

TORTURED BY HUSBAND Woman groans in pain at hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A woman, who was brutally tortured allegedly by her husband, cries in pain at Bauful Upazila Health Complex. The victim, Amena Begum, 30, wife of construction worker Nannu Akon of Dashpara village in the upazila, is mother of three children. Amena ran her family with financial help from her Bahrain expatriate younger brother, said family members. Nannu pressed Amena to ask her brother to take him to Bahrain and on Saturday morning, he beat Amena mercilessly following an altercation over the issue. He drove her out from the house and went into hiding, said the victim's younger sister Morium. On information, Morium and her husband on Monday arrived in Bauful from Comilla and took an unconscious Amena to the upazila health complex. The victim badly needs better treatment, said a doctor of the health complex.

5 siblings among 6 get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A court here yesterday sentenced six people, including five siblings, to life imprisonment for killing a man in Shibganj upazila of the district in 2012. The convicts are Reazul Islam, 52, Motiur Rahman, 40, and Habibur Rahman, 35, sons of Sajuruddin of Daipukuria village, their sisters Hazera Begum, 40, and Shahar Banu, 44, also wife of slain Abdur Rahman, and their son Abdur Hakim, 25, of Housenagar village in the upazila. Additional District and Sessions Judge Ziaur Rahman delivered the verdict in presence of the accused. The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default, they are to suffer three months more in prison. According to the prosecution, Rahman's wife Shahar Banu gave Tk 70,000 to her younger brother Motiur as loan. As Motiur way not repaying the debt, Rahman got angry with his wife and other in-laws. As a sequel to the conflict, the convicts, in cooperation with each other, strangled Motiur to death first and then changed the body from a mango tree at Daipukuria village in the upazila around 11:00pm on February 2, 2012. The following day, victim's brother Rafiqul Islam filed a murder with Shibganj Police Station against six people. After investigation, Sub-Inspector Ruhul Amin of Shibganj Police Station pressed charges against the six on May 18 the same year.



Khaulia Government Primary School, a school-cum-cyclone shelter in Morelganj upazila of Bagerhat.

PHOTO: STAR

Cyclone shelters inadequate in Bagerhat

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

People of nine upazilas in the coastal district urged the authorities concerned to build more cyclone shelters as the existing ones are dilapidated as well as inadequate in number. Besides, they do not have any facilities for sanitation and safe drinking water. "The existing infrastructures are in awful condition due to lack of maintenance for long. It could be risky for the people to go there to take shelter during a natural calamity," said Khaulia Union Parishad Chairman Md Abul Khair. People in highly natural disaster-prone Morelganj and Sharankhola are now passing a worrying time as the stormy season is coming and the number of cyclone shelters in the coastal district is less than required, he said, adding that there might be massive casualties and damage of properties if natural disasters hit the coastal district. "Due to the inadequate number of shelter centres, people may not find a place to seek shelter even after getting signal of any impending disaster," Khair said.

"After Sidr, several school-cum-cyclone shelters were built in Morelganj and Sharankhola. Water tanks have been installed for rain water harvesting, Toilets and latrines were also constructed, but they are unusable," said local journalists Ganesh Paul. The Sidr affected people in the two upazilas are in panic because there are not enough cyclone shelters there. About two lakh people of Sharankhola have only 42 cyclone shelters and three lakh people of Morelganj have only 40 cyclone shelters. "Natural disasters mainly take place in April-May every year. Local schools used as asylum centres due to lack of adequate cyclone shelters during the disasters. People suffer from diarrhoea, cholera and other diseases due to lack of pure drinking water and sanitation system," said advocate Probir Halder, chairman of Suhasini Secondary School Managing Committee. "There is a tube-well in the school which is inoperative. We have to go to the neighbours' houses for using toilet during school hours," said student Rina. "Our area has a few cyclone shelters. Due to

that, we have taken training in disaster-related survival activities. Many of us participated in the training," said Shahnaz Begum of Baniyakhali village. "We are working with the union disaster management committee. After Sidr, with the help of union parishads, the government and non-governmental development organisations provided training with disaster preparedness to the local people," said NGO worker Abdul Malek. "Most of the people of Sharankhola and Morelganj have training on disaster management, so that they can go to the shelters immediately after getting news of approaching disaster and take necessary steps as per training," he added. "There are currently 234 cyclone shelters in the district and more than 20 are being built," said Deputy Commissioner Tapan Kumar Biswas. "In addition to setting up more cyclone shelters according to the population ratio, there will be emphasis on providing special facilities for women, children, elderly people and the disabled," he added.

Habiganj court asks OC to show cause

Failure to give murder case info

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Habiganj court has served a show-cause notice to the officer-in-charge (OC) of Baniachong Police Station for failure to give information about a murder case in time. Habiganj Senior Judicial Magistrate Shampa Jahan gave the notice to the OC Mozammel Haque, on Tuesday. The court also instructed him to provide necessary information within three days, said advocate Hafiz Uddin at the court. According to the prosecution, police recovered the body of Ali Hossain from Ekram village in Baniachong upazila of Habiganj on February 27 and the victim's brother Sundor Ali filed a case with Baniachong Police Station, accusing a few people including the victim's wife Ranu Begum. Later, Ranu filed another case with the Habiganj court in this connection. After filing of the case, the judge ordered the Baniachong OC to report within seven working days whether a case for the incident has been filed there. But the OC did not report within the time and he was given three more days for the purpose. The OC again failed and the judge served a show cause notice to him. OC Mozammel Haque said, "On March 18, I signed the report and it was sent to the court inspector on March 19. If the judge did not get the report, that responsibility is not mine." Ohidur Rahman, inspector of the court, said he did not know about the matter.



An onion seed field in Ombikapur village under Sadar upazila of Faridpur. The photo was taken a few days ago.

Onion seed growers all smiles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Farmers in five upazilas of the district are all smiles in expectation of a bumper production of onion seed. "About 3,775 hectares of land were brought under onion seed cultivation this year in Sadar, Bhanga, Sadarpur, Nagarkanda and Alfadanga upazilas of the district. If the weather remains good, more than two tonnes of onion seed will be produced," said district Department of Agriculture Extension Deputy Director Kartik Chandra Chakrabarty. "Seventy-five percent of the total amount of the onion seeds collected by the government comes from the district. So we are trying to involve our young generation in its production," he added. "I have cultivated onion seed on 20 bighas of land and it is growing well. If the weather remains favourable, I expect to get bumper production," said Md Bokkar Khan, a farmer of Ombikapur village in Sadar upazila. "Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation collects seed from us every year, but we have heard that they will not do so this year. If the government takes proper steps to collect seed from us, we will produce more seeds," said farmer Jalil Mollah. "I am very happy to see the onion seeds on my land. I shall get a bumper production this year," said Habibur Rhaman of Gobindapur village in the upazila.

FARUK MURDER Next cross-exam of plaintiff April 18

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Cross-examination of the first prosecution witness in Tangail freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case continued yesterday. Judge of the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in Tangail Abul Mansur Miah adjourned the hearing after cross-examination of Nahar Ahmed, widow of Faruk. The judge fixed April 18 for further cross-examination and also recording deposition of witnesses, said Additional Public Prosecutor Monirul Islam. The prime accused, Amanur Rahman Khan Rana, Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Tangail-3 constituency, was in the dock during the cross-examination, he said. Faruk, a member of Tangail AL, was shot dead near his College Para house in the town on January 18, 2013. The trial of Faruk murder case began on February 11 this year with the deposition of his widow Nahar, plaintiff of the case. Earlier, the court framed charges against Rana and 13 others on September 6, 2017.

One held with 1,500 bottles of Phensidyl

BGB launches the drive at Daulatpur border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members arrested a drug smuggler and seized banned drugs from him in Daulatpur border area under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday. The arrestee is Sirajul Islam, 35, son of Hajrat Ali of Raghunathpur village in Benapole. BGB 49 Commanding Officer Lt Col Ariful Haque said BGB members, acting on secret information, arrested Sirajul from Daulatpur. They searched his bag and seized 1,500 bottles of Phensidyl from his possession. The Phensidyl was deposited in Benapole Police Station and a case was filed in this connection, said the OC of the police station.

Napier grass changes Ruhul's life

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Only six to seven years ago, 45-year-old Ruhul Amin, then a rickshaw van puller, had to struggle a lot to maintain his four-member family with his limited income. But in November, 2011, he started cultivating Napier grass, used as fodder for livestock animals, on his five decimals of land so that he could overcome his poverty. In the next few years, he took lease of land from others and gradually extended his farm. Ruhul, a resident of Samsabad village in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila, is now producing fodder grass on four acres of land. With his income, Ruhul has built a brick house for his family and also set up a dairy farm at his homestead. Most of all, his children go to school now. "I collect the grass from the field every day and sell those going door to door of customers," Ruhul said, adding that he also produces milk in his little farm. "Almighty Allah has helped me to overcome my poverty," a successful Ruhul said. Earlier, with his regular income of around Tk 300, he was overburdened with loans, taken from different NGO's, but everything has changed now, he added. Ruhul's success story inspired many unemployed youths like Ferdous Mia, Abdur Hakim, Zinnat Ali and Shafiqul Alam of the village, who started Napier grass farming to generate income.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) officials in Joypurhat, fodder grass is cultivated on 100 acres of land in Sadar upazila, 20 acres in Akkelpur upazila, 20 acres in Kalai upazila, 80 acres in Panchbibi upazila and five acres in Khetlal upazila. Sudhendra Nath Roy, Deputy Director of DAE in Joypurhat, said the high yielding Napier grass has become popular among

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the cattle farmers across the country due to its nutritious value. Besides, the plant, which grows fast, can be grown throughout the year, the DAE official said. District Livestock Officer Dr Mamunur Rashid said the demand for Napier grass is on the rise as it has a high nutrition value as cattle fodder.



Ruhul Amin, once a rickshaw puller, has now become a successful farmer by producing Napier grass in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER