

Pregnant woman beaten dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A pregnant housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband's younger brother at Muriaruk village under Lakhai upazila of Habiganj on Sunday evening.

The victim was Mansura Akhter Sumi, 20, daughter of Shofil Mia of Dewan Bari of the same village.

"Police recovered the body last night and detained the victim's mother-in-law for interrogation. The alleged murderer, Burhan Uddin went into hiding," said Sub-inspector (SI) Razib Ahmed of Lakhai Police Station.

"Police also seized the cleaver, apparently with which the victim had been hit, and blood-stained clothes from the spot. The body, bearing multiple injury marks, has been sent to the hospital for autopsy," he said.

"During primary interrogation, Burhan's mother admitted that her son committed the murder. Preparations are on to file a case in this connection," said Emran Hosain, officer-in-charge of the police station.

"My daughter Sumi married Abdur Rashid Liton three years ago. Afterwards Liton's younger brother Burhan Uddin gave illicit proposal to Sumi, which she rejected," said Shofil Mia.

As Burhan repeated the proposal on different occasions, Sumi told it to her husband. Last week, Liton asked Burhan not to disturb his wife. On Sunday afternoon when Liton was outside, Burhan engaged in a heated exchange with Sumi over the matter. He beat her mercilessly and lastly hit her with a cleaver on the head and fled away," said Shofil.

Locals admitted Sumi to Habiganj Sadar Hospital from where she was referred to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital but she died on the way.



A cattle market has been sitting every Sunday for the last three decades on the ground of Hasan Ali Public High School at Kadamtali under Ghatail upazila of Tangail, hampering educational and sporting activities of the school as well as spreading bad odour in the area.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

'Ensure minorities' safety during polls'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque yesterday urged all to remain alert so that no quarter can attack the minority community people during the upcoming national elections.

He was briefing the journalists after the inaugural session of a workshop on communal harmony in the town.

UNDP organised the workshop with the cooperation of NHRC. A total of 30 social leaders and organisers from different communities and organisations participated at the workshop.

"Past experience says that when national election approaches a vested quarter tries to fish in the troubled water," the NHRC chairman said.

The state and the government are responsible for ensuring the security of life and property of people belonging to all religions and communities," he said.

Cattle market on school ground

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A cattle market has been sitting every Sunday on the ground of a high school in Ghatail upazila for the last three decades, hampering classes and sports activities of the institution and creating health hazards due to cow dung and foul smell.

Around 700 students of Hasan Ali Public High School at Kadamtali have been facing various problems while attending classes or using the ground for playing games due to the market.

The school was established beside Tangail-Mymensingh Road in 1972 and the

cattle market started sitting on the school ground since 1986, locals said.

Although the market sits on Sunday, the garbage remains through the week, they said.

Though the school remains open for half the day on market day, only a few students attend the classes, said Rezaul Karim Raju of the area.

The cattle market is the largest in the upazila, so a large number of cattle are brought to the market, he said.

Numerous holes and drains have been created on the huge school ground, which remains full of various wastes of

the cattle, making it unfit for sports as well as movement, he said.

"We cannot play on the ground even on the days after the market day due to the dirty environment created by the cattle wastes," said Miad Hossain, a Class IX student of the school.

The cow dung and dirty straw also spread to the classrooms and veranda of the school, creating problems in movement of the students.

"It is tough to sit in the classroom due to the bad smell of the cattle wastes," said Sanwar Hossain Sunny, a Class X student of the school.

"Traffic jam is created on Tangail-Mymensingh Road on market day due to loading and unloading of cattle from the trucks parked beside the busy road," said Liton Miah, a driver of a bus on the route.

Headmaster of the school Mohammad Ali Jinnah said local people have been conducting the cattle market since it was started. "A petition was submitted to the deputy commissioner in 2015 for removing the cattle market, but nothing was done in this regard," he added.

Ghatail Upazila Nirbahi Officer Dilruba Ahmed said necessary steps will be taken in this regard after talking with all concerned.

Mysterious death of cattle farm owner

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police recovered the body of a man, who died mysteriously at his in-laws' house, from Ghonapara area in Gopalganj's Kashiani upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased, Kazi Arif Hossain, 40, a cattle farm owner, was son of late Mujibur Kazi of Gatepara in Sadar upazila.

The law enforcers detained the deceased's wife and father-in-law for interrogation, Sub-Inspector (SI) Kashiani Police Station Faruk Hossain said.

Deceased's younger brother Kazi Galib Hossain said Arif had been living at his in-laws' house for the last three years.

After selling all his ancestral properties at Gatepara his brother started a cattle farm near his in-laws' house, he said.

Being informed by deceased's wife over mobile phone, they went to Arif's in-laws' house and found marks of injuries on the body, Galib added.

Arif's wife Keya Begum said her husband returned home with several injury marks on his body around 1:00am.

After a while Arif started vomiting and at one stage, succumbed to his injuries the same night, Keya said.

Over 50 trees felled in Bandarban

LGED planted the trees on both sides of Baishari-Eidgah road for beautification

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Criminals have felled more than 50 trees planted for beautification on both sides of Baishari-Eidgah road in Naikhongchhari upazila of Bandarban.

When the looters were felling trees early Sunday, local union parishad (UP) member Nurul Azim along with his men, on information, went to the spot and the criminals fled the scene, leaving behind two felled trees.

On Sunday midnight, the plunderers felled the government trees on the road adjacent to Hajirpara and Forest office. They also took away some felled trees.

On information, Baishari UP Chairman Mohammad Alam went to the spot and took the felled trees into UP custody.

UP member Nurul Azim, witnesses and locals blamed the men of Haji Moktar Ahmed, an influential person of the area, for felling the trees.

Contacted, Moktar Ahmed refuted the allegation of cutting the trees.

Upazila Engineer Tofazzal Hossain Bhuiyan of Local Government Engineering Department, said his department planted the trees on both sides of the road with government funding. Legal action will be taken against those involved after investigation.

Youth gets 10 years RI

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A court here yesterday sentenced a youth to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a case filed under Narcotics Control Act in 2016.

The accused, Rasel Gazi, 25, is a resident of Chowrasta area in Patuakhali town.

Patuakhali District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shahidullah also fined the convict Tk 20,000. In default, he is to suffer six months more in jail.

Prosecution lawyer Mohammad Anifur Haque Tito said Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-8 detained Rasel with 175 Yaba tablets from Chowrasta area on September 9 in 2016 and later handed him over to Patuakhali Sadar Police Station.

Bangladeshi shot dead in S Africa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man from Habiganj was shot dead by criminals in South Africa.

The incident occurred in Johannesburg of South Africa on Saturday.

The deceased was Nazrul Islam, 35, son of Abdul Awal Miah of Rasulpur village in Azmiriganj upazila.

A pall of gloom and grief descended on his family after the news of his death spread.

The victim's father Abdul Awal Miah said Nazrul Islam went to South Africa three years ago and used to work at a supermarket in Johannesburg. On Saturday morning, a gang entered the market and started shooting, leaving Nazrul dead on the spot.

Sheikh Nazmul Haque, officer-in-charge of Azmiriganj Police Station, said on information, they visited the victim's house.



Nazrul Islam

Man hit by train, dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A man, who sustained critical injuries after being hit by a running train on Lalmonirhat-Burimari route on Sunday morning, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) the same night.

The deceased, Rafiqul Islam, 36, an employee of a local poultry farm, was a resident of Doikhawa village in Hatibandha upazila.

A Lalmonirhat-bound train hit Rafiqul near Khochabari in Sadar upazila on Sunday morning while he was going to the district town on a bicycle, wearing earphones, said Adam Ali, sub-inspector (SI) of Government Railway Police (GRP) in Lalmonirhat.

Critically injured Rafiqul was rushed to RMCH where he breathed his last the same night, SI Adam said.

Trapped in uncertainty

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sunlight hurts. Thus, I cannot work or earn. I have become a burden on my wife," Dizen told this correspondent.

Fifty-year-old Chayen Saren of Madarpur village said, "X-ray report shows that I am bearing many splinters. In the summer, I feel extremely hot inside and in the winter, I have acute pain."

Hapna Mormu, 60, of the same village has a hand partially paralysed. "Bullets have almost paralysed my left hand. Now I have to do everything with one hand."

Santal women are still scared of going outside although two years have passed since the incident. They fear that they would be assaulted by "outsiders".

"Out of fear of being attacked, women are sitting idle at home while men are out there working for meagre wages in different districts," said Nikhalata Tudu, 28, of the village.

People of this minority group have alleged that they were yet to receive any government aid.

"An NGO gave me Tk 10,000 after my father was murdered that day. That's all I got since," said Josna Tudu, 32.

REHABILITATION?

Ramkrishna Barman, upazila nirbahi officer in Gobindaganj, first claimed to have rehabilitated at least 70 Santal families to Betara Guchchhagram from Shahebganj farm earlier in the year. "We gave

them three decimals of land and houses.

"Soon, we will rehabilitate 100 more families under the government's Ashrayan projects in Kamdia and Katabari unions," said the UNO.

However, during a visit to the Betara Guchchhagram in May, this correspondent found no Santal from Shahebganj farm area. Rather, people belonging to other indigenous groups and some Bangalees were living at the cluster village.

"The administration has rehabilitated about 40 indigenous families from Fulohar, Kutra Para, Jugiya since the beginning of this year but they are not the evicted Santals," claimed Zishail Hembrom, 37, who was rehabilitated by the local administration.

Zishail, a Santal but not a victim of the 2016 eviction, over the phone said about three months ago, the upazila administration rehabilitated 30 more families to Betera. Among them, only two or three families were victims of the eviction incident.

Asked about this, UNO Ramkrishna said, "The Santals want to be rehabilitated to their ancestral land, not to any other place. How do we rehabilitate them if they are not willing to stay somewhere else?"

G a i b a n d h a Deputy Commissioner Sebastin Rema, who joined office recently, said he

could not get a chance to meet the Santal communities of Shahebganj farm. He said that he along with the superintendent of police would soon visit.

LEGAL PROGRESS

A case against 33, including a local Awami League lawmaker and the then UNO of Gobindaganj, was filed nearly three weeks after the eviction of Santals in 2016.

AL lawmaker of Gaibandha-4, Abul Kalam Azad, and former Gobindaganj UNO Abdul Hannan were accused of "ordering" the attack on the indigenous community.

Thomas Hembrom filed the case on behalf of the Shahebganj-Bagda Farm Bhumi Uddhar Sangram Committee.

Shapmara and Katabari unions' chairmen Shakil Akand Bulbul and Rezaul Karim Rafique, managing director of Rangpur Sugar Mills Abdul Awal were accused of taking part in the attack.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Gaibandha Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Mohammad Abdul Hai Sarker said they got the autopsy reports and were waiting for the DNA and chemical analysis reports.

A total 25 people have been arrested in the case. One of the arrestees has given a confessional statement, he said, adding that attempts were on to arrest the prime accused.

School offers

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Her mother, Monju Ara, expressed gratitude to the school founders. "I was struggling to meet the expenses. They give our children education, books, uniforms, bags, stationeries and medical services at a minimal cost of Tk 10."

Dr Zakir Hossain Manik, another founder of the school thriving on the bed of the Jamuna river, said: "First we gathered children from Niribili slum for the Savar branch. We try to provide them with vocational training as well."

During a recent visit to the Kagmari branch, this correspondent found that 90 children were attending classes from grades one to five and most of the teachers were university students.

Classes are held six days a week, said Israt Jahan Lamia, who has been with the school as a teacher since its inception. "They take part in different extracurricular activities as well," said Lamia, a current student at Gonoshasthaya Samaj Vittik Medical College.

Nazmul said O Aa Ka Kha School has a centre which provides training on sewing and has a library which is open to all.

"Well-wishers" are the main source of finance for this school, said the physician.

Besides that, Texprego Bangladesh, a manufacturer and exporter of knitwear products, also helps them run the school as part of its corporate social responsibilities. "The garment company came to know about our activities through Facebook and since then had been a support," added Nazmul, who now works as a medical officer at Gonoshasthaya College.

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All participants will be notified of the result of the selection process as soon as it is concluded.

Selected companies might be asked to bring, or sign additional documents as per ICRC procurement procedures.

We thank you for your anticipated co-operation and look forward to receive your communication

Logistics Team
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