

Fish-laden truck hijacked, trader's staff stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Armed robbers hijacked a fish-laden truck on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Sarail upazila early yesterday, killing an employee of a fish trading agency.

The deceased was Rafiqul Islam, 30, son of Sadar Molla of Bagmara upazila in Rajshahi.

The driver Ashraf Islam, 30, and helper Shahin Mia, 35, were also injured.

Ashraf said he was on the way to Sylhet from Rajshahi with rui-katla fish worth Tk 2 lakh when a gang of six robbers blocked the truck at Bertola, beat him and took the key of the vehicle. The robbers stabbed the fish trader's staff Rafiq and Shahin. Rafiq died on the spot and Shahin was seriously injured. The robbers fled away with the truck, he added.

Female student assaulted by BCL man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader beat up a female student mercilessly on the Kamalganj College campus in the district on Friday as the girl protested stalking her on way to the college.

The criminal, Zakaria Habib, 20, is son of Abdul Khaliq of Jalalpur village in Kamalganj upazila and joint secretary of Adampur Union BCL.

Principal Kamruzzaman Miah said Tania Akhter, daughter of Royes Miah of Rampasha village in Kamalganj Municipality, is a student of his college under Open University. Zakaria used to stalk her every Friday on way to college, he added.

Victim's father Royes Mia said his daughter informed him about the matter on Friday and accordingly he complained to the BCL leader's father Abdul Khaliq on the day.

It angered Zakaria, who assaulted Tania on the campus, injuring her seriously, said Royes, adding that his daughter lost her sense and was admitted to Kamalganj Upazila Health Complex.

Zakaria fled the campus as the victims' classmates tried to resist the criminal, said Kamruzzaman. The students, however, caught Zakaria's friend Naushad Mia and handed him over to police, he added.

Upazila BCL President Rahat Imtiaz Ripul said if the incident is true, organisational action would be taken against Zakaria.

12-yr-old rape victim's exam uncertain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A traumatized 12-year-old rape victim in Jamalpur Sadar upazila is facing uncertainty whether she will be able to sit for the Primary Terminal Examination, which is scheduled to start today.

Victim's parents said the six-month pregnant minor victim was allegedly raped by one of her neighbours.

The shocked girl, also daughter of a poor farm labourer of Sheikhpara village in the upazila, is scheduled to appear in the examination from Rashidpur Sheikhpara Government Primary School.

The incident came to light after she disclosed the matter to her parents due to different complications from pregnancy that occurred after being raped by Shahjahan, 40, also father of three, six months ago.

Parents of the girl said their neighbour Shahjahan waylaid their daughter on her way to school, took her to his house and raped her there.

Shahjahan also threatened the girl not to disclose the matter, otherwise, she will face dire consequences, her parents said.

After knowing the matter, the girl's parents took her to a private clinic in the town on Thursday where the doctors confirmed her six-month pregnancy.

Her parents alleged that although they want to file a case in this regard immediately, some local influential people, including public representatives, are trying to settle the issue through village arbitration.

ATTACK ON HINDUS Another UP member held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Another union parishad (UP) member was arrested on Friday night in connection with the attack at Thakurbari village in Rangpur Sadar upazila on November 10.

The arrestee is Sirajul Islam, a member of ward No 6 of Mominpur UP under the upazila.

Earlier on Thursday night, police arrested Joynul Abedin and Fazlul Haq, members of wards No 3 and No 1, respectively, of Mominpur union under the upazila.

Sirajul was arrested from Paglapir area on Friday night, said Officer-in-Charge of Rangpur Sadar Police Station Babul Mia.

Hundreds of people attacked Hindu majority Thakurbari village in the upazila on November 10, burning 11 houses and damaging nine more.



Students and teachers of Sonarai Sangalshi Degree College in Nilphamari Sadar upazila come out of classes as an adjacent leather factory electric generator causes excessive sound. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Acute noise pollution by EPZ leather factory

Educational activities at Sonarai Sangalshi Degree College are being seriously hampered due to excessive sound of a giant electric generator

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Educational activities at Sonarai Sangalshi Degree College in Nilphamari Sadar upazila are being seriously hampered due to the excessive sound of a giant electric generator of a leather factory at Uttara Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

The loud sound coming from a Hong Kong based leather factory Ventura Leather Industries (BD) Limited has been causing serious sound pollution and also posing health hazards to the students and teachers of the institution for long.

Seeking relief from the sound pollution, the college authority submitted several petitions to the head of administration of the factory and general manager (GM) of EPZ on a number of occasions in the last one year but the situation remains unchanged.

Visiting the college on Monday, this correspondent saw students and teachers crowding at the college playground as the factory, situated within 100 yards of the institution, was running the generator with unbearable sound.

Principal of the college Abdul Mazid said nearly 1000 students

and 38 teachers of the institution cannot stay long in the classrooms as the factory runs the giant generator three to four hours during class hours everyday.

Some students and teachers are already facing hearing problem, besides, severe headache has become a common phenomenon, the principal said.

Students Mohammad Sohag, Manik Hossain and Luthfa Begum said that they cannot follow their lessons due to the sound of the generator, while many complained about headache, palpitation and hearing problems.

Momtazul Islam, president of the college governing body, said they have submitted separate petitions to the factory authority and general manager of EPZ with recommendation from Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, also local lawmaker, but the authorities concerned did not pay heed to their demand.

The allegation by the college authority is not true, Saiful Islam, head of Human Resources Department of the factory, said, adding that they run the generator only during load shedding.



Carrying hockey sticks and iron rods, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men chase a procession of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in front of Kushtia Islamic University yesterday while the latter was trying to enter the campus.

PHOTO: STAR

IRREGULARITIES OVER HSTU ADMISSION TEST Take action against proctor

Demand teachers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Teachers of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) yesterday demanded legal action against the university proctor for his alleged involvement in promoting an admission guide book for admission seekers just two days before beginning of the admission test of the university.

The test began on November 5 and continued till November 8.

The demand was made at a press conference at Dinajpur Press Club in the town.

Prof Boloram Roy, former registrar of the university and general secretary of Progressive Teachers' Forum, at the conference, said Proctor Dr Md Khalid Hossain, an associate member secretary of Admission Test Committee 2017, was involved in preparing of question papers for the university's entry test.

Despite knowing the sensitivity of his job, the proctor allegedly unveiled a guide book for admission seekers of HSTU through a formal inauguration on the campus on November 3, only two days before

the admission test started.

The book is titled Plazmid Plus.

Legal action should be taken against Dr Khalid Hossain as he violated the guideline of Ministry of Education. Besides, he tarnished the images of the university by getting involved in guide book business while he was holding an important post of the university, said the speakers at the press conference.

Dr Khalid Hossain denied the charge brought against him.

The admission test result of the university was published for the first time this year without a signature of a member of the examination committee as protest against the anomalies and irregularities in the entry test.

The speakers also urged the University Grant Commission to form a probe committee to find the anomalies and irregularities over the admission test and demanded legal action against those involved in it.

Vice Chancellor M Abdul Kashem denied that any anomalies and irregularities took place.

2 more held in Manikganj robbery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police arrested two more people in connection with the robbery at a Manikganj jeweller's shop.

Superintendent of Police Mahfuzur Rahman yesterday confirmed the arrest. However, he did not agree to disclose their names and identity immediately for the sake of the investigation.

Some of the looted gold ornaments were also recovered from the arrestees, the SP said.

Earlier on Wednesday night, the law enforcers arrested Sohel Molla Saiful, 26, of Pirojpur immediately after the robbery.

Five cases were filed in connection with the robbery.

Besides, gold traders yesterday at a rally in the town gave seven-day ultimatum to police demanding recovery of looted gold and arrest of the robbers.

7 girls appear in special JSC examination

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Seven Junior School Certificate (JSC) examinees, who could not appear in the Bangla first paper examination due to boat capsized in the Pagla river in Nabinagar upazila of the district on November 1, took part in the special examination on Saturday.

The examination is being held at the directive of the education ministry.

Comilla Education Board Chairman Prof Abdul Khaleque said the examination was based on humanitarian grounds.

Bhabadah road march to end waterlogging

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Demanding immediate solution to waterlogging in Jessore's Bhabadah area, the affected people yesterday joined the road march that entered its third day.

Thousands of villagers in Bhabadah area, including Abhoynagar, Monirampur and Keshabpur upazilas of Jessore and Khulna's Fultala and Dumuria, are suffering due to waterlogging.

On way to the office premises of the deputy commissioner (DC) in Jessore, hundreds of marchers held rallies at Bhabadah, Nawapara industrial town and Sundali in Abhoynagar upazila and Kalibari, Monoharpur, Konakhola and Shyamnagar under Monirampur upazila

and Chasra in Sadar upazila of Jessore.

Iqbal Kabir Jahid, adviser to Bhabadah Movement Committee, its convener Ranjit Bawali, Gazi Abdul Hamid, Baikuntha Bihari Roy and Chaitanya Kumar Paul spoke at the rallies.

On October 24, the committee announced the road march programme towards the office of the DC from Bhabadah from November 16 to 19 to press five-point demands.

The demands include inauguration of tidal river management programme before Maghi Purnima, ensuring food security to the affected people with subsidy and rehabilitation, removal of silt from the river Upper Bhadra and Buri Bhadra and freeing all the recognised canals from grabbers.



The affected people yesterday join the road march that entered its third day, demanding immediate solution to waterlogging in Jessore's Bhabadah area.

PHOTO: STAR