

## Indigenous woman raped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An indigenous woman was raped allegedly by a local drug addict in a jungle at Telkholia village of Ukhia upazila.

The 19-year-old victim is the wife of a day labourer of the area. She gave birth to a baby girl two months back.

When she went to the nearby jungle to collect firewood, Shamsul Alam, 25, son of Md Usman, raped her on Monday evening.

The victim filed a general dairy with Ukhia Police Station on Wednesday morning.

Local indigenous leader Baunu Chakma said the seriously injured woman was admitted to the upazila health complex the day after the rape. She was shifted to One-stop Crisis Centre (OCC) at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

Officer In Charge of the police station Md Abul Khair said in the medical examination of the victim, evidence of rape was found. The GD has been filed as rape case.

Police are trying to arrest the accused. Indignation has been created among the tribal community over the incident.

General Secretary of Adibashi Forum's Cox's Bazar district unit

Mongthela Rakhine said, the victim has been feeling very insecure as the family is very poor and helpless. He demanded arrest and exemplary punishment of the rapist.



Transport workers listen as Tangail Deputy Commissioner Md Shahidul Islam (inset) addresses a training session for them at Brac's Probas Bondhu Office in Victoria Road of the town yesterday. Brac Driving School arranged the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

## Ensure safety of women on vehicles

Tangail DC urges transport workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The district's deputy commissioner (DC) at a programme yesterday urged the local transport workers to ensure safety for women passengers on the vehicles.

"You have to remain cautious so that the women and girl passengers are not harassed on the vehicles in any way by you or anyone. You will treat them as your own mother and sister," DC Md Shahidul Islam said while addressing a training session of transport workers at Brac's Probas Bondhu Office in Victoria Road of

the town.

Brac Driving School arranged the training session under its project titled Safe Road for Women and Girls in association with its Safe Road and Gender Justice and Diversity Programmes.

Around 500 drivers, conductors and helpers belonging to Tangail Road Transport Workers Union took part in the three-day training programme with the slogan 'Ain mene cholbo, nirapod sorok gorbo' (We will obey rules, make roads safe).

The transport workers should

be helpful to woman and girl passengers, especially while getting on or getting down from the bus, the DC said at the programme.

He urged the drivers and their helpers to obey all traffic rules for driving the vehicles properly to avoid accidents and casualties and told them to remain extra cautious when their vehicles move in front of educational institutions and when students cross the roads.

After the programme, the DC distributed certificates among the

transport workers.

Mosharaf Hossain, additional deputy commissioner (General) in Tangail, Selim Ahmed, additional deputy commissioner (ICT and Education), Shahrier Rahman, NDC, Golam Kibria Boro Moni, secretary general of Tangail district bus-coach owners association, and eight executive magistrates in Tangail attended the programme, among others.

Munir Hossain Khan, district representative of Brac in Tangail, moderated the event.

## Two murdered in Jashore, Jamalpur

Youth died after scarf got entangled with wheels in Madaripur

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were killed in Jashore and Jamalpur on Wednesday night while a youth died of suffocation after his scarf got entangled with the wheels of a three-wheeler in Faridpur.

Our Benapole correspondent reported that, a young man was stabbed to death by his rivals allegedly over a previous enmity in Navaron area under Sharsha upazila of Jashore.

The deceased, Zahidul Islam, 30, son of Abdur Jabbar of Narayanpur village, was a Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) agent.

Quoting the deceased's family members, police said Zahidul gave Tk 7 lakh to Beauty Khatun, wife of Jharu Mia for sending him to America, which developed a feud between the two.

On Wednesday night, Beauty called Zahidul at her Kazirber home saying she would pay back the money, police said, adding that as Zahidul entered the house Beauty and her cohorts stabbed him indiscriminately inside the bathroom, leaving him dead.

They later wrapped the body in a sack and dumped it at a nearby banana field the same night.

Police detained five people--Beauty, 40, her daughter Sumi Khatun, 24, Rahima Begum, 50, Ferdousi, 32, and Al-Amin, 26, for their alleged involvement in the killing. Officer in Charge of Sharsha Police Station Mashiur Rahman said.

Meanwhile, unidentified criminals killed an elderly man in Jamalpur Sadar upazila, reports our correspondent.

The deceased, Golam Mostafa, 60, was son of late Bashir Uddin of Charshi Kanadarpara village.

The deceased's family members said there had been a longstanding rivalry between Mostafa and his neighbours Mukul, 55, and Bulbul, 50, sons of Azizul Haque, over the ownership of 72 decimals of land beside their houses.

Around 8:30pm, unidentified criminals hit Mostafa on the head from behind with a sharp weapon while he was washing his hands at his courtyard, leaving him critically injured.

Mostafa died on his way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital around 10:00pm the same night.

Away in Madaripur, a youth met a tragic death when his scarf got entangled with the engine of a three-wheeler (locally known as Nasimon) at Surjamoni village in Kalkini upazila of Madaripur on Wednesday evening, reports our Faridpur correspondent.

The deceased, Imam Hossain, 28, was son of Abul Hossain of Rajchar area in the upazila, Officer in Charge of Kalkini Police Station Mofazzal Hossain said.



Lalmonirhat Labour Welfare Centre was established in 1984 in College Road area of Lalmonirhat town for the welfare of labourers, but it has brought no benefits for them due to shortage of doctors and other staff. Inset, the labour organiser of the centre sits idle at his office as there is no work for him.



PHOTO: STAR

## Lalmonirhat labour centre lies idle

Staffs passing times idle as no activities here

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A large amount of money is being spent for salaries of the staff and maintenance of Lalmonirhat Labour Welfare Centre, but labourers are not getting any benefit due to lack of welfare activities there.

Dispensary Assistant (DA) Moksedul Haque said the centre was established on one acre of land in College Road area in Lalmonirhat town in 1984 for the welfare of labourers, especially free medical treatment and medicine.

The building was used as administrative office of the local administration till 1995 and then it was used as office of the District Diabetic Association till 2007. The building remained abandoned from 2007 until 2010, when the

centre took possession of it and posted a night guard on deputation from Rangpur Welfare Centre.

Five of 12 staff were posted to the centre in April this year, but there is no work for them. They come to the office only to sign the attendance register.

The posted staff members are Labour Organiser Atiqur Rahman, Compounder Anowar Parvez, Office Assistant Tahezol Haque, and night guard Nazir Hossain, while the vacant posts are of medical officer, population officer, nurse, another labour organiser, another office clerk, an inspector and a cleaner.

"I am posted here but there is no work as there is no doctor or supply of medicine," the DA said.

The labour organiser said

labourers do not come to the centre as the services are not available. "Medical officer is the main post in the centre but the post has been lying vacant from the beginning, so there is no work," he said.

"As there is no medical officer or nurse, I am idle here," said compounder Anowar Parvez. "We don't know when we will be able to provide services to labourers," he added.

Abdul Mazid, a labour leader at College Road, said labourers are upset as they never saw operation of the centre since the beginning. "This centre is for us but we are not getting services," he said, demanding proper running of the centre.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Sangiukta Sramik Federation in Lalmonirhat Maniruzzaman Manir

told this correspondent it is essential to run the centre properly as labourers cannot afford to get treatment in private healthcare centres.

"Female labourers especially have to face difficulties during pregnancy," he said. "I contacted the authorities concerned several times in the last several years for full operation of the centre in the greater interest of labourers, but there was no response," he added.

Deputy Director of Divisional Labour Welfare Department in Rangpur Md Sadequzzaman told this correspondent that the centre is not operational due to shortage of doctors and nurses. It will be fully functional in 2019 after recruitment of doctors and nurses, he added.

## Woman killed over family feud

Husband, his accomplice arrested in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A man, with the help of an accomplice, killed his wife by slitting her throat in Madhupur upazila on Wednesday night over family feud.

The deceased was Nargis Akter, 30, wife of Harunur Rashid of Boali village.

Harun is a mobile phone shop owner at a market in the upazila.

Police arrested Harun, 40, and his accomplice Sohel Rana, 30, the same night.

Following their confession, police later recovered the knife used in the killing and their blood-stained clothes from the Bonshai river yesterday morning, police said.

Madhupur Police Station Officer-in-

Charge Shafiqul Islam said Nargis was married to Harun 18 years ago.

Quarrels between the couple over different matters had been going on since after their marriage. Arbitrations were also held on several occasions, he said.

Being informed by locals, police recovered Nargis's throat-slit body from the house on Wednesday night and detained Harun in this connection, he said.

During interrogation, Harun admitted to the law enforcers that, as per previous plan, he gave Nargis sleeping pills with tea at night. When Nargis fell asleep at around 8:30pm, he and Sohel slit her throat, the OC said.

"The arrestees were sent to a Tangail court for recording their confessional statements," the OC added.

## Gaibandha freed on this day in '71

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

On this day in 1971, freedom fighters and Indian allied forces freed Gaibandha from Pakistani occupation forces.

Every year freedom fighters and local people observe the day through holding rally and discussion.

On the morning of December 7, valiant freedom fighters captured Gaibandha sub-divisional town (now district headquarters), after the occupation forces fled the areas in fear of attack by Indian forces.

Indian air force destroyed all the water vessels, including ferry and tug boats, at Teestamuk ghat on the river Jamuna. During occupation period, Pak forces used it as a spot for torture, rape and killing of people. Earlier, freedom fighters snapped all road communication, damaging connecting bridges with Gaibandha.

On December 6, allied forces marched toward Gaibandha sub-divisional headquarters through western border and captured the areas after heavy artillery attack. Amid the attack by both Indian forces and freedom fighters, occupation forces were compelled to flee the area.

## Arms trader arrested at Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested an arms trader and seized a foreign made pistol from Sadipur border area under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Abdus Salam, 23, son of Mohammad Ali of the area.

BGB 49 Battalion Commanding Officer (CO) Lt Col Ariful Haque said they arrested Salam and seized a foreign made pistol from his possession. Salam is an arms trader, the CO added.

## 2 docs for 20-bed hospital!

People deprived of proper treatment at Kuakata hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

There are only two doctors and six staff working in 20-bed Kuakata Hospital, as a result, local people are being deprived of proper treatment.

The health department built the hospital on three acres of land in 2007 at a cost of around Tk 5 crore. The two-storey hospital is equipped with modern operation theatre, diagnostic lab, and residential quarters for doctors, nurses and others employees.

Although the hospital is well-equipped, local people are deprived of proper treatment due to lack of doctors and nurses since its opening in 2012, said medical officer Md Moniruzzaman. There are only two doctors against six posts, he added.

Other working staff are a head assistant cum accountant, an office assistant cum data-entry operator, a ward boy and a lab assistant, while 18 other posts have been lying vacant since its opening, he added.

Md Al-Amin of Pashchim Kuakata village said they are not getting proper treatment from Kuakata hospital due to lack of doctors.

In many cases patients have to go to Kalapara upazila town or Patuakhali district headquarters for taking treatment, he said, adding that some have to go to Barishal, which is very expensive.

Abul Hasan of Dalbuganj said there is a nice looking building but proper treatment is not possible due to lack of physicians.

Medical Officer (MO) Md Moniruzzaman said there are only two doctors for six posts, and they face

many problems in running the hospital due to that.

"On average, we have to treat 100 outdoor and indoor patients daily. The authorities have to fill all the vacant posts to ensure proper service," he said.

"We often have to refer patients to Kalapara Health Complex, which is 22 km away, or to Patuakhali General Hospital, which is 72 km away, or to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, which is 112 km away," the MO said.

Kuakata Mayor Abdul Bareq Mollah said the government should take steps to solve the problems immediately.

Patuakhali Civil Surgeon Dr Mozahedul Islam said they run the hospital with only two doctors and a few others staff, which is insufficient to serve the people.



The 20-bed Kuakata Hospital in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali is well-equipped, but it cannot provide required treatment due to shortage of doctors and other staff.

PHOTO: STAR