

Rajanikanta Sen's 154th birth anniv today

The legendary poet-singer's legacy poorly maintained at his ancestral village in Sirajganj

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Belkuchi, Sirajganj

While locals observe the 154th birth anniversary of legendary poet, lyricist and singer Rajanikanta Sen, his ancestral house at Bhangabari village in Sirajganj's Belkuchi upazila lies in utter neglect.

Born on July 26 in 1865 to Guru Prasad Sen and Monomohini Debi at Bhangabari village in Belkuchi upazila of Sirajganj, Rajanikanta Sen is considered one of the Pancha-kobi, an elite league of the five major poets-songwriters



Rajani Sangsad and Library set up at Rajanikanta Sen's ancestral home in Sirajganj's Belkuchi village, and right, an occupied portion of Sen family's property at the village.

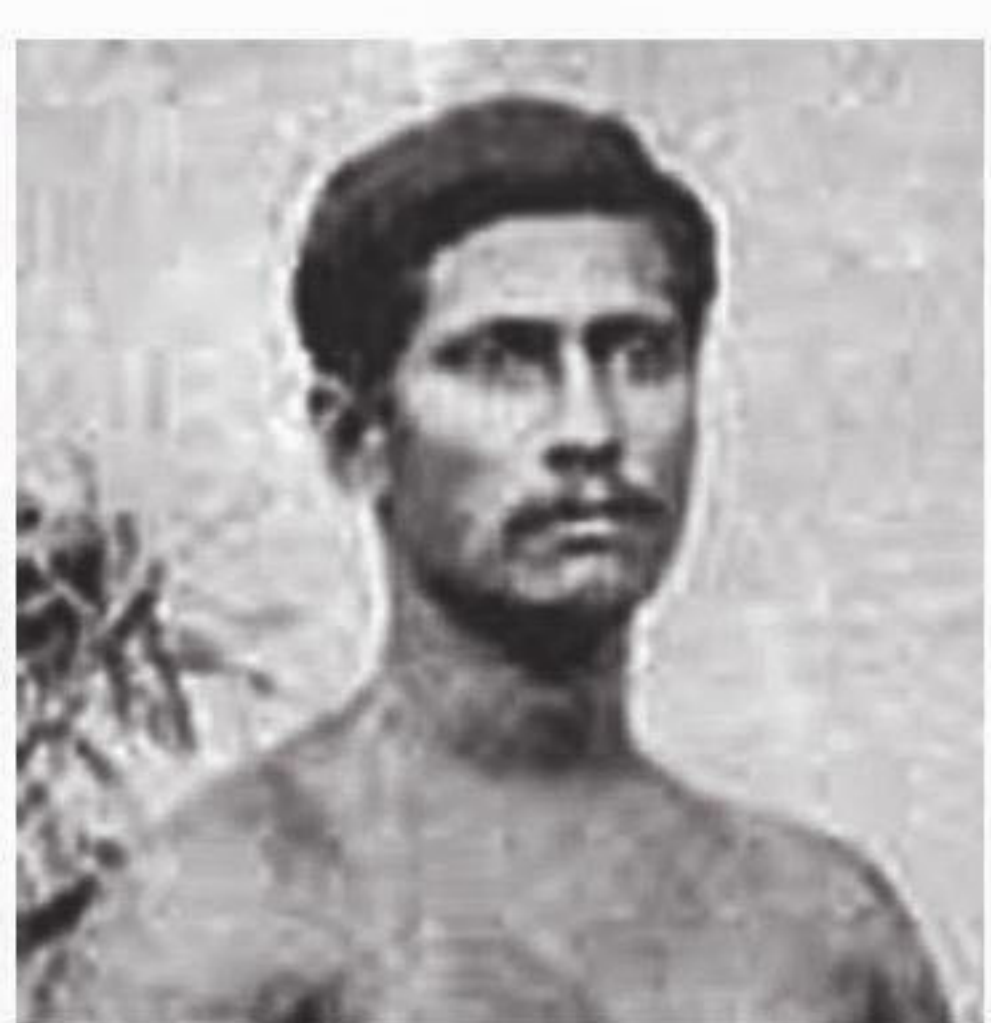


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Star LIVE



Rajanikanta Sen

of Bangla Language. Visiting the site a few days ago, this correspondent found ruins of an old wall carrying the memory of his ancestral house.

"The large ancestral home of Rajanikanta Sen with 35 decimals of land at the village was occupied many years ago. Local influential people destroyed the concrete building in 80s," said Abdus Sabur Khan, headmaster of Sen Bhangabari High School, also resident of a neighbouring house.

"After occupying a part of the legendary poet's ancestral house, grabbers sold it to a few people. Now dozens of poor villagers are living there with false land documents," said Advocate Kamrul Islam Shanta, secretary of Rajani Sangsad and Library.

"Lately we contacted the poet's family

members in India and they showed interest to free their property from occupiers, if needed with compensation. They are likely to visit Bhangabari village on Friday [today] as an elaborate programme has been chalked out marking the poet's 154th birth anniversary," he said.

Following villagers' demand, we submitted a plan to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to establish an institution after his name on the remaining 62 decimals of Sen family's property, which is now government khas land. The ministry has already submitted a Tk 9 crore project proposal in this regard," Advocate Kamrul said.

"Rajani Sangsad and Library has been established here with government fund of Tk 20 lakh this year. The villagers also named a

local road after the poet," said Abdul Khaleque, a resident of the village, also an organizer of the memorial club.

"People coming to visit Rajanikanta's house get frustrated to see its awful condition. We demand steps to free the occupied portion of his ancestral house and establish a larger institution to preserve his memory and enlighten the future generation about his contribution to Bangla literature," Khaleque added.

Contacted, Belkuchi Upazila Nirbahi Officer SM Saifur Rahman said, "The local administration does not know about the illegal occupation of Rajanikanta Sen's ancestral property. If the villagers demand we will take initiative to free it."

Rajanikanta received early tutoring in music

from his father Guruprasad Sen, an enthusiast in poetry and music.

A lawyer by profession, Rajanikanta was the author of several books comprising songs and lyrical poems.

Devotion and patriotism formed the primary themes of his poems and songs, although he also composed love songs and satirical verses.

One of his songs composed during the anti-British Swadeshi movement in early twentieth century, 'Mayer Deya Mota Kapur Mathay Tule Ne Re Vai, Din-Dukhni Maa Je Toder Tar Beshi Ar Sadhya Nai' stirred patriotic zeal among a large number of people.

He died on September 13 in 1910 due to cancer at a hospital in Kolkata.

Housewife killed for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry in Jashore's Monirampur upazila on Wednesday.

The deceased, Hiramon Khatun, 27, was wife of Monirul Islam, 35, of Monoharpur village.

Quoting the deceased's family members, police said Monirul, son of Nesar Dhabok of the village, used to torture his wife Hiramon for dowry since their marriage 11 years ago.

At one stage of altercation over the issue, Monirul beat Hiramon mercilessly with a bamboo stick on Wednesday night, leaving her seriously injured.

Family members rescued the victim and took her to Jashore General Hospital, where the doctors declared her dead.

Tangail cops' awareness campaign to check rumour of child lifting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Tangail police have been holding different programmes for creating awareness among people against ongoing rumours of child kidnapping.

The programmes include discussions with students, teachers and guardians of the educational institutions, distributing leaflets and conducting campaign through social media.

Superintendent of Police Sanjit Kumar Roy yesterday said this at a press briefing at his office in the town on the occasion of Mass Awareness Week.

Community police, village police and union parishad chairmen and members were asked to keep vigilance so that none can take the law in their hands over any rumour, he said.

The general people have been urged to inform police immediately if found anyone

as suspected child kidnapper, he said.

The SP also said all the three people, who made victim of mass beating by angry mob as alleged child kidnappers in Tangail in the last one week, are found innocent, said the police official.

Minu Miah, a rickshaw-van puller of Tepibari village in Bhuapur upazila, was beaten at Soya market in adjacent Kalihati upazila on Sunday as child suspected child kidnapper. Later, police arrested six people in this connection.

The same day, Akash, 40, a mentally challenged man, was beaten by angry mob at Kandila Bazar in Sadar upazila when he was moving at the market.

Angry mob beat up Md Shohrab, 32, a covered van driver, of Singuria village in Ghatail upazila, on Monday. After investigation, it was found that he was beaten by his rivals over previous enmity.



PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

Flood victims in Shahzadpur upazila of Sirajganj are now gripped by uncertainty as well as hunger as they might have to delay return to their homes due to rise of water level in the Jamuna again since yesterday morning. The photo of this family was taken in a makeshift shelter on an embankment in Santosha village yesterday.

Teacher's caning leaves student's wrist fractured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A schoolboy got his wrist of right hand broken as his teacher allegedly caned him in Putijuri area of Habiganj's Bahubal upazila.

Following the incident, Shahjahan Mia, a part-time teacher of Sharatchandra High School in the area, has been sacked.

The victim is Rayhan Ahmed, a student of Class X at the school, and son of Abdul Hannan in Mirerpara area of the upazila. He is now undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Quoting Rayhan's classmates, Hannan said Class X students were

shouting in absence of teachers in the classroom on Tuesday afternoon.

All of a sudden, Shahjahan entered the classroom and started beating Rayhan mercilessly, said the victim's father, adding that at one stage, the teacher locked the boy inside the room.

On information, Rayhan's parents rescued him from the spot and sent him to Habiganj Sadar Hospital. He was later shifted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital as his condition worsened.

The boy got his wrist of right hand broken, said Dr Mithun Roy, duty doctor of Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach the accused teacher for his comment on the issue as he did not receive the phone call.

Dolan Chandra Das, assistant head teacher of the school, said Shahjahan has been sacked after the incident.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ayesha Haque said a three-member probe committee has been formed to investigate the incident.

Habiganj Deputy Commissioner Mahmudul Kabir Murad said action will be taken in this regard after getting the probe report.

Journo among two held over rumour of child abduction

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A newsman and an employee of an insurance company were arrested on charge of spreading rumours of child kidnapping through social media in Thakurgaon and Dinajpur yesterday, report our correspondents.

Police arrested a local reporter of Dainik Amader Sangbad at Mallikpur village in Pirganj upazila of Thakurgaon on charge of spreading rumour of child kidnapping through social media.

The arrestee is Abdul Alim, 37, son of Abdul Motaleb of the village, said Officer in Charge (OC) of Pirganj

Police Station Bajlur Rashid.

Alim said in a post on his Facebook profile two youths duped two local boys at Kornai village in the upazila on Sunday. The youths fled the scene soon after locals knew the matter. The boys were later admitted to the upazila health complex.

But actually, such incident did not take place in the area, said the OC.

Due to spread of the rumour, Yunus Ali Hawladar, 25, who works at the local union parishad, made victim of mass beating at Chadpur village on Monday.

Headmaster of Chadpur High School Kamal Hossain was also

arrested on Monday night on charge of leading people to beat the victim.

Meanwhile, an employee of an insurance company, was arrested on the same charge at a village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

The arrestee is Mostafa Monwar Hossain, 35, son of Delwar Hossain of Mahrampur village in Sadar upazila.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Abu Sayem confirmed it at a press briefing at Dinajpur Police Lines in the town yesterday afternoon.

Action will be taken against the arrestee, said the SP.



Injured Rayhan on his way to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Murder accused hacked dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Unidentified criminals hacked a man to death at Indurkani upazila of the district early yesterday.

The deceased, Abdul Jalil alias Ragkata Jalil, 40, son of late Mohammad Ali Howlader of Kalaiya village, was an accused in at least seven cases, including for murder and robbery, filed with different police stations, Additional Superintendent of Police in Pirojpur (Sadar Circle) Ahmed Mainul Hasan said.

Deceased's wife Nazma Begum filed a case with Indurkani Police Station yesterday, Officer in Charge of the police station Mohammad Habibur Rahman said.

According to the case statement, an unidentified gang waylaid Jalil near Dakkhin Indurkani area while he was returning home around 1:30am and hacked him indiscriminately and fled the scene, leaving him dead on the spot.

Hearing screams, locals went to the spot and informed police, who recovered the body and sent it to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Nazma said two youths called her husband out of the house around 10:45pm on Wednesday night.

Police said they were investigating the murder and none was arrested in this regard yet.

2 mill workers die from electrocution in Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Two labourers of Ahad Jute Mill Ltd were electrocuted at Nowapara municipality in Jashore yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Matiar Rahman, 48, and Kabir Gazi, 35, of Jashore Sadar upazila, said Kamruzzaman, manager of the mill.

The labourers were electrocuted while turning on a fan in the mill in the morning.

The two were rushed to Jashore General Hospital where on-duty doctors declared them dead.

Amio Das, medical officer of Jashore General Hospital, confirmed it.