

7 to die for killing woman after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Joypurhat court yesterday sentenced seven people to death for killing a woman after rape in Akkelpur upazila of the district in 2016.

The convicts are Sohel Talukdar of Marma, Afzal Hossain of Sonapara, Rahin Mia of Dewra, Ferdous Ali of Sakhidarpur, Mojibur Rahman of Sonapara, Ruhul Amin of Jagoti and Azizur Rahman of Dewra villages in the upazila.

Of them, Sohel and Ferdous were also fined Tk 5 lakh while the rest were fined Tk one lakh each.

Dr ABM Mahmudul Haque, judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, gave the verdict in presence of the convicts.

According to the prosecution, the seven abducted Arati Rani, wife of Ujjal Mohanta, from Dewra Ashrayan centre in Akkelpur on the night of September 8 in 2016. They later raped her and fled the scene.

Villagers rescued the woman from a nearby place in critical state the following day. She later died on the way of the upazila health complex.

Later, her husband filed a case with Akkelpur Police Station, accusing seven people.

After examining witnesses and evidences, the court found the seven guilty and pronounced the verdict, said Public Prosecutor Firoz Chowdhury.

Housewife hacked to death

Husband held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A woman was hacked to death allegedly by her drug addict husband at Bapurni village in Lakhai upazila of Habiganj district on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Mahfuza Begum, 25, wife of Moksud Ali, 35, of the same area. She was the mother of two children.

Mahibur Rahman, a member of Bulla union parishad (UP), said Mahfuza, daughter of Tir Islam of Goakhara village in the upazila, married Moksud seven years ago.

The drug addict husband often tortured Mahfuza for money, said the UP member.

On Monday night, the couple locked in an altercation over the issue. At one stage, Moksud hacked Mahfuza, leaving her dead on the spot and fled the scene.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body and sent it to Habiganj Adhunik Hospital for autopsy, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Saidul Islam of Lakhai Police Station.

Yesterday, police arrested Moksud, said the OC.



In this recent photo, a farmer tends to early variety of cauliflower saplings in his field at Sindoi village of Nilphamari's Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Early winter vegetables bring hope for Nilphamari farmers

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

A larger number of farmers in Nilphamari are cultivating early varieties of winter vegetables for a higher profit margin and a reduced risk, as opposed to that of traditional crops such as paddy, jute and maize.

Arif Rabbani, sub-assistant agriculture officer of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Nilphamari, said the district is considered as country's one of the best vegetable producing regions and the DAE this year has set a target of growing 1.26 lakh tonnes of winter vegetables in the district on 5,834 hectares of land -- 334 hectares higher than the previous year.

The vegetable varieties that most

farmers prefer include tomato, beans, radish, cauliflower, ladyfinger, cabbage, brinjal and various types of leafy greens, he added.

During a visit to Subarnakhuli in Sadar upazila and Bhashanipara and Uttar Sonakhuli in Saidpur, this correspondent found vast areas covered with winter vegetable plants including cauliflower, cabbage and tomato.

"Cultivation of early winter vegetables needs hard labour and funds for buying fertiliser, pesticides and polythene sheets, needed for smooth growth of plants, combating repeated pest attacks and for covering up the fields to protect from heavy

rainfall," said Kamrul Hasan, agriculture officer in Sadar upazila.

Farmer Zafar Uddin from Uttar Sonakhuli village said he cultivated 10,000 saplings of early variety cauliflower on three bighas of land in late August.

He made a good profit from early varieties of winter vegetables last year, he said, adding that this year he spent around Tk 50 thousand and he expects to earn at least Tk 1.50 lakh from sales in November.

Another farmer, Kasim Uddin from Bhasanipara village in the same upazila, said he spent Tk 30 thousand to grow early variety of beans on one bigha of land and he hopes to make Tk 1 lakh by selling

the vegetables at Tk 60 a kilogram at retail market.

Farmer Khitish Barman from Sonarai village in the upazila said he usually gets three harvests of early variety of red amaranth, a leafy vegetable, as it takes only one month for each harvest from his one bigha land.

Abul Kashem Azad, DAE deputy director in Nilphamari, said they advise farmers to change age-old farming practices by not always depending on cultivation of traditional crops such as paddy.

More farmers are responding to their advice and finding success in growing early varieties of winter vegetables, he added.



A beneficiary, Rubi Begum, with her family members in front of the newly built house in Gaibandha's Sadullapur upazila.

ABDUCTION OF MADRASA GIRL

Madrasa director 'gets death threat'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Director of a madrasa in Jamalpur Sadar upazila at a press conference yesterday alleged that he was threatened by relatives of an abductor of a resident female student of the madrasa.

Habibur Rahman Badsha, director of Hazrat Ayesha Siddiqa Kawmi Madrasa in Ghoradhop village in the upazila, made the accusation at Jamalpur Zila Press Club around 2:00pm.

In the press conference he alleged that he was threatened with dire consequences unless he persuaded the father of the girl to withdraw the case filed over the abduction.

On September 23, the 16-year-old girl's father filed an abduction case with Muktagachha Police Station, accusing six people including

Nayan, 18, for abducting his daughter on September 21 around 5:00pm when she was going home in Mymensingh's Muktagachha upazila from the madrasa by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, said Habibur Rahman.

According to the case statement, Nayan, son of Hannan of Ghoradhop village, along with his accomplices, abducted the class seven resident student of the madrasa on her way home.

Director Habibur said he encouraged the girl's father to file the abduction case against her abductors.

On September 26, Muktagachha police rescued the girl from Mymensingh Railway Station and arrested Nayan along with his three cohorts.

Home for 306 homeless families

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A total of 306 homeless families in the district have got disaster-resilient houses under the government's Disaster Resilient House Construction Programme.

Of the houses, 40 were built in Gaibandha Sadar, 43 in Sundarganj, 46 in Sadullapur, 39 in Palashbari, 41 in Gobindaganj, 46 in Saghata and 51 in Fulchhari upazilas.

Under the programme, the government has taken initiative for

rehabilitation of homeless people all over the country, said Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdul Matin.

While talking to this correspondent, a good number of beneficiaries expressed their utter happiness over getting the coloured tin-shed houses.

Bulbuli Rani Rabidas, a widow of Piyerapur village in Sadar upazila, got a house like others.

After the demise of her husband, a cobbler by profession, Rani fell in great trouble to run the family

and she was compelled to work as domestic help.

Rani said she is very happy to get the house as she had no ability to repair her worn-out hut.

Another beneficiary Ziarul of Mollarchar union in Sadar upazila said he has been living in a makeshift shed after losing all his belongings to river.

"I am very grateful to the authority for providing a house," he said.

According to district

administration, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief allocated Tk 89.48 lakh for construction of 306 dwelling houses.

Each house contains two rooms, a toilet and a kitchen, said A K Edris Ali, district relief and rehabilitation officer.

The DC said the government will also allocate Tk 12.60 crore for construction of 420 more disaster-resilient houses for homeless people in this fiscal year.

Five days on, hackers yet to be traced

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hundred others injured on Sunday as religious zealots clashed with police in Borhanuddin upazila over the hate conversations.

Meanwhile, police made Biplob the prime accused in a case filed under the Digital Security Act on Sunday night though he had lodged a general diary with police on Friday afternoon, saying his Facebook ID was hacked and hate conversations were spread through the hacked ID.

In the case statement, police claimed that they arrested Biplob near his home at Kachia village in Borhanuddin. But his family said he was "taken into police custody" after he went to Borhanuddin Police Station to file the GD.

Sharif, Imon and seven to eight unidentified people were also made accused in the case.

Police said they arrested Imon for selling the SIM that Sharif used to make the phone call.

Contacted, Sarkar Mohammad Kaiser, superintendent of police in Bholia, said, "The issue of Facebook hacking is still under investigation."

He said the police headquarters are trying to find out who spread the hate conversations.

"A request has already been sent to the Facebook authorities in the US to identify the perpetrators," mentioned the SP.

Yesterday, a huge number of law enforcers were deployed at different points of Bholia town as religious group Sarbadaliya Muslim Oikya Parishad was scheduled to hold a programme, protesting Sunday's incident. The programme was called off.

BHOLA SP'S FB ID HACKED
The Bholia SP told this newspaper that his Facebook ID was hacked on Monday night, and he had filed a GD with Bholia Police Station last

Kaiser said his official phone number had been kept engaged with fake phone calls since Sunday's mayhem in Bholia.

BIPLOB'S IN-LAW 'PICKED UP'
Some unidentified men introducing themselves as detectives picked up Biplob's brother-in-law Bidhan Majumder, his family claimed yesterday.

Bidhan's father Binoy Majumder filed a GD with Dolarhat Police Station last

night, saying a group of men identifying themselves as DB police personnel picked up his son and his employee Sagar from their jewellery shop in Dolarhat area on Monday night.

Contacted, Md Mizanur Rahman, the OC of the police station, said he didn't know whether any team of DB police had picked them up.

PROTEST CALLED OFF
Mizanur Rahman, joint member-secretary of Sarbadaliya Muslim Oikya Parishad, said they decided to call off their scheduled demonstration yesterday, fearing resistance from police and ruling party men, who took position at different parts of Bholia town.

Contacted, Mohammed Masud Alam Siddique, deputy commissioner of Bholia, said, "The religious group did not seek permission for today's rally... They were not allowed to hold the programme."

The religious platform on Monday gave the authorities a 72-hour ultimatum for meeting their six-point demand including withdrawal of the Bholia SP and the OC of Borhanuddin Police Station and capital punishment to Biplob.

Fellows protest rape attempt on fifth grader

Accused teacher flees, official inquiry finds allegation true

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Protesting the alleged rape attempt on a fifth grader girl by her school teacher, fellow students demonstrated at Dhopaghata village in Gafargaon upazila of Mymensingh yesterday.

The students of Dhopaghata Government Primary School blocked Gafargaon-Bhalua road for two hours in the morning demanding arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprit.

Joined by locals, they also formed a human chain in front of the school.

The accused, Zillur Rahman Shamim, 36, a teacher of the school, allegedly attempted to rape the 10-year-old girl, daughter of an ailing farmer, on Sunday.

During the recess at noon, the teacher, also a resident of Dhopaghata, called the girl to an empty room of the school, saying that he would teach her mathematics.

"But when the girl went to the room, the teacher closed its door and attempted to rape her," school

headmaster Rabeya Parvin quoted the girl as saying.

"Hearing her screams, other teachers and a school peon rushed to the spot and rescued the girl. But the culprit managed to flee and he went into hiding," said the headmaster.

Salma Akter, Gafargaon upazila education officer (acting), said a three-member probe committee headed by her visited the school yesterday and their primary investigation found the allegation true.

"I have placed the findings to the higher authorities this afternoon and the teacher has been suspended temporarily. A departmental case will also be filed against him," said the official.

Kazi Mahbubur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer of Gafargaon, said he has been monitoring the matter and departmental action will be taken if the teacher is found guilty.

The victim's father lodged a case accusing the teacher, said Anukul Sarker, officer-in-charge of Gafargaon Police Station.



One of the dredgers being used by influential locals to illegally lift sand from the Ratnai river, only 200 metres off the Durakuti Ratnai Railway Bridge in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila's Durakuti village. The villagers alleged that their homesteads and agricultural land as well as the flood control embankment along the river are under erosion threat due to the illegal sand lifting. The unscrupulous sand traders also built a road by damaging the embankment, they said. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR