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Height of brutality

14-yr-old girl burned to death over a mobile phone gone missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage girl succumbed to serious burns yesterday morning, hours after she was set afire on flimsy grounds that she stole a mobile phone.

The incident happened in Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi on Friday night, when four men tied Aziza Akhter, 14, to a tree, doused petrol on her and set her alight, police and family members said.

With some 96 percent of her body burned, she was brought to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where she died, hospital sources said.

Abdus Sattar, Aziza's father, said he had no words to describe the brutality with which his daughter was killed.

"I could not even recognise that it was my daughter when I saw her. As I rushed to the spot after hearing someone scream, I asked her: 'Hey, who are you?' She said, 'I am your daughter, father ... please save me.' That's when I knew," the grieving father said, breaking into tears.

About 10 days ago, Beauty Begum, who happens to be the victim's aunt, lost her mobile phone. Beauty suspected that Aziza and one of her sisters took the phone, said Sattar.

Beauty's husband and Sattar are brothers.

"But at that time [when the phone got lost], Aziza was working at our poultry farm, which is some 250 yards from



Aziza Akhter

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Rohingya refugees who crossed the border from Myanmar this week take shelter under a roadside tent near Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Boy killed in squabble over 'respect'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prevailing teenage gang culture in the city has claimed another life.

A JSC examinee -- Md Hasan -- was stabbed to death in the capital's Chawkbazar area yesterday morning, over a fight stemming from earning "respect", police said.

Hasan, 14, son of Muhammad Ali from Haji Rahim Box Lane of Posta, was an eighth grader of Islambagh Ideal School.

On Friday, Hasan went near Chandni Ghat Shishu Hospital just beside his house around 9:30pm, along with two friends. Ali, a seventh grader from another school, was sitting at a tea stall there with six to seven friends.

At one point, Ali called Hasan "disrespectfully" by using his name, triggering the clash, said Niloy Ahmed Sumon, an eyewitness.

"At one point of the argument, they pushed each other. Ali then suddenly stabbed Hasan with a sharp

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Axed Catalan leader urges resistance

Madrid seizes regional powers after independence call

AFP, Barcelona

Catalonia's secessionist leader Carles Puigdemont yesterday stood defiant against Madrid's moves to depose him, urging "democratic resistance" to direct rule imposed in a bid to stop the region breaking away from Spain.

In a televised statement, Puigdemont accused the central government of trampling on the will of independence-seeking Catalans who rejoiced at Friday's vote by regional lawmakers to declare an independent republic.

Madrid's response to seize Catalan powers -- the first curtailment of regional autonomy since Francisco Franco's brutal 1939-75 dictatorship -- constituted an "aggression", he said, but insisted "democratic opposition" was the only response.

The central government's intervention was "contrary to the will expressed by the citizens of our country at the ballot box," Puigdemont said. "In a democratic society, only parliaments can appoint or dismiss presidents."

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Women at helm of Kishoreganj haors

8 of 13 UNOs in the district are women striving to improve quality of life in backswamps

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The job of an upazila nirabhi officer at the remotest haors of Kishoreganj is not for the faint of heart.

The quality of life of the people of the haor areas is being improved with the dedication and patience of the 13 UNOs of the district, eight of whom are women.

Dilruba Ahmed, who joined as the UNO of Bhairab in 2016, said she receives spontaneous support from the public representatives and common people.

"There are a lot of opportunities here to interact with people and have a positive impact on their lives," said Dilruba, who joined cadre services in 2008 after completing her honours and masters in geography and environmental science from Dhaka University.

One of her first accomplishments was to fill the village police vacancies, which enabled her to form a network. "I ensured that they got bicycles and mobile phones for better access to the grassroots."

Shibpur, one of the seven unions in Bhairab, has been declared free of early marriages. "One of my main duties is to maintain this with the help of local police."

The mother of two has overseen the preparation of a database of 496 families in the union, and supports them in agriculture, fish farming, livestock or training programmes for the youth according to their needs through the concerned departments.

Among her noted achievements was the construction of a dam on Jwanshi Haor. To the joy of farmers, flash floods across Bangladesh earlier this year did not destroy the Boro crops of some 20,000 farmers of three unions -- Sreenagar, Sadhakpur and Aganagar.

Monju Mia, a farmer of Jafarnagar village, said the dam helped save their Boro crops from flood waters in April. "We got encouragement from the UNO of Bhairab. She is the first UNO to visit this area. She visited twice this year."

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Catalan flags hang from balconies in Barcelona the morning after the Catalan regional parliament declared independence from Spain on Friday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Snubbed by parents, they marry 40 yrs on



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A couple that were forbidden from dating by the woman's father have married almost 40 years after they first met.

When Bill Brookman asked Madeleine Coburn on a date in 1978, when he was 23 and she was 16, they were kept apart because her father thought he was "too arty."

But after meeting again in 2008, the pair started dating and got engaged after Brookman proposed live on BBC Radio 4.

"The hand of fate is very strange but what I must say is sometimes it's worth waiting 40 years," he said.

The couple both grew up around Loughborough in Leicestershire and Brookman

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Tigers looking to end on high note

SAKEB SUBHAN from Potchefstroom

There is finally some hope at the end of the tour. Apart from the hope and expectation of home comforts, Bangladesh seem to have been uplifted by their fighting performance in the first T20I in Bloemfontein and according to skipper Shakib Al Hasan, if they can correct some of the mistakes committed in the first match, today's second T20I in Potchefstroom's Senwes Park may produce a good

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 29

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-50	12-45	4-00	5-32 7-15
JAMAAT	5-25	1-15	4-15	5-35 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Humiliated, college girl kills herself

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A female student of Nawabeki College in Shyamnagar of Satkhira district died by suicide after falling victim to a gang of stalkers.

Joyshree Chakraborty, 17, killed herself at her Boyarsing village home under Shyamnagar upazila on October 25.

Joyshree was the youngest daughter of Makhon Chakraborty.

The victim's elder brother, Kajol Chakraborty, said Joyshree was a class XI student of the college.


Shekhor Mondal, the 22-year old son of rice trader Ranjan Mondal of the neighbouring Barokupote village, had been stalking the girl on her way to college and back for some time.

According to Kajol Chakraborty, it took a physical turn on the day of the incident. Shekhor, along with three to four accomplices, obstructed Joyshree's path when she was returning home from college.


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Premier cement




Tigers Profile



Mohammad Saifuddin

The Bangladesh national team's search for a pace bowling all-rounder has been going on for quite some time but now it seems young Mohammad Saifuddin has all the qualities needed to cement that spot for himself. The twenty-year-old from Feni first displayed his abilities in the age-level circuit as he played a vital role for the home team during the 2016 ICC Under-19 World Cup in Bangladesh, where his all-round skills helped the side reach the semifinals. So far we have seen only a glimpse of the youngster's accurate bowling which, when paired with his abilities as a big hitter, makes him the perfect package for the Tigers line-up. However, Saifuddin will need to remain focused on his current role and play to his strengths, namely medium deliveries which, with changes of pace and variation, can outfox batsmen in any format. At the same time it will be important for Saifuddin learn to adapt to different situations and conditions because the inability to do so tends to create struggle at one point or another in an all-rounder's career. If Saifuddin manages to pass the initial hurdles though, he could be a player to watch in the coming days.



কোটি বাছালীর স্বপ্নের
পদ্মা সেতু
প্রকল্পে
গর্বিত অংশীদার

আমরা প্রমাণে বিশ্বাসী