

Man kills wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A housewife was killed by her husband allegedly over a family feud in Ghatail upazila yesterday.

The victim, Minara Begum, 22, was wife of Aminul Islam of Bhabandatta Kachhora village.

Quoting neighbours, police said slain Minara and her mother-in-law often used to quarrel over trifling matter since the couple's marriage nearly one and a half years ago.

Annoyed by his wife's behaviour, angry Aminul strangled Minara to death at his house early yesterday and then informed the matter to local police over phone. Officer in Charge (OC) of Ghatail Police Station Azharul Islam said.

Later, police arrested Aminul, recovered the body and sent it to Tangail General Hospital for autopsy.

The arrestee was produced before a Tangail court later in the day that sent him to jail, the OC added.

13 crude bombs seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Police in a drive recovered 13 crude bombs and five locally made sharp weapons from an abandoned place in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Sub Inspector (SI) of Sadar Police Station Mohammad Fariduzzaman said a police team raided Rajarchar village under Mollakandi union around 6:30am and recovered the crude bombs and other lethal weapons in an abandoned condition.

They conducted the drive after several incidents of crude bomb blast occurred at different villages in Mollakandi union on November 14, centring the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) elections scheduled for November 28, the SI said.



A section of contractors has occupied the land of the proposed Sheikh Russel Memorial Children's Park in Barishal's Bakerganj upazila keeping building materials. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

SHEIKH RUSSEL MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S PARK

Yet to come into being in 4 years

Local BCL man occupying the land for running personal business

SUSHANTA GHOSH

Although four years have passed since the inauguration of Sheikh Russel Memorial Children's Park in Bakerganj upazila of Barishal, the site development work is yet to begin.

Moreover, the proposed land of the children's amusement park has been being used for the personal business of a local Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist.

According to what could be known, local lawmaker Nasreen Jahan Ratna laid the foundation stone of the park in 2017.

It was supposed to be built on one acre of land in front of the upazila office. But the development of the park has remained elusive for the last four years.

Additionally, a local college BCL leader Asadul Islam Raju

has occupied a part of the land for running his sand and bricks business, locals said.

Raju is the son of Mafuza Begum Bhanu, the councillor of ward no 5 in the municipality area. He is the organising secretary of the government Bakerganj College unit BCL.

Visiting the spot, it was found that like Raju some other local influential have also been running their business occupying the land for the proposed children's park.

Taran Ganguly, a local teacher, said that the way the land is being grabbed, the Shaheed Minar will be engulfed soon.

Locals alleged that due to delay in the development works, a section of contractors has been using the field for their personal gains marring the beauty of the space where children could find

respite in their free time.

Shah Sajeda, the convener of Barisahl Sacheton Nagorik Committee, demanded that the illegal occupants be immediately evicted from the land immediately and the park be handed over to the children upon completion of the development work.

BCL leader Raju said he kept the building materials on the field as he found it empty and he was not aware that occupying the land would create any problem.

"I have not occupied any land; just kept some materials which I will remove in a few days," he said adding that the authority is turning a blind eye to those contractors who have also kept construction materials occupying the field.

Lawmaker of Barishal-6 (Bakerganj) constituency Nasreen Jahan Ratna said that she

forwarded the proposal for the implementation of the park to the Ministry of Youth and Sports four years ago.

"I don't know the development but will inquire about it soon," she said.

"I have already instructed the illegal occupants to remove the materials immediately from the field," she added.

Bakerganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Madhabi Roy said that they have received the complaint against illegal businesses occupying the land of the proposed Sheikh Russell Memorial Children's Park.

"The local MP has informed us the matter over phone and asked to us act," said the UNO.

"I have already sent surveyors and to investigate the incident," she added.

Man caught

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During primary interrogation, Nazmul admitted to raping and killing the child. The child's body was sent to the Jashore General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile in Narayanganj's Rupganj, Abdus Salam, 50, was arrested on charges of raping an eight-year-old girl.

Salam, who is from Bauphal in Patuakhali, used to live in a rented house.

Police said the girl was playing near her home on Saturday evening when Salam took her to his house and raped her.

Salam then let the girl go, giving her Tk 30 to buy candies. After returning home, the girl started crying and told her parents what had happened.

Her father filed a case accusing Salam, who was arrested early yesterday, said AFM Sayed, OC of Rupganj Police Station.

A court sent Salam to jail, he added.

(Our correspondents in Benapole and Narayanganj contributed to the report.)

Fifth Covid

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influx of Covid patients into hospitals, with the authorities attributing the limited number of intensive care patients to France's high rate of vaccinations which appear highly effective against the most dangerous forms of Covid.

'INCREASE IN INFECTIONS'

On Saturday, hospitals in France reported a total of 7,974 Covid patients in their care, with 1,333 of them in intensive treatment.

This compares to 6,500 and 1,000, respectively, a month earlier.

"There is a very strong increase in infections, but we also know that in France we have a very large vaccination cover," he said. "We seem to be ahead of our neighbours concerning booster shots."

Buet removes chairman

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has been relieved from the chairman post of the department and exam-related duties. Besides, a body will also probe the allegation."

After getting the probe report, the university authorities would make decision on Prof Nikhil, the VC added.

The name of Prof Nikhil came up in the confessional statement of a man arrested over leaked question papers of a recruitment exam for bankers.

Delowar Hossain, who was arrested on Wednesday in a case filed over the leaking of question papers of recruitment tests at five state-run banks, confessed his involvement before a Dhaka court on Thursday.

He said the Buet teacher helped Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), where he is an adjunct faculty, get the job of preparing and printing the question papers.

When the questions got printed at a press, Prof Nikhil, who was the head of IPE department, used to take two copies of the question papers, added Delowar, a suspended office attendant of AUST.

Delowar said he sometimes put two sets of questions in Prof Nikhil's bag.

Kissinger's plan for isolating

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was "happy" to find the soldiers in high spirits, the Radio said.

ON THE WAR FRONT

The occupation troops attacked the Mukti Bahini position at Ghughudanga of Dinaipur today. After a fierce battle the Pakistani troops withdrew and 30 enemy soldiers were killed. Two brave freedom fighters were killed in the action while two others sustained injuries.

Freedom fighters destroyed the Pakistani army post at Mandra and two strategically important road bridges between Satkhira town and Mahmudpur today. On the same day, one Pakistani army Jeep proceeding to

Satkhira from

Jashore was attacked by the Mukti Bahini on the Jashore-Satkhira road. In this action, three enemy soldiers, including one captain, were killed and the Jeep was destroyed. Satkhira town was now isolated from Khulna.

India and Pakistan both used air attacks on this day's battle at Boyra. Pakistan lost three Sabre fighter jets, 13 tanks and several troops. Radio Pakistan claimed that Pakistani planes destroyed two Indian Gnats.

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ACC can do little with clipped

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The rules assign particular organisations to investigate particular crimes under the Money Laundering Prevention Act-2012.

The rules have specified 27 types of money laundering-related offences. Of these, the Criminal Investigation Department of police has been given the task with investigating 24 offences alone or with the National Board of Revenue, Department of Narcotics Control and Department of Environment.

According to the rules, the ACC is given the sole responsibility to investigate the money laundering offences related to graft and bribery, while NBR and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission can probe the crime related to tax and capital markets respectively.

ACC Chairman Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah at the programme said it was a difficult task to prove corruption. "But there are things like hearsay. We'll know

who is corrupt, but it is difficult to prove before the court of law. We can boycott such people."

"I request you all to boycott the people who are known to be corrupt ...," he said.

Pointing out that it was not possible for the ACC alone to prevent corruption, he said, "We all need to work together to prevent corruption."

Replying to a question, the ACC chairman said they would not arrest people unnecessarily. "We'll arrest people only when it is required."

Later, the ACC chief handed over crests to the winners of RAC Best Reporting Award. This year, under three categories -- print, electronic and online -- three reporters got awards for the best reports on corruption.

Kawser Soheli of Maasranga Television, Muhammad Sirajul Islam of Daily Jugantor and Nuruzzaman Labu of Bangla Tribune won the awards.

Nasa seeks

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Project lead at the lab, said in a statement.

If successful in supporting a sustained human presence on the moon, the next objective would be Mars. Nasa says fission surface power could provide sustained, abundant power no matter the environmental conditions on the moon or Mars.

"I expect fission surface power systems to greatly benefit our plans for power architectures for the moon and Mars and even drive innovation for uses here on Earth," Jim Reuter, associate administrator for Nasa's Space Technology Mission Directorate, said in a statement.

The reactor would be built on Earth and then sent to the moon.

Submitted plans for the fission surface power system should include a uranium-fueled reactor core, a system to convert the nuclear power into usable energy, a thermal management system to keep the reactor cool, and a distribution system providing no less than 40 kilowatts of continuous electric power for 10 years in the lunar environment.

Some other requirements include that it be capable of turning itself off and on without human help, that it be able to operate from the deck of a lunar lander, and that it can be removed from the lander and run on a mobile system and be transported to a different lunar site for operation.

Additionally, when launched from Earth to the moon, it should fit inside a 12-foot (4-meter) diameter cylinder that's 18 feet (6 meters) long. It should not weigh more than 13,200 pounds (6,000 kilograms).

The proposal requests are for an initial system design and must be submitted by February 19.

EIGHT YRS OF BONOGRAM ATTACK

All seven key accused still on the loose

Trial proceedings of only one out of three cases began

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

It has been eight years since Hindus in Bonogram of Pabna's Santhia upazila came under attack, but all the seven individuals who were made key accused in three cases continue to elude capture while two of the cases still await trial.

On November 2, 2013, religious zealots vandalised, looted and set fire to houses, shops and Hindu temples in the predominantly Hindu village, claiming that a resident of the village defamed Islam by his post on Facebook.

Following the incident, three separate cases were filed against dozens of attackers, mentioning names of seven as key accused.

All the seven key accused including prime accused Khokon Mia, son of Motiar Mia, are still on the run.

Till date, the trials in the cases are yet to begin while police finished submitting charge sheets for all three cases.

Advocate Abdus Samad Khan Ratan, public prosecutor (PP) at Pabna court, said, "Total 97 people were accused in the charge sheets. Seven among them, including key accused Md Khokon Mia, went into hiding."

Of the three cases, the trial of attack on police has already begun and the trial of the other two cases are being delayed as the cases are being handled at a regular court, he said.

The process of issuing arrest warrants for the absconded is underway, but various other steps need to be followed before the trials can start, the PP said, adding that circulars would need to be published in newspapers declaring seizure of wealth of the absconded, in case they fail to appear before the court.

The primary target of attack on November 2 was the house of Rajib Saha, son of Bablu Saha, as Rajib supposedly made the defamatory post on his Facebook. Despite protesting repeatedly that his son was innocent, Babul was hit and kicked upon mercilessly and their house was torched.

Rajib's mother Shibani Saha said her son was lucky to have escaped the attack that day and he has not been able to come home ever since.

"Thinking of that day makes my eyes water. But it's more painful to watch the attackers roaming freely before us, evading punishment."

Rajib's father Bablu said he heard that Khokon Mia has been living in France.

School teacher Sukumar Bishwas was among the victims of the attack that day. He said, "Never before did we imagine of such attack. I want to forget the incident, but I'm still carrying the pain. It would be at least a consolation for us if the criminals were punished."

Contacted, Ataikula Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jalal Uddin said they arrested "most of the accused" and according to their information, Khokon left the country following the incident.

Army should be people's

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addressing a civic and military gathering at a reception on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day 2021.

The prime minister attended the reception at Senakunja of Dhaka Cantonment, virtually from her official residence the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said the Bangladesh Army should be the people's army.

She hoped that the Armed Forces will take the nation forward imbued with the ideology of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the spirit of the Liberation War.

"We'll be able to move, raising our heads high in the world arena. This is our main goal," said the prime minister.

An audio-visual documentary was screened on the occasion.

On this day in 1971, the Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising Army, Navy and Air Force, came into being and launched an all-out attack on the Pakistani occupation forces which sped up the victory in the Liberation War.

Since the independence of the country, this historic day is observed as Armed Forces Day every year.

The prime minister said the members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces are always ready to make supreme sacrifices at any critical time of the country alongside upholding the sovereignty of the motherland.

"In addition to dealing with the coronavirus as well as manmade and natural disasters, our Armed Forces have been working sincerely for the development of the country's socio-economic development," she said.

She said the Army has gained widespread acclaim for the construction of the Access Control Expressway, Marine Drive Road, eye-catching Hatirjheel, the flyover and the border roads.

Sudan military reinstates PM

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But the civilian coalition that shared power with the military previously said it opposed any talks with the "putschists" and called for protests to continue yesterday.

Even as news of the deal spread, thousands of protesters marched towards the presidential palace in Khartoum in the early afternoon and called for the downfall of Burhan.

Hamdok was placed under house arrest when the military seized power on October 25, derailing a transition towards democracy agreed after the overthrow of Omar al-Bashir in 2019 that ended his three decades of autocratic rule.

The military dissolved Hamdok's cabinet and detained a number of civilians who held top positions under the power-sharing deal agreed with the military after

The PM said the Navy has also earned fame by building housing and infrastructures for displaced Myanmar nationals in Bhashanchar, while the Air force has recently conducted the seed-ball throwing activities in the country's coastal areas and the remote places of Chittagong Hill Tracts region under an afforestation programme.

She said Bangladesh has been ranked among the top five countries in the world in terms of economic progress and now Bangladesh is the 41st largest economy in the world.

"We've achieved unprecedented development in all socio-economic indicators," she said, adding that works on all the mega projects are progressing fast even during the coronavirus pandemic.

Hasina said her government, resuming in power in 2009, formulated the Forces Goal-2030 and has been implementing it. "We've been modernising, expanding and developing the Armed Forces as per our long-term plans," she said.

Spelling out her government's works for the development of three forces, she said, "We've made significant progress in modernising our Armed Forces in the last 13 years."

The prime minister said the members of the Armed Forces made the role of the United Nation acclaimed apart from brightening the image of Bangladesh in the world arena by performing their duties with competence and sincerity in facing the challenges of peace-keeping missions, peace-building and peace-enforcement.

She said Bangladesh has once again been able to retain the glory of the highest peacekeeper contributing country in the establishment of world peace.

The PM wished for the continued prosperity of all the members of the Armed Forces and their families.

Bashir was ousted.

The coup triggered mass demonstrations against the military and medics aligned with the protest movement say security forces have killed 40 civilians in increasingly violent crackdowns.

The constitutional declaration struck between the military and civilians in 2019 after Bashir was ousted would remain the foundation in further talks, the source close to Hamdok said.

Activist groups leading the protests since the coup have demanded the military gets out of politics altogether, however.

The Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) civilian coalition, which had been sharing power with the military, said it did not recognise any agreement with the armed forces.