

## Woman's hair cut after torture

*Husband, sister-in-law arrested in Lalmonirhat*  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A housewife, also mother of four children, is undergoing treatment at Hatibandha Upazila Health Complex for physical and mental trauma following brutal torture by husband and in-laws at Uttar Haldibari village of Sindurna union in the upazila on Wednesday. Police arrested accused husband Bablu Miah, 37, and his sister Mahuron Begum, 42, on the night, Hatibandha Police Station OC Omar Farooque said. Two other accused, Bablu's brother Abdul Gafur, 40, and sister Amena Begum, 30, went into hiding.

The victim woman, Shahanara Begum, 30, daughter of late Jhullur Rahman of Tangbhanga village in Hatibandha, was married with Bablu Miah, 11 years ago. "My mother and elder brother live on 10 decimals of land inherited from my father. My husband put pressure on me to sell my share of the land for Tk one lakh but I didn't agree. Lastly my husband and his three siblings tortured me mercilessly and cut off my hair with a blade on Wednesday afternoon," Shahanara told journalists.

"The woman was tortured in her back, hands, legs and chest and her hair was cut off. She is now out of danger but reeling from the trauma," said Dr Nayeem Hossain, resident medical officer of Hatibandha Upazila Health Complex. Contacted by this correspondent, Shahanara's brother-in-law Abdul Gafur said, "Shahanara was not tortured for creating pressure to sell her share of land. She was made bald only for removing lice from her head."

## Stabbed cop shifted to Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A sub-inspector (SI) of police, who was stabbed by a drug peddler in Gouripur upazila on Wednesday night, was shifted to Dhaka CMH yesterday. The victim, Asaduzzaman Asad, 37, was stabbed in Jaikhan Road area. Asad hails from Purbadhala upazila of Netrakona and has been working in Gouripur Police Station for seven months, police said.



Sandbags are set to protect an affected pillar of Nolkha Bridge near Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge in Sirajganj. Below, a bamboo bridge over Kalikura canal is lying unused after damage of its approach roads during last year's flood in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat and a bridge over the Ratnai river on Lalmonirhat-Mogholhat road in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila's Durakuti area faces risk as three of its four girders are vulnerable.

PHOTO: STAR

# Risky bridges lie unrepaired

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A large number of commuters in different districts are suffering as a few damaged bridges are lying without repair.

A part of the Nolkha Bridge near Bangabandhu Multi-purpose Bridge got damaged last week, causing suspension of movement of heavy vehicles there, reports our Pabna correspondent.

"After knowing about the damage of the Nolkha Bridge on Friday night, we asked the drivers of heavy vehicles, especially loaded trucks, to use the roads through Sirajganj town to reach Bangabandhu Bridge," said Rafikul Islam Bhuiya, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge West Zone Police Station.

The area sees huge traffic jam as other vehicles including passenger buses have to move very slowly on the Bangabandhu Bridge link road, he said.

"The bridge turned risky as heavy vehicles including loaded trucks started using the bridge after opening of Bangabandhu Bridge in 1998," he said.

Some 500 to 600 vehicles move on this road in each hour every day because it serves as the most convenient link of Dhaka with 24 districts after opening of bridge over the Jamuna, he added.

Md Ahad Ullah, executive engineer of Sirajganj Roads and Highways Department, said, "A portion of the bridge got damaged due to displacement of earth from the basement of a pillar. We have set sandbags for its protection. Bridge experts visited the spot and repair work is likely to resume soon."

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent reports: A bridge over the Ratnai river on Lalmonirhat-Mogholhat road in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila's Durakuti area faces the risk of collapse as three of its four girders are vulnerable.



A warning sign forbids movement of heavy vehicles on the risky concrete bridge over Napitkhali canal on Kawkhali-Swarupkathi road in Pirojpur's Nesarabad upazila.

"For the last ten years, four local farmers have continued farming on around 15 bighas of land in the riverbed after earth-filling it. It has turned the main water course of the Ratnai river into a zigzag channel, affecting the bridge's three girders," said Akkel Ali, 43, a farmer at

Durakuti village.

Atiar Rahman, 56, a businessman at Mogholhat Bazar in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said, they have to transport goods on light vehicles as the bridge over the Ratnai river is not usable for loaded trucks. Executive Engineer of Roads and

"I will inform the local administration for taking step to free the riverbed from grabbers to minimize the risk to the bridge," he said.

Meanwhile, around two thousand people of three villages are suffering as the bamboo bridge over Kalikura canal is lying unused after its approach roads were damaged during last year's flood at Kalikura village of Chalbala union in Kaliganj upazila.

Local Government Engineering Department's Kaliganj Upazila Engineer Parvez Newaz Khan said the approach road of the bamboo bridge will be repaired before the rainy season if fund is allocated.

Our Pirojpur Correspondent reports: A concrete bridge on Kawkhali-Swarupkathi road over Napitkhali canal in Jalabari union of Nesarabad upazila under the district has become risky for vehicles.

The RHD has set two signboards on both sides of the bridge, prohibiting movement of heavy vehicles as parts of the bridge broke and subsided two years ago.

Every day around 20 buses and over 200 of different small sized vehicles cross the road, said Bellal Hossain, a local.

"We cross Napitkhali Bridge amid anxiety as it is very weak and shaky," said Alamgir Hossain, a driver of a bus plying the route.

Hamidur Rahman, sub-assistant engineer of Pirojpur RHD office, said they will repair the Napitkhali Bridge within a short time.

Another small bridge on the same road has also become risky.

## Nephew kills uncle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man killed his uncle at Dakkhin Sholdobi village under Sadarpur upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim was Johiruddin, 51, son of late Ainuddin of the village.

Quoting the victim's family members, Sadarpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Akkas Ali said, "Johiruddin's grandson locked into a fight with his nephew Yad Ali's son while playing in their house on Tuesday."

Johiruddin and his nephews Yad and Syed locked in an altercation over the issue on Wednesday. At one stage, they hit Johiruddin with a bamboo, injuring him severely. He was rushed to Sadarpur Upazila Health Complex and was referred to Faridpur Medical College Hospital. From there, he was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital but he died on the way. "Police arrested Khaleda Akter, 21, wife of Yad Ali, after Johiruddin's wife filed a case with Sadarpur Police Station," the OC said.

## It's far from acceptable

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and new reserve forests, according to the report.

Against the backdrop of the prevailing, unresolved land dispute in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, continuous land grabbing in the hilly regions persists.

Lawmaker Ushaton Talukdar said "influential people" have been grabbing adivasis' land with the help of the administration.

"The nation is proud to be a developing nation (as it seems to be becoming) but what should be considered is how far the country has gone regarding human rights," he added.

People among the indigenous communities who raise their voice against rights violation are often labelled as extortionists, armed miscreants and terrorist in false cases. The year 2017 witnessed 10 killings and 141 arrests of indigenous rights activists and innocent villagers, according to the report.

Law enforcers and security personnel enjoy maximum impunity despite torturing indigenous people. In one such case, HSC examinee Romel Chakma was arrested on April 5. Two weeks later he died while being treated under custody of security personnel.

The culture of impunity poses challenges to establishing good governance and rule of law in the

CHT, Kapaeeng Foundation said in the report.

In this regard, Prof Banchita Chakma, member of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), pointed out a provision that forbids the commission to investigate any human rights violation committed by security forces. The provision has to be changed, she added.

Violence against indigenous women was also on the rise; 20 cases were reported in the plains and 28 in the CHT.

"Indigenous people are faced with the worst forms of human rights violation (in the country)," said Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum.

Rights are violated in other countries as well but what is important here is whether the government acknowledges it and comes forward to change the scenario, he added.

Due to the settlement of Bangladesh in the hilly regions since the 1980s, a demographic shift is seen, said Sadeka Halim, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dhaka University.

She also expressed concern that the socio-political scenario may worsen if Rohingyas settle in the region.

Kapaeeng Foundation, however, in the report, appreciated the distri-

bution of pre-primary textbooks in five indigenous languages to an estimated 2,500 children last year.

The challenges of adivasis living far from urban establishments, and the shortage of teachers must be dealt with to make the initiative a success and to ensure their access to education, it added.

The government claims to have implemented 48 clauses out of 72 in the CHT peace accord, but according to the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity, who signed the accord with the government in 1997, only 25 clauses have been implemented and 13 only partially implemented.

"The issue [of rights of indigenous people] is a political one," Rabindranath Soren said.

Adivasis have to continue their movement for their rights. The country is progressing towards achieving the status of "developing nation" but indigenous people will not be benefitted if the situation remains the same, he added.

The obligation falls on the nation as a whole to respond to the injustice and wrongdoings that persist in society, Sultana Kamal said.

"We cannot let the culture of impunity continue," she said, adding that the country is for all and so, elements of development should reach every citizen, irrespective of commu-

## Newlywed killed by wife, boyfriend

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A newly married man who was mercilessly beaten allegedly by his wife and her boyfriend succumbed to his injuries at a Bogra hospital yesterday after struggling for life for four days.

Victim Md Abdul Mazid, 25, son of Abu Hanif of Chowbila village in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj, married Alpana Khatun, 20, daughter of Amza Hossain of the same village, on March 24.

Solonga Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Waheduzzaman said the newly married couple came to visit Alpana's house on March 25.

Quoting the victim, the OC said the newly married wife Alpana called Mazid out of his in-laws' house at night where Alpana and her boyfriend Jihad Hossain beat him mercilessly.

He was taken to Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries about 8:00am yesterday after struggling for life for four days, he said.

The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Alpana was arrested from her house yesterday while Jihad went into hiding immediately after the incident, the OC added.

## Kharghar-71 inaugurated in Nabinagar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

After 47 years of independence, historical Kharghar martyrs' memorial called Kharghar-71 was inaugurated at Kharghar village in Nabinagar upazila yesterday.

Lawmaker from Brahmanbaria-5 constituency Payezur Rahman Badal inaugurated the memorial. The memorial on the neglected martyrs' mass grave was made jointly by local lawmaker, Zila Parishad and district police.

Aminul Islam, a member of Kharghar mass grave protection and implementation committee, said Pakistani army on October 10 in 1971 entered the village on the bank of the Pagla river by a warship and started crackdown on the innocent villagers where 43 people were killed.

Of them, 27 were buried in this grave. For a long time after the independence this mass grave remained neglected. As a result, new generation started to forget this historic event.

This unique and eye catching epitaph '71' will now draw attention of people from all walks of life, Aminul said.

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