later, 12 men including Sumon were held.

## Elephant dies in electric trap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

Officers of forest department recovered the carcass of a wild elephant from a paddy field in bordering Balijuri village under Sreebordi upazila of the district yesterday.

Balijuri forest range officer Md Tariqul Islam said the farmers had made electric traps using generators to save their paddy fields from the attacks by the elephants. It is assumed that the elephant came in contact with an electric trap and died on the spot.

With this, the staff of the department recovered carcasses of two elephants in last three days.

Earlier on October 6, the forest department recovered the carcass of a male elephant from a paddy field at Rangajan village adjacent to the upazila, said forest officer Tariqul.

Forest department and local sources said a herd of wild elephants entered Rangajan, Balijuri and Malakucha areas in the last couple of weeks. The elephants came down from Garo Hills almost every night to feed paddy.

Informed by locals, beat officer Md Rabiul Islam and other officers recovered the carcass of the elephant from the paddy field around 6:00am yesterday.

The elephant was female, aged around three to four years and 7 feet long, said Rabiul.

Range officer Tariqul said a case will be filed with Sreebordi Police Station in this connection.

## PABNA MURDER Man killed, not by abductor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Sabuj Hossain, who reportedly abducted a married woman after killing her father in broad daylight in Bera upazila of Pabna on Tuesday, turned out to be her boyfriend as police arrested them from a remote village in Satkhira's Tala upazila early Sunday.

Rickshaw puller Md Moazzem Sheikh, 43, of Daspara village of Bera upazila, was stabbed to death when he tried to prevent Sabuj, 26, of the same village from seemingly kidnapping his daughter Maria Khatun, 25, from home on Tuesday.

"Sabuj staged Maria's abduction and killed her father. During interrogation, they said they love each other," Md Jihadul Kabir, superintendent of Pabna police, told a press briefing yesterday.

"Our investigation reveals that Maria's husband Sajahan Ali started working in Saudi Arabia after their marriage and Maria got into an extramarital affair with Sabuj. As per a plan to get married, Maria willingly went with Sabuj, and provoked him to kill her father," he said.

## Global NGO honours Brac Boat School

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innovations like it marks the beginning of a drive to get all teachers involved in revolutionising education. We will continue to encourage as many schools and organisations as possible to get involved so that we can work towards a positive future."

BRAC Boat Schools are the product of a simple yet powerful idea: if underserved children living in isolated areas cannot go to school, then the school should go to them, said Profulla Chandra Barman, programme head for Brac Education Programme.

In northeast Bangladesh, monsoon rains regularly flood the region, submerging it for more than half the year. Poor communities

and families become isolated, without access to public services including education.

Each Brac Boat School accommodates 30 children and at least half of them are girls. Brac recruits a local female teacher to guide the same cohort of students through the full primary education cycle. All Boat Schools are equipped with toilets, hand-washing facilities and safe drinking water.

The boats also act as school buses so that children can access education year-round. This removes the cost, time and safety barriers faced by poor parents in transporting their children to schools. During dry season, Brac anchors the boat schools at locations that are convenient for all the students.

More than 14,500 students are enrolled in 507 Brac Boat Schools across Bangladesh and the Philippines.

"We're beyond proud and honoured to have been selected as one of HundrED's 100 global innovations," said Profulla Chandra Barman.

"Boat Schools directly address education equity in Bangladesh and the Philippines, and are a perfect example of innovation, impact and scalability. We're excited to be able to share this project with communities worldwide through the HundrED platform," he said.

The selected 100 projects cover various fields of education from learning environments and holistic wellbeing to collaborative learning and game-based education.

before Eid-ul-Azha to see his daughter, but Masud did not let him do that.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Mohadevpur Police Station, said the girl had been gangraped.

Her parents demanded that the employer be arrested and punished for torturing her.

The father filed a case yesterday against two unidentified people in connection with torture and rape of his daughter. Police were interrogating the detainees and investigating the incident, the OC added.

hospital said they had found evidence of rape on her body.

Police detained two persons in connection with the incident, identified as Bulbul Hossain, 28, and Mozaffar Hossain, 50.

The victim's parents said she had been living at the house of Masud Rana in Mohadevpur as domestic help. Masud and his wife Shilpi used to torture the girl often, even over trivial matters. The employer didn't allow the girl to communicate with her parents. The girl's father visited Masud's home a day

## Tigers complete poor show

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23-year-old's third 10-wicket match haul. When the fast bowler had Mahmudullah Riyad caught brilliantly by Dean Elgar at gully for 43, he also brought up his hundredth Test wicket in just his 22nd match.

That was pretty much the only success story yesterday. Bangladesh's success stories in this Test series was to rack up their highest totals in Potchefstroom with 320 in the first innings and, believe it or not, with 172 yesterday in Bloemfontein. That is about it. More than any success it hints at how terrible Bangladesh have been over the years when playing in South Africa. Potchefstroom was the only time in six Tests that they have avoided an innings defeat, and their defeat yesterday, for all the talk of progress, was their worst against South Africa in 12 Tests.

"Everyone gives their 100 per cent but not all can be successful. I think we all tried," said Mushfiqur after the match. "It is not a club game; we are playing

for the country. We don't want to lose the respect that we gained over the last four years. We didn't get it after doing well in one series. We don't have a lot of experience playing in these conditions although this pitch didn't have a lot of pace and movement."

By the time the third morning began there was no fight left in the Tigers. Beset by problems within the dressing room, problems in technique and temperament, and probably wishing this Test to be over, it is a wonder that they were not out for their second sub-100 total of the series after being out for 90 in the 333-run loss in Potchefstroom.

The South Africans would not relent however. There was a bouncer barrage throughout the three hours and thirty minutes of play before the visitors played the last of their 42.4 overs of limp survival.

It started, as it often does with, Soumya Sarkar. After Bangladesh resumed on seven without loss, Soumya departed, caught in the

slips off Duane Olivier for three. Mominul Haque hooked Rabada straight to deep square leg. Mushfiqur Rahim and Imrul Kays took the score from 29 to 63 before the opener was caught down the leg side off Olivier for 32. Before that, Mushfiqur was dealt a sickening blow to the side of the head in the 14th over from Olivier, and had to receive treatment on the field but against advice from the South Africa team's doctor, decided to bat on.

After his dismissal, shouldering arms and being trapped in front by Wayne Parnell for 26, that brought about the lunch break, he was taken to the hospital and was pronounced to be okay. From four for 92, Mahmudullah and Liton Das took the score to 135 when Liton was bowled by Andile Phehlukwayo, also shouldering arms. Mahmudullah's dismissal four runs later was the death knell for Bangladesh. Phehlukwayo and Rabada mopped up the tail for the addition of a further 23 runs.

## She flees torture of her master

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did she anticipate what was yet to happen to her.

Two persons picked her up in an auto-rickshaw, promising to drop her home, father of the victim said. Around 10:00pm that night, villagers of Hapania in Naogaon Sadar upazila found her unconscious near Mohanpur Beel, a wetland.

The following day, locals informed police who then admitted the girl to Naogaon General Hospital.

Speaking for anonymity, doctors of the