



Anirban at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur.

PHOTO: STAR

Callous biking endangers kid's life

Three-yr-old Anirban fights for life in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A three-year-old boy is battling for life at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital as a speeding motorcycle hit him when he was playing with other children at Gore-e-Shaheed Boromath, a large field in the district town, on Friday.

Anirban Devnath, son of Bishwanath Devnath of Chhotogurgola in Dinajpur municipality, met the tragic accident around 5:00pm on Friday, said the father.

On the weekend, his parents along with him and other children of their relatives and neighbours went for a walk in the field adjacent to the offices of district's deputy commissioner and superintendent of police.

But, their delight turned into shock when a speeding motorcycle carrying three riders aged between 25 to 27 years hit the three-year-old kid when he was playing with other children.

Anirban received serious head injuries. The three bike-riders left the spot after threatening the kid's guardians of dire consequences if they 'make any chaos'. The boy was rushed to M Abdur Rahim

Medical College Hospital.

"Children are not safe even in the playground," lamented his father Biswanath.

A large number of children go to play on the ground, especially on weekends and other holidays, as there is hardly any place of recreation for thousands of children in the district town.

During a visit to the ground around 11:30am yesterday, this correspondent found quite a few motorcycles with two to three riders driving recklessly at the ground although groups of children were playing cricket there.

A microbus was also seen moving there, possibly the man at the steering wheel was learning how to drive.

"It's a shame if a little boy is not safe at his playground," said Abul Kalam Azad, president of Nagorik Udjog, a Dinajpur-based social organisation.

He urged the local administration to stop driving of vehicles on the playground.

Dinajpur Superintendent of Police Hamidul Alam said he would look into the matter.

Liton's family wants death to killers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Family members of slain lawmaker Manzurul Islam Liton demanded capital punishment to the murderers.

Liton's younger sister Fahmida Bulbul made the demand while talking to the journalists on the occasion of Liton's first death anniversary at Gaibandha Press Club yesterday.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence today.

The ruling party lawmaker Liton was shot at his Masterpara residence in Sundarganj upazila on this day. He succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested seven people in this regard while one suspect is absconding.

The trial will start in January 2018, said Public Prosecutor Shafiqul Islam Shafi of the Judicial Magistrate's Court.

Fog disrupts ferry service for 11 hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Ferry service on Paturia-Daulatdia route remained suspended from 10:00pm on Friday to 7:00am yesterday due to dense fog.

Many ferries with passengers and vehicles were stuck between Paturia and Daulatdia ferry ghats for hours.

A six-kilometre-long queue of vehicles was seen at Daulatdia of Rajbari, while a five-kilometre-long queue was formed at Paturia of Manikganj at around 8:00am yesterday. Bangladesh Inland Water Transportation Corporation Aricha Sector Manager Nasir Mohammad Chowdhury said thick fog increased since evening and covered the entire waterway by 10:00pm.

Mystery over woman's death

Mousumi was flogged 101 times at village arbitration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Mystery shrouds the death of a young woman at Kholra village in Haripur upazila of the district.

The victim was Mousumi Akhter, 20, wife of Jahangir Alam of the village, and daughter of late Habibur Rahman of Khamar village.

Although the victim's stepsister Firoza Begum and her husband claimed Mousumi was tortured to death, the mother of the deceased said it was suicide.

Police and locals said Mousumi married Jahangir, 30, of Kholra village in March this year.

After marriage, Jahangir had been staying out of the house most of the time as he worked as a helper of a truck.

In between, an illicit relationship developed between Mousumi and her husband's younger brother Hasibul Islam due to absence of Jahangir.

Relation between Jahangir and

Mousumi worsened when the villagers came to know the matter of illicit relationship, locals said.

Arbitration was held on December 14 at Jahangir's house on the issue, in which family members of the couple, local UP member Aminul Islam and kazi (marriage registrar) Md Kalam took part.

Local people termed it as illicit relation and suggested infliction of 101 dorra (whipping) on Mousumi.

But marriage registrar Kalam said although the punishment for sexual offence is dorra according to Islamic law, it is prohibited in Bangladesh.

Mousumi sought pardon for her act and Kalam made her repent.

On December 15, Mousumi went to her parental house and stayed there.

On December 17, Jahangir went to his in-laws' house and came back home with Mousumi on December 20.

Around 5:00pm the same day, family members saw the hanging body of Mousumi and brought it to Haripur

Upazila Health Complex where on-duty doctors declared her dead.

On December 22, the victim's mother Dukhi Bewa filed an unnatural death (UD) case with Haripur Police Station.

But the same day, the deceased's stepsister Firoza Begum came to the police station to file another case claiming that Jahangir and his family members tortured Mousumi to death for dowry.

The officer-in-charge refused to record another case as an UD case was lodged earlier.

On Thursday, police recorded another case in this connection where the victim's uncle Abdul Hai claimed that Mousumi was instigated to commit suicide. Hai filed the case against 11 people, including Jahangir.

Punitive action will be taken against the culprits after investigation, said the OC.

Marriage registrar Kalam was arrested, he said.



Kids hold killed wild birds, after the illegal hunter (inset) left those, being scared of the news of a mobile court's arrival, following information from the brave boys, at Kotar Dowalipara village of Khata Modhupur union under Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari yesterday morning.

PHOTO: STAR

Bird hunter flees as boys take action

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Young volunteers of Setubandhan, a bird-friendly organisation in Saidpur upazila under the district, taught a good lesson to a callous bird hunter yesterday.

Hatem Ali, 50, of Huglipara village in Kashiram Belpukur union of Saidpur, went to a jungle of Kotar Dowalipara village of Khata Modhupur union of the upazila yesterday morning.

After shooting down a heron and a dove with his gun, he was looking for the next target.

Hearing the sounds of gunshot, schoolchildren Raju, 12, Rabbani, 13, and Merazul, 12, and college student Ruhul Amin, 20, rushed to the spot.

They are volunteers of Setubandhan. Seeing Hatem with killed birds in one hand and a gun in the other, Raju shouted, "Stop uncle. Don't you know that there is government rule prohibiting bird hunting?"

"I like to take lunch and dinner with bird's meat every weekend. Don't come to teach me the rule as

I'm old enough," retorted an arrogant Hatem.

As the boys sternly asked him to put the killed birds on the ground and leave, the hunter angrily told them not to misbehave.

As Ruhul Amin informed the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Saidpur over cell phone, the latter prepared to go to the spot with a mobile court.

Then Hatem dropped the killed birds there and left hurriedly while the boys followed him.

He entered a local's house and fled away through the back door to dodge the mobile court.

Saidpur UNO Bazlur Rashid said, "Afterwards, I went through official records and become aware that there is no license for Hatem Ali's gun. I've asked the OC of Saidpur Police Station to file a case and arrest him."

"Setubandhan members arrange motivational programmes in villages, set banners at places, and organise meetings in educational institutions to create awareness about birds' safety," said Jewel Chowdhury, chairman of Khata Modhupur union parishad.



Former and present students of Bharateswari Homes in Tangail hang out at the reunion programme of the institution in Mirzapur's Lauhajang on Friday. They had a lot of fun and reminisced about the fond memories of their schooldays.

PHOTO: STAR

Menon urges people not to vote for BNP-Jamaat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Protopur

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon yesterday urged the people not to vote for BNP and Jamaat in the next general election.

Menon, also president of Bangladesh Workers' Party, said this at a roadside meeting in Bhandaria upazila of the district. Referring to the destructive activities of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami after the verdicts of war criminals and parliamentary elections in the previous years, he said they burned people and damaged properties.

Bhandaria upazila unit of Bangladesh Workers' Party organised the gathering on the Bhandaria Shaheed Minar premises.

Karatoa devours Trimohoni bridge approach road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The one-kilometre approach road to newly-built Trimohoni Bridge is being eroded by the Karatoa river, stopping movement of vehicles.

The damage to approach road on Bonarpara-Gobindaganj road also snapped connection with the bridge.

Construction of the 360-metre bridge over the Karatoa river was completed in October at a cost of Tk 28.35 crore. It connects Saghata upazila with the national highway in Gobindaganj upazila, reducing the distance by 45 kilometres.

"I have to carry goods on a bicycle after unloading them from a rickshaw van to cross the vulnerable portion of the road, which takes time," said Moinul Islam, a trader of Bishpukur village in Gobindaganj upazila.

Earlier, erosion devoured many structures, including clinics and educa-

tional institutions, in Kazirpara and Bishpukur villages, rendering many people homeless. A government primary school, market and dwelling houses are under threat.

A government primary school, market and many houses are still under threat of river erosion.

The approach road should be repaired immediately so that the bridge can be opened to traffic, otherwise the bridge will not be of any help to the people of Saghata upazila, said

Liton Mia, a teacher.

Water Development Board (WDB) Executive Engineer Mahbubur Rahman said if Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) repairs the vulnerable road, the WDB will do the protection work of the eroded portion.

Initiative is being taken to repair the approach road, which depends on availability of land beside the existing road, said Gaibandha LGED Executive Engineer Moksudul Alam.

Communication has been temporarily restored for three-wheelers through a detour, although that takes more time, he added.

Deputy Speaker Fazley Rabbi Mia inaugurated the bridge recently, assuring completion of the approach road as early as possible as the government has given priority to communication all over the country.



The approach road to the Trimohoni bridge on Bonarpara-Gobindaganj road is being eroded by the Karatoa river, hampering movement of vehicles. Inset, the newly-built 360-metre Trimohoni bridge over the Karatoa river.

PHOTO: STAR

