

BEATING UP 2 COLLEGE GIRLS

Five on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Tangail court yesterday granted a one-day remand for five youths who were arrested in connection with a case for attempting to kidnap two college girls in Sakhipur upazila on December 20.

Tangail Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court Judge Rupom Kumar Das passed the order, rejecting their bail prayers, after police produced the arrestees before the court seeking a seven-day remand yesterday noon, said Court Inspector Anwarul Islam.

Earlier, police detained Antor Hossain, 25, Jahid Hossain Agun, 19, Sakibul-Hasan, 18, Kabir Rahman, 18, and Sham Hasan, 20, all residents of Sakhipur municipality, after Sakhipur Residential Women's College Principal Renubor Rahman, filed a case against them under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on December 20.

According to the case statements, the youths wearing masks tried to pick up two girl students of the institution on their way to Sakhipur Bazar from their hostel in a bid to abduct the girls.

Failing to do so, the criminals beat the girls with iron rods and hearing their cries for help, local people came forward and rescued the victims.

Kid killed, father goes into hiding

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A three-year-old girl was killed allegedly by her father in Nandail upazila.

Police yesterday recovered the body of Shanta, daughter of farmer Nazim Uddin, 55, of Bonati village, said Md Yunus Ali, officer-in-charge of Nandail Police Station.

Police said Nazim married Shuva Akhter, 27, of adjacent Dakkin Koirati village five years ago and the couple had three-year-old daughter Shanta. It was Nazim's third marriage.

Following a family feud, Shuva divorced Nazim last year and married another man in Chandpur, said the OC. Since then, Nazim had been bringing up Shanta but she went missing on December 24.

Nazim's grandfather Taher Uddin filed a case accusing Nazim, the OC said. The killer might have strangled the girl, he said, adding that Nazim went into hiding soon after the incident.



Red crabs move around Char Bijoy, a newly emerged island in the Bay, some 30 kilometres to the south of Kuakata. Inset, Kuakata municipality Mayor Abdul Barez Mollah plants saplings in the island on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR

A scenic new island in Bay

The 2000-acre area emerges 30 km to the south of Kuakata

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A new island emerging from the Bay, about 30 kilometres to the south of Kuakata sea beach, has already started attracting visitors.

The 2,000-acre area, teeming with red crabs and seagulls, gives a picturesque look.

Some 280 people from Kuakata area, led by Kuakata municipality Mayor Abdul Barez Mollah, went to the island by four trawlers from Kuakata sea beach on Wednesday.

"We have named the beautiful

place 'Char Bijoy'. The eye soothing place bears bright prospect for development as an attractive tourist spot for people from home and abroad," the mayor said.

The visitors planted around 500 mangrove saplings including those of sundari and goi in the island.

"We are observing the nature of the soil of the island that appeared two or three years ago. We have a plan to plant more mangrove trees in the next dry season," said Md Harun-Or-Rashid, ranger of Mohipur forest office, who accompanied the mayor during the visit.

The newly emerged island covering around 2,000 acres of land is about four kilometres in length and about two kilometres in width. Thousands of red crabs and seagulls move around, adding to the beauty of the area," he said.

A section of local fishermen stay there for three months from December to February. They catch fish in the Bay and dry a part of it there.

Tourists in small numbers have already started visiting the island by speedboats from Kuakata.

"It is a very enjoyable place," said Sima Akhter, a tourist from Banashree area in Dhaka.

Dr Ioni Alamgir, president of Kuakata tourist boat owners' association, said the island should be made attractive for visitors through efforts from the government as well as non-governmental organisations.

"We urge the government to take steps to develop the newly emerged island area as an attractive tourist spot," said Md Khalilur Rahman, headmaster of Bangabandhu High School in Kuakata.



Traders soak fish in colour and preservatives to make it appear fresh and attractive at Bargi Hat in Rajapur upazila. PHOTO: STAR

Fish made 'fresh' thru adulteration

M. JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL with ANDREW EAGLE

Fish ready for sale in Jhalakathi's twice-weekly Bargi Hat market couldn't be more attractive. The fish look fresh and shiny, but the appearance is deceptive. Many of the fish have been adulterated through the indiscriminate use of dyes and preservatives. It's an illegal process that both fishers and fishermen's believe is essential to maximise profit.

"Sometimes by the time they reach the market the fish have lost their colour," says one trader, seeking anonymity. "We mix dyes and preservatives to get a decent price. It keeps the fish fresh for longer and makes it more appealing to look at. Nobody wants to buy fish that don't look so fresh."

"Whether from the river or the sea, most fish are mixed in colours and preservatives," admits one fish wholesaler from Rajapur, who supplies the fish he buys there to several districts. "First a rosy colouring is mixed in a bucket of water; then the fish is soaked in it. Ice is applied to the fish too and the result is that they look in perfect condition."

"We have been applying such techniques for many years," observes a fisherman from Kuthalia Island. "It keeps the fish fresh for longer."

Dr. Abdullah Al-Noman Patel, an oncology specialist from the National Cancer Research Institute and Hospital in Dhaka is less impressed with the practice. "The chemicals they use are a health risk to the human body. They can cause stomach cancer and damage the stomach's proper functioning."

Jhalakathi's civil surgeon, Dr. Shamol Krishna Howader says he is aware of the problem is taking measures to address it. "Our sanitary inspectors and a magistrate often operate mobile courts in various fish markets to prevent the use of harmful chemicals in seafood," he says, "though we don't have a portable chemical detection machine available."

Cop stabbed in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A police official sustained stab injuries when a group of criminals attacked him in Chuadanga town on Monday night.

Ohid Hossain, sub-inspector (SI) of Chuadanga Sadar Police Station, is now undergoing treatment at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital with stab injuries in his back and hand.

Chuadanga Superintendent of Police (SP) Mahbubur Rahman said a patrol team of police led by Ohid after stopping the police van after seeing a group of eight to ten men near Bot Tola Intersection around 9:30pm.

Ohid asked them why they were gathered there. This triggered an altercation with one of the gang members Mintu.

At one stage, Mintu caught Ohid indiscriminately and fled the scene immediately.

Later, within an hour of the incident, local people caught Mintu and gave him a beating before handing him over to the police, the SP said.

SP said police were trying to arrest the rest of the gang members.

CHEMICAL-LADEN VAN BLAST

Two bodies to probe incident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The authorities concerned yesterday formed two separate probe committees to investigate the Monday night's fire incident in Bahadurpur area on Jessore-Magura highway that left two brothers dead in an explosion while repairing a chemical-laden covered van.

Fire Service and Civil Defence authorities formed a three-member committee led by the Khulna Divisional Deputy Director Abul Hossain, said Assistant Director of Jessore Fire Station Parimal Chandra Kundu.

The other three-member committee is headed by Additional District Magistrate KM Mamun-uz-Zaman, he added.

Both the committees have been working to submit their probe report within the next seven working days. Parimal said, adding that the accident occurred just because of ignorance.

Meanwhile, following request from their families, the bodies of the two siblings—Piklu Rahman, 26, and Rubul Amin, 20, sons of Abu Bakar Mollah of Sheikhhatti village in Sadar upazila—were buried at their village graveyard, without conducting autopsies.

The two brothers were killed in an explosion at a welding shop, owned by Piklu, in Jessore's Kismet Noapara area on Monday night.

The blast occurred when the duo were welding a chemical-laden covered van at the repair shop around 8:00pm, leaving them dead on the spot.

The driver and the helper of the covered van, who were standing beside the vehicle, also sustained critical burn injuries in the blast.

They are now undergoing treatment at Jessore Medical College Hospital.

Due to the blast, two more trucks, a private car and another covered van, which were parked at the garage premises, were partially burnt.

Immediately after the incident, an unnatural death case was filed with Jessore Kotwali Police Station.

42,000 two-taka notes seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized 42 thousand pieces of Bangladeshi two-taka new notes from Benapole check post area while they were being smuggled to India yesterday morning.

However, no smuggler was arrested in this connection, said Lt Col Ariful Haque, commanding officer (CO) of BGB 49 Battalion.

On information, the border guards raided the area and seized the notes worth Tk 84,000 in abandoned condition around 7:00am. The seized notes were later deposited to Benapole customs godown.

The reason behind smuggling of the notes to India could not be known immediately, said the CO. A case was filed in connection with the incident, said the BGB official.

Cracks in FF's sculpture

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Dakshin Sunamganj

The sculpture of a martyred freedom fighter, built two years ago in Dakshin Sunamganj upazila, has developed cracks in the last eight months and may break down any time.

The sculpture was built in Ahsanmara area on the west side of Sylhet-Sunamganj highway to commemorate martyred freedom fighter Taleb. Sunamganj Zila Parishad built it at a cost of Tk 10 lakh in the fiscal year 2015-16.

Husna Begum, a resident of Ahsanmara village, said an accident can occur any time as the statue may fall due to low quality construction.

Dakshin Sunamganj Upazila Muktiyoddha Sangsad Commander freedom fighter Ataur Rahman said the sculpture was cracked due to low quality work.

Sumon Kumar Dey, proprietor of M/S Sumon Kumar Dey, said he did the structure under respect. He said there was some damage to the work when lightning struck it during the last Baishakh, but the original structure was not harmed, adding that the zila parishad has kept the sculpture unprotected.

He also alleged that the parishad did not pay his bills and security money.

Sunamganj Zila Parishad Assistant Engineer Surjosen Roy told this correspondent that the sculpture developed cracks eight months ago, so they did not pay security money, adding that they asked the contractor to repair the statue.



Cracks have developed in the statue commemorating martyred freedom fighter Taleb at Ahsanmara in Dakshin Sunamganj upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Yaba, heroin recovered in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested a man and recovered banned drugs from his possession in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat yesterday.

The arrested man was identified as Md Yunus Ali, 32, son of late Kafil Uddin of Hazmadanga village in Patnitala upazila of Naogaon.

Acting on a tip-off, a police van raided a CNG-run three-wheeler at Ashurmura area under Akkelpur municipality area around 1:15am yesterday and arrested Yunus with 1,000 pieces of Yaba and 4 gm of heroin.

Officer-in-Charge of Akkelpur Police Station Sariful Islam said a case was filed with his police station in this regard. They sent the arrestee to Joypurhat jail after producing him before a local court, he added.