

SIFAT MURDER 4 accused sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court yesterday sent four people to jail in connection with a case for killing a college boy in Panchagarh's Atwary upazila for ransom a week ago.

Earlier on Saturday, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-13) recovered the body of Fahid Hasan Sifat, 18, son of Safiqul Islam of Chotodap village, from a cropland near his house, four days after he went missing on Monday, Sub Inspector (SI) of Atwary Police Station Dipen Chandra Roy said.

Later in the same night, a team of Rab-13 raided the village and arrested Motiur Rahman, 19, his father Mokhlesar Rahman, mother Moyna Begum, and cousin Limon, Sifat's father filed a case with Atwary Police Station accusing the four.

According to the case statement, neighbour Motiur, a first-year student of Management Department at Panchagarh Makbular Rahman Government College, called Sifat, a second-year student at Dinajpur Adarsha College, out of his house on Monday night and took him to a cropland, about 250 yards from their houses.

Motiur later strangled Sifat to death and buried the body there.

After the murder, Motiur called Shafiqul and demanded Tk 1.5 lakh ransom for his son's release, the SI said, adding that Shafiqul instantly paid him Tk 8,000 through a bkash number.



Braving extreme cold temperatures, an elderly farm worker clears weeds in a crop field in Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Kurigram, Lalmonirhat shivering in cold

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Extreme cold in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat over the past several days has been forcing farmers and agricultural workers to stay inside their homes.

The cold has brought day-to-day activities to an almost standstill in the region, especially in villages along the Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers as well as in river islands or chars.

Unable to work out in the cold, low-income daily wage earners including agricultural workers, who cannot afford to buy warm clothes, have been suffering the most.

After almost a week of near-freezing temperatures, the lowest temperature was 8.8 degrees Celsius yesterday.

Many of them have been trying to keep warm around fires made by burning dry straws or leaves.

Farmer Mansur Uddin, from Durakuti village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said last Saturday morning, when he and others went in the crop field to work, it was so cold that they had to rush back home without doing any work.

The cold started to numb his hands and legs after he stayed outside for a little while, he added.

However, farm labourer Nabir Hossain, from Shimulbari village in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila, had continued to work in the fields despite the cold.

Since it is not possible to work outside every day in such cold, many of them have started to work on contract, rather than on daily wage, he said, adding that hot or cold, many workers like him have no other option but to work in the field to make ends meet.

After almost a week of near-freezing temperatures, the lowest temperature rose to 8.8 degrees Celsius yesterday, according to meteorological office in Rajarhat of Kurigram.

Another day labourer, Mokhlesha Bewa, also from Shimulbari village, said she has been spending most of her days near fires built with dry leaves these days, as she does not have any winter clothes to fight the biting cold.

Farmers might suffer losses and crops might get damaged if workers are unable to work in the crop fields due to the extreme cold, said Shamim Ashraf, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension in Lalmonirhat.

Missing schoolgirl's body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Madaripur Detective Branch (DB) of Police on Saturday night recovered the decomposed body of a schoolgirl from a septic tank in Kalkini upazila, after nearly 11 months of her missing in February last year.

The victim, Murshida Akhter, 17, was daughter of Chan Mia Hawladar of Purba Boltla village in the upazila.

Sub Inspector of Madaripur DB police Torikul Islam said, based on confessional statement given by one Shahabuddin Akon, 25, son of Majid Akon of the village, they recovered Murshida's body from the septic tank at Shahabuddin's house around 11:00 pm on Saturday.

According to the case statement, following a love affair the marriage of Shahabuddin and Murshida was fixed last year. Murshida left home to visit a doctor on February 17, 2020, and remained missing since then.

Failing to trace Murshida's whereabouts for long, her mother Mahinur Begum first filed a general dairy (GD) with Dasar Police Station on February 19 and later filed an abduction case against five people including Shahabuddin on March 4 the same year.

Meanwhile, due to slow progress Madaripur police transferred the case to DB police on December 16.

On December 31, Shahabuddin surrendered before a court that sent him to jail.

Later, the court granted a two-day remand for Shahabuddin after DB police applied for the remand.

During interrogation, Shahabuddin confessed that he killed Murshida and dumped her body in the septic tank of his house.

After two hours of frantic effort DB police recovered Murshida's decomposed body around 9:00pm on Saturday, police said, adding that also recovered a burqa and a vanity bag from the tank.

College boy stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Unidentified criminals stabbed a college student to death in Habiganj's Baniachong upazila on Saturday night.

The deceased, Tanvir Ahmed, 20, was son of Majid Mia of Boroiuri village in the upazila.

Being informed by the villagers, police recovered the body and sent it to Habiganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy, Officer in Charge of Baniachong Police Station Emran Hossain said, adding that his body bore several marks of injury.

Quoting the victim's father, police said an identified gang waylaid Tanvir while he was returning home from a local bazar around 10:00pm and hacked him indiscriminately with sharp weapon, leaving him dead on the spot.

Majid also alleged that there had been a longstanding feud between his family and one of his neighbours.

His son might have been killed over the feud, he added.

Registration likely to begin Jan 21

FROM PAGE 1 Star yesterday.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will hold a press conference at the Secretariat at 2:00pm to reveal the vaccine deployment plan and details of the Surokkha app.

Contacted, Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora, additional director general of DGHS, said the app is in the final stage of development.

"We may allow people to register in phases. If more people start registering on the app, it may create a huge load on the app."

"But it will be decided later whether it will be kept open for registration in phases," she said.

How will the app work?

Applicants have to download and use the app or visit the website, where they will have to choose the relevant category from around 19 categories of professions, according to ICT department sources.

After that, the user has to input their NID number and date of birth.

The app will then automatically fill in other details, collecting information from the NID database.

The applicant has to give details of their medical history - whether they have diabetes, cancer, hypertension, or other diseases.

The user also has to input their present address and mobile phone number and they will then get an OTP (One-Time Password) sent to their phone.

After entering the OTP, a vaccine card will be generated, which will mention where and when the person will be vaccinated with the first and second dose.

After both doses, a certificate will be given that the person has received the Covid-19 vaccine.

Immigration and various embassies will also be able to verify through a web portal whether a person has been vaccinated.

Homecoming speech had guidelines

FROM PAGE 1

Whatever he said he uttered from his heart," she said.

She said this while presiding over a discussion meeting virtually from her official residence the Gono Bhawan marking the historic Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Awami League (AL) organised the meeting from the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital.

On this day (January 10) in 1972, Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader of the nation and supreme commander of the country's Liberation War, returned to the sacred soil of independent Bangladesh from London en via New Delhi after 290 days of captivity in Pakistan jail.

The prime minister called upon all her party leaders and activists, particularly the new generation, to rehearse the speech of January 10 alongside the Historic March 7, 1971 address of Father of the Nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In this connection, she said, "You will get everything by rehearsing the speeches such as getting inspiration in doing politics."

The prime minister simultaneously urged all the people to follow the health guidelines, including wearing masks and sanitising hands, to protect themselves and thus others from the coronavirus.

She also reminded all that Bangladesh was badly affected by the virus in March last year and this may repeat as the month of March is approaching.

Noting that her government has taken all the measures to bring coronavirus vaccines, she said, "The vaccine will come Insha'Allah. Despite the fact, we have to properly follow the health guidelines as we have been able to control the Covid-19 by maintaining the guidelines."

The premier also suggested all to intake Vitamin C and D and other

necessary foods to boost the immune system to fight coronavirus.

AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, gave a welcome address while its Publicity and Publication Secretary Abdus Sobhan Golap, moderated the meeting from the Gono Bhawan end.

AL Presidium Members Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razaque, Ramesh Chandra Sen and Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, its Joint General Secretary Mahbu-bul Alam Hanif, Organising Secretaries Ahmed Hossain, BM Mozammel Haque and SM Kamal Hossain, Science and Technology Affairs Secretary Engineer Abdus Sabur and Health and Population Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana took part in the discussion.

Dhaka North and South City AL presidents and general secretaries Sheikh Bazul Rahman, Abu Ahmed Mannafi, SM Mannan Kochi and Humayun Kabir also spoke on the occasion.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) Joydebpur, Gazipur-1701. Includes contact information, logo, and a detailed table of e-Tender notices for road repairs and pump maintenance at BARI.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Bogura. E-Tender Notice No: 13/2020-21. Memo No.: 46.02.1000.000.14.044.21.25. Table of tender notices for various construction projects in Bogura.