

2 arrestees put on 3-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two people, arrested for their alleged involvement in killing Freedom Fighter Miah Mohammad Hasan Ali Reza, were placed on a three-day remand yesterday.

Earlier on Sunday, police detained Tapan Kumar Sarkar, 50, son of Mohadev Sarkar, and his son Tonmoy Kumar Sarkar, 20, from Battala area in the town and produced them before Tangail Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday, seeking 10-day remand for each, Officer in Charge of Tangail Model Police Station Saidul Haque said.

After hearing, Judge Monira Sultana granted them a three-day remand for each, Court Inspector Tanvir Ahmed said.

Meanwhile, Tapon's wife Kalpana Rani Sarkar, 40, who was arrested the same day, gave her confessional statement under Section 164 before the same court yesterday evening.

Advocate Reza, 76, also a central committee leader of Krishak Sramik Janata League, went out of his Sabalia residence on July 8 and a roadside close circuit (CC) camera footage shows Reza was getting on a motorbike of a youth wearing helmet and raincoat.

Reza's younger son Mahmudul Hasan Litu filed an abduction case with Sadar Police Station accusing some unidentified people on July 10.

Later on July 13, police recovered Reza's decomposed body from the Louhajong river in the town and sent it to Tangail General Hospital for autopsy.



Left, a section of the Arial Kha river bank that has been eroded by the river's strong current over the last three days in Sadarpur upazila of Faridpur. Right, Firoza Bewa sits gazing at the mighty Jamuna that devoured her house on eight decimals of land in Kostapara village of Tangail's Bhuapur upazila last week.



PHOTO: STAR

Jamuna, Arial Kha erosion getting out of hand in two districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

With flood situation worsening in different parts of the country, strong current in rivers including the Jamuna and Arial Kha eroding houses and properties of hundreds of people in Tangail and Faridpur.

In Bhuapur upazila of Tangail, the situation has taken a serious turn as the Jamuna has been eroding hundreds of dwellings and vast tracts of croplands along its banks, reports our correspondent in Tangail.

Inhabitants in the area have been living in anxiety of losing their houses and properties to the river's erosion in the last one month.

The worst affected villages are Khanurbari, Kostapara and Bhalkutia under Govindasi union where over 300 dwellings and a large swathe of croplands have disappeared in the Jamuna over the last three weeks.

A large number of the affected people from the villages have taken shelter on different roads and houses of others.

Last week, Firoza Bewa, a widow with four children, lost her house on eight decimals of land in Kostapara village to the erosion. Since then, they have been living in a makeshift structure by the river.

"My husband, a rickshaw-van puller, died in cardiac arrest few months ago. Now where will I go with my children? Who will give us shelter?" wondered Firoza.

Many others like her are now living in the open after losing everything including their crops and belongings to the river.

Jhoton Chanda, upazila nirbahi officer in Bhuapur, said, "We are preparing a list of the erosion victims in order to provide them with necessary assistance."

Meanwhile, Water Development

Board (WDB) workers were seen dumping geotextile bags along a 75-meter-long stretch at Khanurbari village.

Obhijit Ghosh, a resident of Kostapara village, said finding the steps taken by the WDB inadequate for checking the erosion, villagers in many areas were seen dumping bags filled with dirt.

Contacted, Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of WDB in Tangail, said water in the Jamuna was flowing 15 centimetres above danger level at Bhuapur point yesterday.

"Since it's tough to get a big project passed, we are taking smaller projects in phases to check the erosion. Preparations are ongoing to dump geo bags along another 75 meters of the affected area," he added.

In Faridpur, at least 11 houses and 2,000 bighas of croplands were lost to erosion of the Arial Kha river in five

villages of Sadarpur upazila in the last three days, reports our correspondent in the district.

The affected villages are Amir Khanar Kandi, Zajira Kandi, Charbondorkhola, Kazi Kandi and Adel Uddin Mollah Kandi village in Char Manair union.

Ayub Ali, chairman of Char Manair Union Parishad, said the erosion of the river started last Friday and so far, at least 11 houses and 2,000 bighas of croplands were devoured.

Although the WDB in Faridpur has been dumping geo bags to check the erosion, strong current of the river is washing those away. Even the building of Char Manair Union Parishad and Char Bandarkhola Madrasa are now under erosion threat, he added.

Kulsum Bibi, an elderly resident of Zajira Kandi village, said, "The rampage of the Arial Kha has distressed us enormously. The river has devoured our ancestral homestead."

After losing 10 bighas of land to the erosion, Kamal Hawladar, another resident of the same village, said he and his family were bracing for further sufferings in future.

Kazi Kandi village resident Abdul Karim Hawladar said in only two days' time, the river devoured 20 bighas of his land.

Sadarpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Purobi Goldar said the higher authorities were made aware of the situation.

She also said, "WDB has been dumping geo bags in the affected areas and we engaged an officer from our upazila administration [to oversee the work]."

WDB Executive Engineer in Faridpur Sultan Mahmud said as a temporary measure to contain the erosion as well as ease sufferings of people, they have been dumping geo bags in affected areas.

Rape accused sent to jail, one more arrested

Victim housewife filed case 12 days after the incident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Pabna court yesterday sent a man to jail in a case filed for raping a woman on July 2 in Chatmohar upazila.

Police also arrested another man, Soleman Hossain of the same upazila, who has been accused in the case for dissuading the woman from filing any case with police after the incident.

Police arrested the accused rapist Selim Hossain, 27, son of Shahidul Islam, and Soleman after the case was filed with Chatmohar Police Station on Sunday, accusing a total of four individuals including a member of the local Union Parishad (UP).

Soleman fell sick soon after the arrest and was admitted to Pabna Medical College Hospital, said Shariful Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said Selim raped the housewife on July 2 when she was home alone. When locals came to rescue the woman after she screamed out for help, he fled the house.

The UP member and other two accused villagers refrained the woman from filing a case with the assurance that they would ensure justice for her. She finally filed the case on Sunday as they did not take any step in this regard.

Police are trying to arrest the other two accused, the OC also said.

Villagers' clash leaves 15 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villages over establishing supremacy at Jugikandi village in Saltha upazila of the district on Sunday evening.

Of the injured, two are now undergoing treatment at Faridpur Medical College Hospital while the rest 13 took treatment at Nagarkanda Upazila Health Complex.

Locals said there had been a longstanding rivalry between Bashir Matbor and Wahab Matbor of the villager over establishing supremacy in the locality.

As a sequel to the conflict, supporters of both the groups, equipped with lethal weapons, attacked each other around 7:30pm on Sunday that left 15 people from both sides injured.

Being informed, police went to the spot and detained two people for their alleged involvement in the clash, Officer in Charge of Saltha Police Station Delwar Hossain said.

Chest Disease Hospital without consultant for nearly a year

MOSTOFA SHABUI, Bogura

Patients are being deprived of proper treatment at Bogura Chest Disease Hospital (CDH) as there is no doctor for chest disease at the 20-bed hospital for nearly 10 months.

Md Rafiqul Islam, statistician of Rajshahi Divisional Health Office, said there are total eight chest disease hospitals across the country having 20 beds each.

The lone chest disease hospital in Nishindra area of Bogura town was established in 1960, he said.

Civil Surgeon Md Gausul Azim Chowdhury said there are two posts of medical officers, one post of pharmacist, eight posts of nurses, three of assistant nurses, four posts of cleaners and cooks at the CDH.

Except the posts of the medical officers, others are filled up, he said.

During a visit to CDH on June 30, this correspondent found 11 patients admitted to the hospital. But no doctor was seen there.

Mohiuddin, 45, a tuberculosis (TB) patient from Naogaon, said "After admission to the hospital



Bogura Chest Disease Hospital in the town sees a few patients as there is no doctor at the 20-bed hospital for nearly 10 months. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

on June 26, only one doctor visited a week and due to this, it took a long time to recover, he said.

Another TB patient Mokbul Hossain from Bogura's Gabtoli upazila said he got admitted to the hospital three months ago.

Doctor comes only once or twice

and due to this, it took a long time to recover, he said.

Dr Rabindranath Chandra Mitra, junior consultant of Bogura Chest Disease Clinic, said "I only can visit CDH from my clinic (outdoor section), 5 km off the hospital,

once a week. As there's no doctor at the hospital, I can't admit any emergency patient."

Civil Surgeon Gausul Azim said Dr Tanzila Sultana went to Kuwait Moitree Hospital in Dhaka on deputation almost one year ago while another physician Eshanul Kabir was transferred to Naogaon Medical College 10 months ago and since then the hospital has been running without doctors.

As there is no doctor at CDH, they appointed a part-time medical officer from Sadar Upazila Health Complex who visits the hospital for an hour every day, said Azim.

They informed the higher authorities about the matter several times but to no response yet, he said.

Amena Khatun, a nurse of the hospital, said they are facing a lot of problems for not having any doctors at the hospital.

"Sometimes we can't treat emergency patients or provide give dead certificate to the patient's relatives without the signature of doctor," she said.



Some enthusiastic youths, also members of a Facebook group titled 'Kularar Somosya O Sambhabona,' are seen engaged in setting up a concrete bench for the visitors near Paler Mora Bridge on the Gogali river in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Youth gets life term for killing sister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court yesterday sentenced a young man to life term imprisonment for killing his younger sister over a family feud in 2014.

The convict is Rubel Mia, 25, son of Badsha Mia of Haluaghat upazila.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Iqbal Hossain also fined the convict Tk 10,000.

In default, he is to suffer three months more in jail, Court Inspector Sheikh Kabirul Islam said.

According to the prosecution, Badsha, a day labourer, used to live at a rented house in Jamirdia area in Bhaluka upazila with wife Rokeya Khatun, son Rubel and daughter Amena Khatun, 14.

On February 3, 2014, Badsha and his wife went out of the house for work, keeping Rubel and Amena at home.

Around 9:30am Badsha returned home and found the door locked from inside.

At one stage, hearing Amena screaming from inside Badsha entered the room by breaking open the door and found Amena in a pool of blood with her throat-slit.

Hearing Badsha's cry for help, neighbours rushed to the spot, rescued injured Amena and took her to Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared her dead.

They also caught Rubel while he was fleeing the spot and handed him over to police.

Badsha filed a murder case with Bhaluka Police Station accusing Rubel the same day.

Woman, daughter electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman and her four-year-old daughter died from electrocution in Joypurhat's Kalai upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Swapna Begum, 31, wife Faridul Islam of Molamgari village in the upazila, and their minor daughter Shimu Akter.

Quoting locals, police said the incident occurred when Swapna was hanging wet clothes on a clothes-line which came in contact with an electric wire around 9:30am.

Shimu, who was accompanying her mother, also came in contact with the hanging wire when she grabbed her mother.

Villagers rescued them and took them to Kalai Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared both of them dead, Officer in Charge of Kalai Police Station Abdul Latif Khan said.