



Above, the ancestral house of Suchitra Sen in Pabna town, now Suchitra Sen memorial museum. Below, visitors watch photographs depicting the life and works of the legendary actress and a damaged and uncared for portion of the house.

PHOTOS: STAR

House neglected, items scanty at Suchitra Sen memorial museum

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

People visiting the ancestral house of Suchitra Sen in Pabna return disappointed due to the very small collection of memorabilia and lack of maintenance of the house.

Suchitra Sen, a legendary actress of Bangla cinema, was born in her maternal grandfather's residence on April 6 in 1931 at Bhangabari of Sirajganj and grew up at her ancestral house in Gopalpur Hem Sagar Lane in Pabna town.

She passed away on January 17 in 2014 in Kolkata.

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Suchitra Sen. Pabna district administration and different organisations have chalked

out programmes to commemorate the legendary actress at her hometown.

Suchitra and her family members left Pabna for Kolkata before partition of India. Since then, the historic house had been abandoned till 1987, when a pro-Jamaat-e-Islam organisation occupied it and established Imam Gazzali School.

Amidst the demand of the people, Pabna district administration freed the house from occupation after a long legal battle on July 16 in 2014 and established Suchitra Sen Smriti Shangrahashala (archive) on April 6, in 2017.

There is a statue of Suchitra in front of the building and the Shangrahashala is full of pictures from her films. There is also a room for watching her films.

"The kitchen and the family temple were destroyed for construction of classrooms by the occupying organisation," said Jakir Hossain, one of the leading people of the movement for freeing the house.

"Although it is called Shangrahashala, there are no memorabilia except some pictures," Sarmila Akter Shammi, a final year student of Honours from Gaibanda said after visiting the house.

Caretaker of the archive Md Nuruzzaman said 20 to 30 people, including a few foreigners, visit the house every day, and the number is more during holidays.

"Visitors are often not satisfied as there are not enough items and on seeing the damaged house," he added.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Jasim Uddin said the district administration has taken initiative to make the archive rich but they have not got any collection till now.

"We have requested people to donate anything related to Suchitra Sen, but there has been no response," the DC said.

The DC said they have a plan to construct a new building, keeping the original structure of the historic house, for setting up a film archive.

They have submitted a proposal to the ministry of cultural affairs for the development work, the DC said, adding that the conscious people of Pabna have the responsibility to come forward for the sake of the heritage of the district.

Man gets life term for killing daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his 25-month-old daughter at Fatehpur village in Kalapara upazila in 2007.

Lifer Md Shahadat Hossain, 30, of Sonatali village, was tried in absentia.

Special Sessions Judge Md Shahid Ullah also fined him Tk 10,000. In default, he is to suffer another six months in jail.

According to the prosecution, Shahadat lived at his in-laws' house at nearby Fatehpur village. As he had no house, he went to build a house at his father's home at Sonatali village on April 11 in 2007 but his cousin Abdur Rahman resisted him.

Shahadat then returned to his in-laws' house and killed his daughter Munia Akter to implicate Rahman falsely in the murder case.

Later, Shahadat filed a murder case with Kalapara Police Station, accusing Rahman. After investigation, police confirmed that Shahadat killed his daughter Munia.

On September 9 the same year, Sub-Inspector of the police station Nazmul Karim filed a murder case, accusing Shahadat. Shahadat went into hiding soon after filing of the case.

Two injured in BCL factional clash

Intra-party opponents blame each other for extortion, crimes on college campus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

At least two activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured when two factions clashed over establishing supremacy at Manikganj Government Devendra College campus in the town yesterday.

The injured BCL activists, Raju Ahmed and Hridoy were first taken to Manikganj Sadar Hospital from where Raju was later shifted to Pangu Hospital in the capital.

Quoting witnesses, police said the clash took place between supporters of former President of BCL municipality unit Taposh Saha and Sadar Upazila unit General Secretary Sifat Qureshi Sumon around 12:00 noon.

Sumon alleged that at least 15 people were injured in attacks by Tapos group since the general election.

Besides, members of Tapos group have been extorting money and mobile phones from general students inside the campus, Sumon said, adding that the clash took place when people loyal to Tapos group beat up one Sajib of the college.

Meanwhile, refuting the allegation, Tapos said Sumon is trying to establish JCD men instead of BCL men and running terror activities in the college campus.

"When we protested the act, his followers launched the attack on the BCL men," he said, adding that after scrutinizing the CCTV footage of the college evidence can be found about who is carrying out terror activities on the campus.

Officer in Charge of Sadar Police Station Mohammad Rokibuzzaman said they have asked the college authorities to send CCTV footage and will take necessary steps after seeing it.

Erosion checked at ex-enclave

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Over 2000 families in former enclave Banshkata of Patgram upazila are now safe from the Dharla river erosion as river dredging and embankment protection works have been completed costing Tk 24.72 crore.

People in this former enclave area were worried over the continuing erosion by Dharla as the river earlier devoured many homesteads, arable lands and orchards.

Water Development Board (WDB) officials in Lalmonirhat said the river was dredged for four km and embankment protection work for 2050 metres in the former enclave jurisdiction, which is a relief for them as they are now secure from river erosion threat. The development work was started in June 2017 and completed in June 2018.

Mayen Uddin, 75, an inhabitant of former enclave Banshkata, said due to river erosion, they lost many arable lands, homesteads and fruit orchards after the country's Liberation War.

He expressed his gratitude to the government for meeting their demand.

As the river was dredged, water is available in a channel this time, otherwise it was dried fully, said Mahabub Rahman, 55, a farmer of this former enclave.

"We are getting irrigation water from the river this time but it was uncertain in the past," he added.

"In the past we had to face flood situation as water overflowed during the monsoon due to vulnerable river embankment, but after river embankment protection work we are not facing such problem," said Sunil Chandra Barmon, 62, of the former enclave.

Executive Engineer of WDB Abdullah Al-Mamun told the Daily Star, they would continue supervising the development works in the former enclave.

Local lawmaker Motahar Hossain said he will monitor the maintenance of the dredging.



People of former enclave Banshkata in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila are now safe from erosion by the Dharla river, thanks to the dredging and embankment protection works by the authorities concerned.

PHOTO: STAR



Women cattle rearers have the animals take bath in the Teesta river in a char area of Uttar Kharibari in Dimla upazila of Nilphamari.

Shared cattle rearing boon for Teesta char women

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Poor women in Teesta chars under Dimla upazila are changing their lot by rearing cattle on share basis with owners of the domestic animals.

Solvent people in Uttar Kharibari, Purbo Kharibari, Kisamat Char and Kisamat Satnai chars have the ability to buy cattle but cannot rear them as they do other jobs, while a large number of poor women do not have ability to buy cattle though they are skilled in rearing cattle.

The poor char women rear the solvent people's cattle to make them fat in case of oxen or to bear calves and give milk in the case of cows. The women get 50 percent of the profit after the cattle are sold.

Visiting Uttar Kharibari char under Tepa Kharibari union on

Monday, this correspondent found that many marginal women like Amiron, 51, Momena, 56, Niljan, 60, Amena, 50, have been doing this job for the last few years and changed their economic condition.

"My husband is a day labourer in Dhaka, so I started rearing cattle on share basis. I take care of the cattle after doing household chores while my children help me," said Rabeya Khatun, 55, of Kisamat Char.

Laily, 32, and Sukhiton, 28, said cattle owners invest money to buy cattle and bear the expenses, adding that the owners first realise their invested money after selling the cattle and then share the profit equally between them.

"My sick husband cannot maintain our family, so I have been rearing eight

cattle of a local rich man on share basis for the last three years. I bear my daughter's educational expense with the profit and have taken lease of 15 decimals of farmland," said Amina Begum, 40.

"Share cattle rearing women in Teesta chars have become solvent as they are blessed with a place where the cattle get sufficient green grass to eat and water to drink free of cost. Our field staff provides them with medicine and advice," said Dimla Upazila Livestock Officer Rezat Islam.

"The government and non-governmental organisations should provide loan to char women on easy terms so that they can buy cattle on their own for rearing and get more profit," said Dimla Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nazmunnahar.