

3 more youths go missing in Sitakunda bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Only 15 days apart, three more youths went missing at Bansbaria beach of Bay of Bengal under Sitakunda of Chittagong yesterday afternoon.

On June 21, about the same time of the day, around 3:40pm, two teenage boys went missing at the same beach. Fire Service recovered their bodies the next day.

The three, who went missing yesterday, were among a group of 22 youths who went to visit the beach during the weekend.

The missing youths are Saiful Islam, 24, from Mirsharai; Mohammad Alauddin, 20, from Chandpur; and Mohammad Yasir, 18, from Chandpur; said Wasi Azad, station manager at Sitakunda Fire Station.

Quoting witnesses, he said the group of youths went swimming in the bay during high tide.

Abandoned newborn found by roadside



The newborn at Pirojpur Sadar Hospital.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pirojpur*

An abandoned newborn, presumably about three days of age, was found in a bush near Baleshwar Bridge in Pirojpur on Thursday evening.

Hearing its scream, Quaiyum Sardar, a local, rescued the baby boy around 7:00pm and informed Pirojpur police of his discovery.

Soon after taking the boy in their custody, police admitted the newborn to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital to ensure necessary care.

Since then, many have been coming to the hospital, showing interest to provide care and shelter for the baby, said Shikha Bepary, a nurse at the children's ward of the hospital.

Many of them have been bringing in food and clothing for the child.

Shakil Sarwar, a doctor on duty at the hospital, said when admitted on Thursday night, the baby needed medical attention for several issues including symptoms of cold. "But the baby is doing well now."

They will hand the baby over to the authorities after it makes full recovery, he added.

Hasnain Parves, investigation officer at Pirojpur Sadar Police Station, said the baby might have been delivered at a clinic in the area.

"We are trying to find its [biological] parents," he said, adding that the court would take decision about the legal custody of the child.

DC shows the way for a clean town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

With an aim to encourage people to keep their town clean, the deputy commissioner (DC) of Naogaon yesterday launched a weekly campaign by removing waste from some of the streets himself.

As chief guest, DC Mizaur Rahman inaugurated the programme around 6:00am at Muktimor and took a walk around the town. Along the way, whenever he saw piles of waste, he took a broomstick and swept the place clean.

Talking to local reporters, the DC urged the town residents, "Keep your environment clean and live a healthy life."

Accompanying the DC were Naogaon Municipality Mayor Nazmul Haque Sunny, Director of Local Government Engineering Department Mujibar Rahman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Mahbubur Rahman, and ADC (education) Md Kamruzzaman.

The DC announced that he would visit one ward every Friday and urged the residents to join hands and keep their respective localities clean.

Cease crackdown on undocumented migrants

Malaysian Bar urges its govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A body of legal practitioners in Malaysia yesterday urged its government to immediately cease the ongoing crackdown on undocumented migrants, many of who are from Bangladesh, and embark on a comprehensive legalisation programme allowing the migrants to independently apply for regularisation.

"This crackdown instills fear among migrant workers and deters them all, even those with proper documents, from coming out to work. This has wide ramifications for the productivity of major economic sectors such as agriculture and construction," said Malaysian Bar in a statement yesterday.

Malaysia's immigration department began the nationwide operation dubbed "Ops Mega 3.0" on July 1, a day after it ended a rehiring programme on June 30. In July, the Malaysian immigration department detained a Bangladesh national and seized 85 passports in a raid in Kuala Lumpur, where he operated to rehire undocumented foreign workers. Some 1,300 migrants, including 300 Bangladeshis, were detained in the last five days, Malaysian media reported.

In the statement, George Varughese, president of Malaysian Bar, said migrant workers are needed for the economic development of the country, and that this crackdown in its present form benefits no one.

On July 4, 130 migrant rights bodies from various countries made a similar appeal to the Malaysian government.

The new Malaysian government, which came to power early May, announced it wanted to reduce dependence on foreign workers. Around one million of the six million foreign workers in the country are Bangladeshis, half of whom are either in the process of regularisation or were defrauded by the agents and brokers, said migrants and rights activists.

The Malaysian Bar said a significant number of migrants are undocumented for no fault of their own, but because the Malaysian government provided no avenue for them to independently legalise their status.

WRIST CHOPPED OFF FOR DOWRY

Case recorded against husband, in-laws

A CORRESPONDENT, *Sherpur*

Police on Thursday night recorded a case against Kulsum Begum's husband and in-laws, who had chopped off her right wrist for dowry in Sherpur last month.

Following the court's directive, police recorded the case at Jhenaigati Police Station.

According to the statement of the case, filed on July 3, Kulsum got married to Liton Mia, a butcher by profession, eight months ago. Soon, Liton started demanding Tk 1 lakh from her and kept on torturing her.

On June 13, Liton and his family members tried to kill her and at one point, he chopped off her wrist with a machete. She was treated at Dhaka's Nitor for three weeks.

OC Biplob Kumar Biswas of the police station said, "They [the family] are on the run; we're trying to arrest them."

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NEWS IN brief

Man murdered over land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

A man was killed over land dispute at Hazrahati village in Chuadanga on Thursday evening.

The deceased is Seregul Islam.

Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Chuadanga Sadar Police Station, said one Ariful Islam was building a house on a piece of land owned by Seregul.

On the day, an altercation ensued as Seregul protested. At one stage, Ariful stabbed him with a sharp weapon, said the OC. Seregul was declared dead at a hospital.

A murder case was filed. Police are trying to arrest Ariful.

Woman killed by husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband at Mirzapur upazila in Tangail yesterday.

The deceased is Jhalmal Rani, 32, wife of Pran Krishna. SM Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station, said the couple used to live on the second-floor of a six-storied building in Sohagpara.

They used to quarrel frequently, said the OC quoting neighbours. He might have hacked her to death following an argument and fled the scene, he added.

Police detained his brother-in-law, who lives in the same building, for quizzing.

Trespassing Indian teen handed over to BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

An Indian teenager was arrested for illegally trespassing into Bangladesh through Hatkhola border of Panchbibi upazila in Joypurhat yesterday.

The arrestee is Ratan Kumar Roy, 18.

He was later handed over to Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in the evening through a flag meeting, said Lt Col Rashed Mohammad Anisul Haque, commanding officer of BGB Battalion (Joypurhat-20).

5 Rohingya refugees try

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Rohingyas and fled the camp around two months ago, said SI Alim.

The detainees are Sakar Ali, 24; Sadek Ali, 18; Abdul Ayal, 25; Md Amin, 25; and Hareh Ali, 29. They carried passports as residents of Chuadanga, Munshiganj, and Feni. Their visas cited Agartola border as the entry point.

SI Alim said all were handed over to Damurhuda Police Station.

Talking to The Daily Star, Officer-in-Charge of the station Sukumar Biswas said the refugees were staying at Balukhali-2 camp in Cox's Bazar. "We will send them back to the camp soon," he added.

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