

Bid to rape 5-yr-old girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A five-year-old girl, who narrowly escaped a rape attempt allegedly by one of her neighbours on Monday, was admitted to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital the same night and later released yesterday.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Panchagarh Sadar Police Station Abu Akkas said the minor girl was playing outside their house at Haribhasa Prodhanpara village on Monday evening.

At one stage, one of her neighbours Jony Islam, 22, son of Dulal Hossain, picked her and took her to a nearby bamboo cluster and tried to rape her.

Hearing her cry for help, villagers went towards the spot but the culprit fled the scene, leaving the girl traumatised.

Later, her parents and neighbours admitted her to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital the same night, the OC added.

Bhurungamari freed on this day in 1971

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

On this day in 1971, Bhurungamari upazila, then a thana under Kurigram subdivision (now a district), was freed from the Pakistani occupation forces.

Mukti Bahini (freedom fighters) gathered at the thana on November 12 and attacked the Pakistani army from three sides.

The fight continued overnight on November 13. The following day the freedom fighters freed Bhurungamari by defeating the enemy and took control of the area.

During the fighting, Pakistani Army Captain Ataulah Khan was killed in a bomb attack in his bunker where a Bengali woman was also found dead.



The house of famous mathematician KP Basu at Harishankarpur village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: AZIBOR RAHMAN

KP Basu's palatial buildings decaying

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

The impressive house of famous mathematician Kalipada Basu (well-known as KP Basu), who made considerable contribution to the development of algebra in the late 1800s, is heading towards virtual ruin due to lack of proper maintenance.

During a recent visit to the palatial house built by KP Basu at Harishankarpur village under Jhenidah Sadar upazila in 1907, this correspondent found that there are four buildings at the complex on one acre of land, including a two-storey residential building comprising ten rooms, and a prayer house with four rooms.

But the buildings with traditional artistic design are losing beauty and their structures getting weak as bushes have grown on the walls and chunks of plaster are falling off.

Besides, many pieces of artistic old furniture at the house are in

an awful condition.

Son of Mohima Charan Basu, KP Basu was born in 1860 at Krishnanagar village in Nadia district of West Bengal, India.

KP Basu's interest in mathematics aroused as he received lessons from Nosim Uddin Mondol, a primary teacher of his village.

After passing MA in mathematics from Kolkata University in 1882, he joined Dhaka College in 1882 as a faculty and continued teaching career till his death.

He died of malaria in Dhaka in 1914.

He investigated modern European algebra and made it easier and more lucid in terms of scientific expression.

His work was recommended by Hunter Commission in the then

British India in late 1880s.

He invented new mathematical proofs and elevated the standard of the locally available algebra books at the time.

He also had an interest in geometry.

He published 'Algebra Made Easy', 'Modern Geometry' and 'Intermediate Solid Geometry'. He established KP Basu Publishing in Kolkata.

KP Basu's relative Borun Ghosh, his wife Doly Ghosh, son and daughter-in-law now live in the building.

They lamented that the historic buildings are decaying as they cannot afford its proper maintenance and repair due to financial constraints.

Many people come to have a look of the aristocratic house.



KP Basu

This house should be renovated and preserved so that the next generation can know about KP Basu and his achievements, said Abdul Aziz, an elderly man of Harishankarpur village.

"I have come to see the famous mathematician's house. The government should take necessary steps to bring back its beauty," said visitor Bachchu Mia, who has recently completed MA in English from Kushtia Islamic University.

Harishankarpur Union Parishad Chairman Abdullah AL-Mamun said he has written to the authorities concerned, urging them to take immediate steps for renovation of the heritage building.

"I have informed Jhenidah Deputy Commissioner Saraj Kumar Biswas about the dilapidated condition of KP Basu's house. Hopefully steps will be taken to renovate the buildings," said Jhenidah Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shammil Islam.

Ruling party MP Badal won't contest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Ruling party lawmaker Faizur Rahman Badal did not submit his nomination paper for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Badal elected from Brahmanbaria-5 (Nabinagar) constituency is also president of Nabinagar upazila Awami League (AL). His APS Jalal Uddin Ahmed told this correspondent that Faizur will not contest the polls due to illness.

Upazila AL General Secretary MA Halim said nomination form was collected on behalf of Badal, but it was not submitted.

Two dozen AL contenders from the constituency have collected nomination forms to contest the election.

Jatiya Party (JP) or Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) candidate is likely to contest for the seat as the 14-party alliance nominee.

15 fishermen return from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Fifteen fishermen returned home yesterday after serving two months in an Indian jail.

Indian Immigration Police handed over them to their counterparts at Benapole check-post.

The returnees hail from Taherpur village in Mahipur upazila of Patuakhali.

Benapole Immigration Police Officer-in-Charge Abul Bashar said Indian coastguard detained them when they mistakenly entered the Indian maritime boundary two months ago.

They were released on expiry of their jail terms, said Amjad Hossain, BGB camp commander at Benapole check-post.

Triple murder over land dispute Painted like train to draw students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Three people were killed by their rival group during a clash over a piece of land at Taluk Haridas village in Aditmari upazila of the district yesterday.

Of the slain, one died on the spot while two others succumbed to their injuries in Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and Rangpur Medical College Hospital, said Aditmari Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Masud Rana.

Two people were arrested in this connection while other accused managed to escape from their houses, he said.

Of the victims, Abdul Jalil, 55, son of late Jalal Miah, died on the spot while his cousins Golam Robbani, 46, son of Abdul Gafur and Shahidar Rahman, 40, son of Asir Uddin, succumbed to their injuries at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) respectively, Masud Rana said. All the victims are inhabitants of Taluk Haridas village in Aditmari upazila.

Police arrested Eresh Ali, 42, son of late

Narul Islam, and Khabir Uddin, 48, son of late Abdus Sobahan of the same village, for their alleged involvement with the killings, he said, adding that drive continued to nab others.

The clash began in the morning as 15 to 20 people known as men of Abdul Khaleque Munshi, 58, of the same village attacked Jalil with sharp weapons when he went to plough the land he purchased, leaving him dead on the spot, the OC said.

Jalil's men rushed to the spot to rescue him as news of attack spread in the area and they also came under attack and were hacked by the Khaleque's men, the OC said.

Slain Jalil's son Jahangir Hossain said they purchased one bigha of land from one Seher Ali six months ago which was under illegal possession of Khaleque Munshi. He said the attack was planned by land grabber Khaleque Munshi and accordingly his men swooped on his father.

Jahangir filed a murder case with Aditmari Police Station accusing 20 named and 10 unnamed people in this regard yesterday, the OC said.

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The walls of the building of a primary school in Madhupur upazila have been painted like an intercity train for attracting students to come to the school.

The new look of Digorbaid Government Primary School has not only increased attendance of students but has also made them joyful during school time.

"I feel very happy to come to school after it was painted like a train," said Moksudul Alam Rafi, a Class V student of the school.

The school is now known as 'Train School', and local people as well as people from other places come to see it.

The school was established in Laofula area under the upazila in 1969 and now there are 234 students of whom 113 are girls. The number of teachers is six.

Headmaster Tarequl Islam started giving the school the new look a few months ago, and the work was completed just before Eid-ul-Azha.



Attending classes in a train! Happy students at Digorbaid Government Primary School in Madhupur upazila of Tangail.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

The work was done with funds from the upazila primary education office and local people, the headmaster said.

"I got the idea after seeing such a school in India on Facebook. The poem 'Train' by Shamsur Rahman inspired me to make the school look

like a train," he said.

"I am very happy as the students liked the new look of their school very much and are attending classes happily," he added.

"However, it becomes dark when the windows are shut during winter and rainy seasons. We need two

solar panels to solve the problem," the headmaster added.

Madhupur Primary Education Officer AHM Rezaul Karim said the school in Digorbaid has shown a new way to attract students to other primary schools in the upazila.



Ehsanul Islam and his wife Sabeda Islam take care of their cauliflower field at Barodaha, which is popularly known as vegetable village, under Sadar upazila of Nilphamari.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Once poverty-hit Barodaha now a vegetable village

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Once a poverty-stricken village, Barodaha village in Botlagari union under Saidpur upazila is now known as vegetable village as vegetable farming has brought tremendous improvement in the socio-economic condition of the villagers.

People of Barodaha village were poor as the land was infertile and they used to cultivate only paddy, but they did not get enough yield to earn their livelihoods. As a result, many villagers usually went to distant places for doing farm work or plying rickshaw.

Botlagari union Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) Mominul Islam said the history behind the turning of the area into a flourishing village from its previous status is interesting.

"Ten years ago, marginal farmer Osman Gani, 40, out of curiosity, cultivated high-yield tomato on his 10 decimals of land and got 50 maunds of the vegetable. He sold the produce for Tk 20,000, which inspired him very

much," he said.

"Next year, Gani cultivated tomato on one acre of land that he took on lease and got unexpected profit. It was a new concept for the villagers," Mominul added.

"Seeing his success, villagers were inspired to start vegetable farming with vigour. They got support from the agriculture department and turned Barodaha into a vegetable village within a few years," the SAAO added.

On a visit to the village, six kilometres from the upazila headquarters, this correspondent saw vegetable fields one after another. Vegetables were being grown in homesteads and even on roofs of houses. He saw farmers weeding tomato fields, watering beans or harvesting cauliflower.

This correspondent saw houses built with new corrugated iron sheets glittering in the sunlight and having sanitary latrine, tube-well and electricity.

Farmer Ehsanul Islam, 50, said he cultivated beans on three bighas of land, cauliflower on four bighas and bottle gourd on two bighas, and

expects to get handsome profit.

Babul Hossain, 38 said he cultivated 20,000 cauliflowers on five bighas and got Tk 2 lakh by selling each cauliflower for Tk 10, on average, one week ago, while his expenditure was only Tk 1 lakh.

Md Zikrul Huque, 50, who cultivated tomato on one acre, said production cost was around Tk 50,000 and income was around Tk 1.25 lakh, which is many times higher than paddy.

Former chairman of Botlagari Union Parishad Saidur Rahman said buyers from Dhaka and other big cities come to Barodaha village with two or three trucks daily to buy vegetables from the farmers' fields.

Saidpur Upazila Agriculture Officer Homayera Mondol said the soil of Barodaha village is suitable for vegetable cultivation, which is more profitable than any other crop. They advise farmers on modern methods of farming and natural pest control, she added.