

FREEDOM FIGHTER RASHID KILLING 2 yrs over, mystery remains unresolved

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) is yet to make much headway in the investigation of freedom fighter Abdur Rashid's killing in Lalmonirhat town on August 16, 2017.

Before handing over the case to PBI in December last year, Lalmonirhat Sadar police carried out their investigation for 16 months.

Police found the body of Abdur Rashid, from Teesta Ratipur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, inside Teesta branch of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB). He was a night guard there.

Branch Manager Mohammad Al-Qurani said the criminals killed guard Abdur Rashid, but they could not break open the lockers.

He also expressed dissatisfaction as police could not yet unearth the reason behind the killing or arrest any killer. "Police say they are still investigating the case. But how much more time is needed?"

Demanding exemplary punishment for the killers, Rashid's widow Mahmuda Bewa said, "My husband was innocent. I want to know why he was killed and who were involved in the killing."

Their son Masum Miah said, "I believe police already found out the clue and identified the ones who killed my father. But they are not disclosing the findings due to political pressure."

The investigation officer of the case, Inspector Ariful Islam of PBI in Rangpur, said although the PBI received the case in last December, he hoped to identify the killers of the freedom fighter soon as he already found several positive motives for the killing.

However, he would not elaborate on the development until the investigation is over, said the inspector.

'Take steps to save Mathabhanga river'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

People from different walks of life formed a human chain at Mathabhanga bridge in Chuadanga town yesterday demanding steps to save the Mathabhanga river.

The once flowing river has an important ecological impact in the region but it is now heading towards virtual death, speakers said at the programme organised by 'Save the Mathabhanga' and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).

They urged the government to take immediate steps to save the river.

Khulna Divisional Coordinator of BELA Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul, cultural activists Alauddin Ali and Nazir Ahmed, businessman Suman Parvez, human rights activist Husne Ara Hasi, Assistant Editor of Chuadanga-based daily Somoyer Samikaran Hemant Kumar Singho Roy, and General Secretary of Chuadanga Press Club Ariful Islam Dalim addressed the rally presided over by Principal Hamidul Haq, convener of 'Save the Mathabhanga' movement.

The Mathabhanga, a bordering river of Bangladesh and India, originates from the Ganges at Jalangi of Murshidabad district of India's West Bengal.

It crosses the Bangladesh territory through Ramkrishnapur in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia, proceeds through Chuadanga district, reaches West Bengal again and merges with the Hugli river.



Students of Baherbali SESDP Model High School in Kishoreganj's Bajitpur upazila cross the water body on an engine-run boat to get to their school amid risk of accident. The boat is the only mode of transportation to go to the school.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BAHERBALI SESDP MODEL HIGH SCHOOL

Students face hurdle to reach their institution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Maimuna Akhter has to arrive at the shore of the Maizchar Haor in Bajitpur upazila before 7:00am and wait for a tiny engine-run boat to get to her school.

By the time the boat arrives at her village Aynargoop, it is already jam-packed with people, many standing dangerously on the dodger and the bow.

"I feel very frightened to travel to school on the boat, especially during bad weather. But I don't have any other choice, as the boat is the only mode of transportation to go to school," she said.

The ninth grader studies in Baherbali SESDP Model High School, established in 2011 under the 'Secondary Education Sector Development Project' (SESDP) to support the high school education of children of Maizchar haor, a back swamp

in Kishoreganj's Bajitpur.

School drop-out rate was high among the haor children mostly from poor families as they had difficulty travelling to the upazila headquarter to attend high school. It came down after Baherbali SESDP Model High School was established on the haor bed, claimed MA Kasem, headmaster of the institution.

The two-storied building of the school stands like a stranded ship in the haor water for nine months, when the institution can be reached only by boat.

Even during the dry season, students have to walk between one to three kilometres on ridges of croplands from Baherbali, Purakanda, Aynargoop, Parkachua and Boali -- five villages adjacent to the haor, said MA Kasem.

In 2015, local lawmaker Mohammad Afzal Hossain donated a boat to carry the

children to and from the five villages and the students contribute between Tk 5 to Tk 10 according to their ability to run the boat daily, the headmaster added.

Each day, the boat makes several trips to transport around 300 students and nine teachers of the school, before classes start in the morning and after recess in the afternoon, informed Kasem.

Although it has a capacity of carrying 20 to 25 people per trip, now 40 to 50 passengers ride the boat in one go, he claimed.

Hailing from Boali village, eight grader Puja Rani Das of the school said, they have to face problems both during monsoon and dry seasons as there is no road connecting the school with the mainland.

If the communication becomes easier then enrolment of children will be increased, opined 10th grader Milon Mia

of Purakandi village.

The school's office assistant Khairul Islam Rubel, who also uses the boat, suggested connecting the villages with the school with a road culvert.

When contacted, Bajitpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Jubaer Talukder said a permanent solution will require huge expenditure but arranging for more boats could be a quick fix.

The UNO informed that they got Tk 10 lakhs as donation, eight lakhs from television personality Hanif Sangket and two lakhs from Kishoreganj's Deputy Commissioner Sarwar Morshed Chowdhury at a recent programme in Bajitpur.

The amount will be spent for repairing and beautification work of the school and to arrange at least two more engine-run boats for the students, he said.



The district administration has served a notice, below, to the owners of this building at Mokhtar Foara Chattar under Sakhipur municipality area in Tangail, asking them to remove the structure as it was built allegedly on an illegally occupied government land.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

ILLEGAL BUILDING ON GOVT LAND

Ex-MP, UZ chairman get notice to remove structure

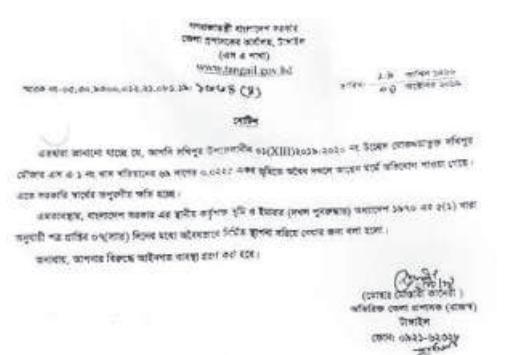
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The authorities have served a notice to former Awami League (AL) lawmaker from Tangail-8 (Sakhipur-Basail) constituency, AL-backed incumbent upazila parishad chairman of Sakhipur and two others for removing their illegal structures from a government khas land.

The notice, signed by Mostary Kaderi, additional deputy commissioner (Revenue) in Tangail, was issued on October 9 and the upazila land office received it on October 13, said Aisha Jannat Tahera, assistant commissioner (Land) in Sakhipur.

The notice was served to the persons concerned on Tuesday, she said.

The notice, served under Section 5(1) of the Government and Local Authority Lands and Buildings (Recovery of Possession) Ordinance, 1970, mentioned that the four persons are allegedly occupying 0.0225 acres (2.25 decimals) of government khas land of 1 No



khatian and daag No 69 of Sakhipur Mutuja, causing huge losses to the government interest.

The notice asked them to remove their illegally constructed structures on the government land within seven days from the day of getting the notice, otherwise, legal steps will be taken against them.

Local land office sources said the four

persons constructed a two-story building on the government land at Mokhtar Foara Chattar in Sakhipur municipality area and rented the structure to a bank and several shops.

For taking comment about the notice, this correspondent called former MP Anupom Shahjahan Joy in his mobile on Wednesday but he did not receive the call.

Sakhipur Upazila Parishad Chairman Julfikar Haider Kamal Lebu, also uncle of the former lawmaker, said he has received the notice.

"We bought the settlement recorded land with registry about 40 years ago and later constructed structures on it. The local land office did not serve any notice during the long period. We will face the matter as per law if it cannot be settled through discussion," Lebu said.

The two other recipients of the notice are Abdus Sattar and Abdul Aziz, both brothers-in-law of the upazila parishad chairman.

Chained 75-yr-old rescued from sons' cowshed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Local administration rescued a chained woman from the cowshed at her sons' house in Barguna Sadar upazila on Wednesday night.

Victim Khabirunnesa, 75, wife of late Abdul Hamid of Chardhuptee village, was later admitted to Barguna General Hospital.

After being released from the hospital, Khabirunnesa's daughter Taslima will keep her mother with her while the victim's two sons were asked to pay alimony to their mother, said Md Tanvir Azim Siddiqi, chairman of Gourichanna union parishad (UP), quoting Md Zakir Hossain, executive magistrate of the district administration.

Md Humayun Kabir, a neighbor of the victim, said Khabirunnesa's husband died two years ago.

After her husband's demise, her two sons — rickshaw puller Badol and rickshaw van peddler Bacchu — got share of their father's property and since then they started

ignoring Khabirunnesa.

Their relatives arranged several meetings on the issue but the sons did not want to take care of their mother every time, said Kabir.

Five months ago, Khabirunnesa was kept chained in the cowshed and provided food once a day and since then she has been being treated inhumanly by her sons, alleged a neighbour.

On information, the UP chairman and the executive magistrate rescued the chained woman from the cowshed on Wednesday night.

Bacchu said his mother is a mental patient and once she went missing. Due to this, she was kept chained in the house.

Badol's wife Baby Begum said her mother-in-law is a mental patient.

Meanwhile, after being rescued from the cowshed, the sick mother said her sons were taking care of her properly.

If the sons do not pay alimony to their mother, action will be taken against the duo, said the magistrate.

