

Girl commits suicide to evade marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A teenage girl allegedly committed suicide as her stepmother pressured her to marry a drug addict in Kulaura upazila on Wednesday.

The deceased was Gulshana Begum, 17, daughter of Nizam Uddin of Alinagar village.

Police and locals said the victim's father fixed her marriage with a boy of Sylhet. After a few days, when the father came to know that the boy is drug addict, he cancelled the marriage.

But Gulshana's stepmother pressured her to marry the boy. The girl took her life by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room over the matter on Wednesday afternoon.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reports: A woman took her life by hanging herself at Goaljhar Pokhilaon village in Panchagarh Sadar yesterday.

The victim was Pabitra Rani, 22, wife of Krishna Chandra Roy.

Family sources said the family members except Rani went to visit puja mandap offering foods to their deity.

After returning home, they found her hanging from a tree near their house.



Badura wholesale fish market in Pirojpur Sadar upazila sees mainly farm fishes during the 22-day ban on catching fish from rivers since October 7.

PHOTO: STAR

BAN ON CATCHING RIVER FISH

Local farm fish meet the demand

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Farm fishes are meeting the demand of the consumers as river and sea fishes are virtually absent in the local markets amid the ongoing ban on catching all types of fish in rivers.

The government has imposed the ban from October 7 to October 28 mainly to help safe breeding of popular fish hilsa.

Wholesale buyers from different areas come to Badura fish market in Pirojpur Sadar upazila all the year round mainly to buy sea fishes that sell in the local fish markets for over Tk 100 a kg.

Visiting the wholesale market on Wednesday morning, this correspondent

found mainly pangas (yellowtail catfish) and tilapia fish produced in local farms.

Pangas was sold at Tk 80 per kg and tilapia between Tk 80 to Tk 100, depending on size.

These fishes are mainly brought from Nesarabad upazila in Pirojpur and nearby Bagerhat district.

Some sea fish stored in cold storages were also found there.

But there was no fish from rivers.

After beginning the 22-day ban on catching fishes, the presence of wholesale buyers has greatly decreased in the market,

local traders said.

"Most of the fish traders of our area are involved with sea fish business. As most people dislike pangas and tilapia, fish trade has drastically fallen here," said Nasir Uddin, a wholesaler at the market.

The prices of locally grown fishes have remained as before, he said.

"I mainly buy sea fish from here and then sell it in the local markets. Now we are buying and selling pangas and tilapia to keep the business running," said Jahangir Alam, another wholesale buyer at the market.

Mainly pangas and telapia fishes are grown at different fish farms.

Some people also cultivate koi (climbing perch) at farms.

Many people, who usually avoid farm fishes, are now buying them from the market as there is no alternative.

Amid the fish crisis, the prices of local variety fishes collected from different natural water sources have increased.

In the local market, one kg of local variety fishes is selling for over Tk 600.

The prices of eggs and fowl have also increased.

Woman killed by husband over family feud in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband over a family feud at Benghari Islampur village in Panchagarh's Boda upazila on Tuesday night.

The victim, Liza Akhter, 35, was second wife of Azizul Islam.

After the death of his first wife, Azizul married Liza Akhter, daughter of Abdul Gafur of Gaighata village, in 2010, deceased's younger brother Hasibul Islam said, adding that, Liza gave birth to two sons-- Mamun, 6, and Momin, 4, while Azizul had two sons and a daughter from his first wife.

Several months ago, Azizul sold his 50 decimals of land and distributed the money among his first wife's children, Hasibul claimed, adding that recently Azizul wanted to sell his homestead which triggered a feud between the couple.

At one stage of altercation over the issue Azizul suffocated Liza by pressing a pillow on her face around 10:00pm and later hung the body from a mango tree at their courtyard to pass it as a suicide incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Hindu devotees gather in front of Zamidar Kacharibari Puja Mandap, situated only five metres from Babur Haat Jame Mosjid (X marked) in Sonaroy union under Nilphamari Sadar upazila, during the ongoing Durga Puja.

Symbol of religious harmony

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Zamidar Kacharibari Puja Mandap and Babur Haat Jame Mosjid (mosque), standing only five metres apart at Babur Haat village in Sonaroy union under Nilphamari Sadar upazila, have remained as a symbol of religious harmony for decades.

Visiting the site on Thursday, this correspondent found a large number of people visiting the venue as Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Bangalee Hindus, is being celebrated there in a congenial atmosphere.

The priest was seen reciting from scriptures in front of deities at the mandap while the Muslims came for daily prayers at the mosque.

"We consult with mosque management committee about maintaining congenial atmosphere in the

area and don't beat drums or play musical instruments at time of Muslims' five times prayer," said Binoy Krishana Adhikari, 52, president of the puja mandap committee.

"Muslim youths help the Hindus to maintain peace in the area as Durga Puja, Kali Puja, Krishna Puja, Laxmi Puja and daily evening puja are held here. Not a single unwanted incident occurred in more than fifty years," he added.

Md Fazlul Huque, president of mosque management committee, said, "We maintain friendly relations with puja mandap committee members. We often talk about various issues and invite each other at houses during religious festivals."

"During puja observance, we keep the sound of mosque microphone at a tolerable level so that Hindu devotees don't feel disturbed," he added.

Sixty years ago, late Sudha Ranjan Ghosal, a local landlord, donated land to establish the mosque and the puja mandap at Babur Haat.

Leaders of both communities solve problems through friendly discussions, said Mostofa Kamal, chairman of Sonaroy Union Parishad.

Sadar Police Station OC Mominur Rahman said people of Babur Haat area are peaceful and Durga Puja is being celebrated there in a befitting manner.

Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mamun Bhuiyan said, "Zamidar Kacharibari Puja Mandap at Sonaroi union is one of the oldest among 278 Durga Puja mandaps in the upazila. The environment here teaches us the significance of peaceful co-existence among different religious communities."

45 BNP-Jamaat men sued: 10 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested 10 of 45 activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, who were sued under Special Powers Act in Jashore on Wednesday.

Thirty-five others were shown absconding.

Some of the leaders of BNP-Jamaat who are absconding are Shahid Iqbal Hossain, president of Dhakuria union unit of BNP Mizanur Rahman, president of Rohota union unit of BNP Mijanur Rahman, president of Sadar union unit of BNP Abdul Gani Morol, ameer of upazila unit of Jamaat Liaquat Hossain, and ameer of poura unit of Jamaat Mahiul Islam.

Police said, on information that some people were meeting near Monirampur Degree College Mosque on Wednesday night for planning anti-state activities, DB men went to the spot and arrested ten people from there while the rest managed to flee.

They recovered 10 bombs from the spot.

Monirampur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sahidul Islam said DB filed a case against 45 people with the police station the same night.

Monirampur upazila unit President of BNP Shahid Iqbal Hossain said the allegation was false and the case was made up.

'Restore indigenous quota'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Indigenous people in Taltali upazila of Barguna and Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali formed human chain demanding restoration of five percent quota for their community and 30 percent for freedom fighters in government services.

Rakhine Somaj Unnayan Sangstha and Rakhine Student's Unity jointly formed a human chain in front of Taltali Buddhist temple in the upazila headquarters for an hour.

Mong Chin Than, secretary of Rakhine Somaj Unnayan Sangstha, Ancho Rakhine, president of Taltali upazila unit of Rakhine Student's Unity, Chinthanmong Talukder, Amen Rakhine, Ongten Talukder, Wanshe, Bomechang and Chomelen spoke at the street corner meetings during the programme.

Speakers demanded restoration of five

percent quota in first and second class government services for the indigenous community people.

A separate human chain was formed at Kalapara upazila headquarters at the same time, demanding restoration of 30 percent quota in the same jobs for freedom fighters' children.

Muktijoddha Santan Command Council for Kalapara upazila unit and Kalapara upazila unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad jointly arranged the programme.

President of Muktijoddha Santan Command Council of Kalapara upazila unit Akhtaruzzaman Kokka, its secretary Nasir Uddin Biplob, Kalapara upazila unit Muktijoddha Council Commander Bodiur Rahman Bantin, among others, addressed the street corner meetings.

Later on, they handed over a memorandum to the prime minister through the Kalapara upazila nirbahi officer.



Rakhine Somaj Unnayan Sangstha and Rakhine Student's Unity form a human chain in front of Taltali Buddhist temple in Taltali upazila yesterday demanding restoration of quota for the indigenous people.

PHOTO: STAR

Young girl found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thenidah

Police recovered the body of a young girl from Nrishinghapur village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The identity of the deceased, aged around 21 years, could not be known as of filing of this report around 7:30pm.

Villagers spotted the body lying near a canal and informed the police, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station Emdadul Haque said.

Criminals might have strangled the girl to death as the body bore marks of injury on the throat, he added.



A farmer threshes paddy with the mini combined harvester at Itchhari village in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

PADDY THRESHER MACHINE Not fit for hill areas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Paddy thresher machine 'mini combined harvester' is not able to gain popularity among Khagrachhari farmers despite getting it at 50% less than the actual price.

According to officials of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Khagrachhari, five kinds of agro based machinery were provided to the hill farmers at fifty percent less than the actual price of Tk 7 lakh under crop production enhancement project.

But in the last three years of the project, only two farmers of the district have bought the mini combined harvester, said Mohammad Safar Uddin, deputy director of Khagrachhari DAE, adding that the machine can thresh huge quantity of paddy in less time.

The project started across the country in 2015-16 fiscal year, he said. It happened because paddy land in the hills is not flat. This machine is not suitable for the hill area, he said.

Supon Khisa, a farmer of Itchhari village in Sadar upazila, who bought a mini combined harvester, said the plots of the hill land are small in size. Each plot is divided by high ridge. There are also small or large channels in the middle of the paddy fields.

Due to this, farmers are not interested in buying mini combined harvester despite getting subsidy from the government, said Supon.

Safe recovered from canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Police recovered a safe from a canal adjacent to Cumilla-Sylhet highway at Uttar Suhilpur village under Sadar upazila recently.

Police assume that a gang of robbers might have dumped it after dacoity as the lock was broken.

Sadar Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Selim Uddin said, on information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the safe with the help of locals. The word Habiganj was inscribed on it. It is suspected that dacoits probably left it there after looting everything in it, he added.