

Woman killed

Addict kills wife, son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A woman was stabbed to death at Hatbati village in Batiaghata upazila early yesterday.

The victim, Tilottama Mandal Putul, 45, was daughter of Mahendra Mandal of Bittashlua village in the upazila.

Tilottama's sister Deepika Mistry and brother-in-law Prakash Mistry, 56, also sustained injuries during the attack.

They are now undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Quoting locals, Sadar UP member Obaidul Haque said criminals entered the house around 4:00am and stabbed the three while they were asleep, leaving Tilottama, who came to visit her sister's house, dead.

Officer in Charge of Batiaghata Police Station Mohammad Shah Jalal said the incident might have occurred due to a feud between Prakash and his brother.

Away in Narsingdi, a drug addict man allegedly killed his wife and infant son in Sadar upazila on Sunday night, reports our Brahmanbaria correspondent.

The deceased are Reshmi Akhter, 25, wife of Fakhru Islam of Ghoradia village, and their 13-month-old son Salman Safair.

Locals, however, caught Fakhru and handed him over to the police.

The incident took place in Ghoradia village under Chinishpur union of Narsingdi Sadar upazila late on Sunday night.

The deceased were identified as Reshmi Akhter, 25, wife of Fakhru Islam of Ghoradia village and their 13-month-old son Salman.

Police said the couple used to quarrel over Fakhru's drug addiction since their marriage two years ago.

At one stage of altercation, Fakhru killed his wife and son by slitting their throats on Sunday night.



Plying of heavy or medium vehicles remains snapped since a large portion of this bridge, on Naaldiga river in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila, collapsed a few weeks ago.

PHOTO: STAR

People suffer as part of bridge collapse

LGED built the bridge in 2019

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A portion of a newly-constructed bridge on Naaldiga river in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila has collapsed a few weeks ago, disrupting vehicular movement and causing sufferings to locals.

Locals said due to the recent heavy rainfall, the guarder wall on the west side of the bridge has also been affected.

The authorities concerned are yet to take any step to repair the collapsed part of the bridge, they alleged, adding that incident occurred due to use of substandard materials during the construction of the bridge.

Koilati Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Joynal Abedin said a large portion of the bridge, built spending nearly Tk 13 crore near Shyampur Bazar, collapsed within one and a half years of its construction.

Around 40 thousand people of 15 villages, including Shyampur, Bishampur, Chiler Kakuria, Sanura, Kanura and Indrapur, use the bridge to go to the upazila headquarters and other destinations, he said.

Earlier, hundreds of small and heavy vehicles used to ply the bridge every day, but now only three-wheelers and motorbikes use it risking their lives.

Besides, hundreds of students use the bridge as there are at least 15 educational institutions including primary and high schools on both sides of the bridge, said Abu Hanif Akanda, a local ward member.

Hanif, also organising secretary of Koilati union unit Awami League, said they protested the use of substandard materials during the construction of the bridge.

They even forced the contractor to stop the construction work, but all their efforts went in vain, he added.

On the night of November 28, three people on a motorbike fell into the deep hole of the broken bridge and sustained critical injuries, former chairman of Koilati UP Rubel Bhuiyan said, adding that the injured are still undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

After the incident, locals put a bamboo pole inside the gaping hole to aware people about the danger ahead, he further said.

Netrakona Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Sub Assistant Engineer Imran Hossain said due to heavy rainfall last month earth underneath the approach road of the bridge washed away and affected the bridge.

RENOVATION WORK OF HABIGANJ TOWN ROAD

Deadline exceeds, public suffering mounts

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Habiganj

Although the deadline for the renovation works on a two-kilometre stretch of the central road in Habiganj town has exceeded for five months, the works have yet to be completed, much to the sufferings of the people.

Vehicles are unable to ply smoothly on the road due to digging on various parts of the road resulting in a perennial traffic jam on the road. On the other hand, many are questioning the quality of the work.

According to the Habiganj Roads and Highways Department, the department took the initiative to renovate a 1.9 km stretch of the road starting from the front of court mosque to Chowdhury Bazar with concrete. The tender for the work worth Tk 10 crore 54 lakhs was called on September 10 last year.

The work was awarded to Hasan Techno Builders, Janmabhoomi Construction and Ohiduzzaman Chowdhury. They were given the work order on January 19 this year. The deadline for this work was July 19. But five months into the deadline,

the work is yet to be over.

On a recent visit to the area, it was seen that one side of the road from the front of the town hall to the post office had been dug, in which layer of rods was being laid. Vehicles were moving at a snail's pace on the other side of the road, resulting in perennial traffic gridlock. Pedestrians are also suffering due to the movement of cars in the alleyways.

Tofazzal Sohel, the coordinator of Habiganj Sankhubdo Nagorik Andolon, said five months into the deadline, only 60 per cent of the renovation work of the central road of Habiganj town has been completed. The delay was due to lax work.

The contractor did the work sporadically. This has mounted the sufferings of the town dwellers, he added.

Sirajul Islam, a trader at Khwaja Garden, one of the city's popular shopping malls, said that it shouldn't take more than 15 to 20 days to complete the work. But even after months, the contractor could not complete the construction of the road. They are still digging the road.

As a result, traders who run small businesses on the side of the road have borne the brunt due to unnecessary delays in road construction work.

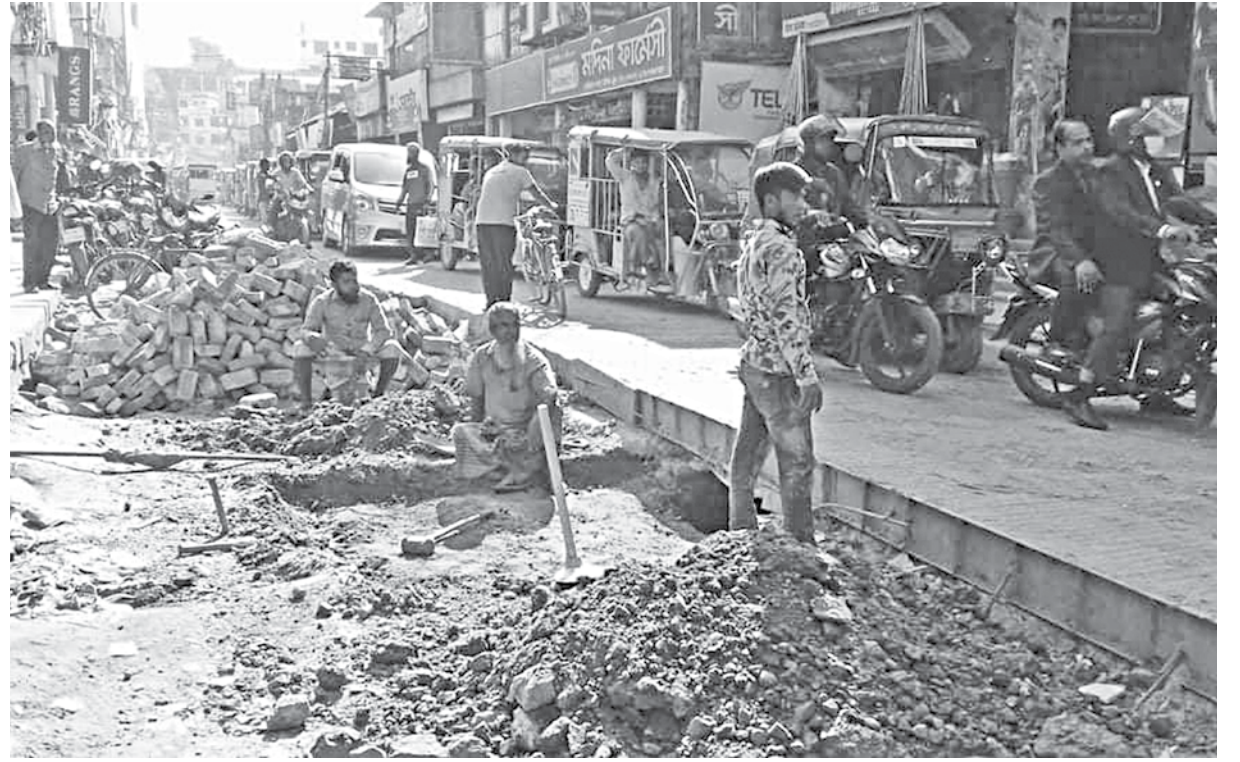
A resident of the town, who is also a contractor, said on condition of anonymity that according to the tender, 12 mm rods were supposed to be used for the lower four-inch casting and 30 mm rods for the upper layer. However, this standard was not maintained here.

Joy Prakash, an engineer working on the project, said they had some problems getting their initial bills. That is why the work has been delayed a bit.

"However, we will be able to complete this work within the next two to three weeks," he added.

Habiganj Roads and Highways Department Assistant Engineer Ramzan Ali said that the movement of vehicles and people on the road was kept open while the work was in progress, resulting into a little delay.

He also said that the work is being done following the tender. They have been supervising it, he added.



The renovation work of the main road of Habiganj town has been delayed for five months, resulting in public sufferings. Traffic gridlock does not ease in the 1.9 km stretch of the road due to one-way movement of traffic. This picture was taken recently.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

PCJSS leader

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abducted Pushoi Thoai from Chemi Dalu Para in Bandarban Sadar upazila on Sunday night and later murdered him, said the PCJSS in a press release.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bandarban Sadar Police Station, said after receiving information, a police team went to Amtoli Para area around 9:00am yesterday and recovered Pushoi Thoai's body which was buried in the ground.

Requesting anonymity, a local resident said about 18 Mugh Party members surrounded the house of a "Karbari" (village chief) in Chemi Dalu Para around 7:30pm on Sunday and picked up Pushoi Thoai.

Criminals later killed him in Amtoli Para, around 2.5 kilometres off Chemi Dalu Para, said Athoai Mong Marma, Karbari of Amtoli Para.

The body was sent to Bandarban Sadar Hospital for an autopsy.

On July 19, a village doctor from an indigenous community was abducted from Chemi Dalu Para and murdered.

PCJSS leaders alleged that "Mogh Party" was involved in killings of their supporters and villagers.

Some locals said "Mogh Party" criminals threaten them not to support PCJSS.

Putin says

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Putin is sensitive to the perceived expansion of Western military ambitions into ex-Soviet countries and Russia this week demanded that Nato formally scrap a 2008 decision to open its door to Georgia and Ukraine.

The end of the Union brought with it a period of intense economic instability that plunged many into poverty, as newly independent Russia transitioned from communism to capitalism.

RIA-Novosti, reporting from excerpts of the documentary, said Putin had revealed that he worked occasionally as a taxi driver to boost his income.

Abdul Hakim owns books

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Series" and "Kuasha Series" will remain confiscated and Seba Prokashoni cannot sell those following the HC verdict.

Sheikh Abdul Hakim, now dead, had written the books, he added.

Petitioner's lawyer Hamidul Mishbah told The Daily Star that his client would move an appeal before the Supreme Court's Appellate Division challenging the HC judgment.

He earlier said Abdul Hakim had worked as a writer for Seba Prokashoni and wrote books for the organisation while receiving monthly salary.

The copyright office on June 14 last year granted the copyright of 260 books of "Masud Rana Series" and 50 books of "Kuasha Series" to their ghostwriter Abdul Hakim.

Why vacation is needed

FROM PAGE 12
scientifically proven to be integral to well-being, sustained productivity and high performance.

Here's the scientist-approved benefits of vacations. Do not forget to bring these up to your boss!

Vacation time makes you more mindful
As when on vacation, we break our normal routine, we cannot operate on autopilot. According to scientists, this makes us feel more present and stimulated, thus more mindful.

On the other hand, according to a research study in The Journal of Positive Psychology, meditation and vacations appear to have overlapping effects.

Both meditation exercises and vacationing were associated with higher levels of well-being and increased mindfulness, Forbes reported quoting the research.

Vacation time improves heart health
Regular vacations can help reduce the risk of health issues, including high blood pressure, high blood sugar, abnormal cholesterol levels, heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes, researchers found. Those

After retirement, he submitted an application to the copyright office claiming that the copyright of books under both the series, which was also a violation of the law, he said.

Earlier on June 15 last year, Jafor Raza Chowdhury, registrar of Bangladesh Copyright Office, reportedly said, "We have conferred the copyright to the ghostwriter -- Sheikh Abdul Hakim -- because beyond receiving a lump sum for writing the first book, he never received any royalty for any of the reprinting. There were no contracts at any point stating that Hakim is being given a one-time payment for writing the books."

Lawyer Murad Reza appeared for the writ petitioner.

who vacationed more frequently were less likely to have these problems, according to a study.

Vacation reduces stress
Chronic stress can increase risk of health issues, including heart disease. A study released by the American Psychological Association concluded that time off from work helps reduce stress by removing people from the activities and environments associated with anxiety.

According to another scientific report, spending at least 120 minutes a week in natural environments like parks, woodlands and beaches is associated with good health and well-being.

Brainpower boosted by vacations
Taking time off improves the capacity to learn and stimulates ideas. That's why we often have the best ideas on a walk or on vacation.

Vacation time improves sleep
Time off from work can help improve sleep, as good sleeping habit lingers even after the vacation ends.

Time off is linked to multiple benefits, including improved mental health. So, don't be an idler about taking a vacation!

Bangladeshi found

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missing.

The deceased's cousin Mucha Nur Mollick said Mikael went to India along with some others a few days ago. Last Thursday, they were trying to return with cattle through Tengra Khali bridge in Nadia district in India's West Bengal.

A BSF patrol team opened fire on them at the time and Mikael had been missing till his body was found floating in a nearby water body around 5:00pm on Sunday,

Mollick said.

A team from, Hashkhali Police Station of India recovered the body, he added.

Moheshpur BGB-58 Battalion Director Lt Col Shahin Azad said they have no information about the death but are trying to gather information.

Moheshpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Saiful Islam said he has heard about the death from family members, but has not gotten any official information about it.

Malik cabinet

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their fate."

Referring to the movement of an American naval squadron towards the Indian Ocean from the Gulf of Tonkin, Soviet leaders said, "It is even more difficult for us to understand how it is possible to combine striving for a constructive peaceful settlement of the problem by collective efforts of our countries with such unilateral actions like demonstrative movements of naval forces and so on. Suppose the other side will also embark on the path of taking similar measures -- what then will be the net result?"

The Soviet leaders concluded the message by urging Nixon to stress to the Pakistani government the necessity of embarking on the path towards political settlement in East Pakistan.

ON THE WAR FRONT

With the reported movement of American naval squadron, the 83rd Brigade of the 23rd Indian Division along with Mukti Bahini rushed to Chittagong assuming that the American task force might attempt to establish a beachhead somewhere near Chittagong. The Chittagong Port was severely pounded from the sea and the air. Many ships were damaged and sunk in the river completely blocking the shipping channel.

Mitro Bahini troops were advancing rapidly from the north and northwest and had reached within six miles of Dhaka. A Pakistani brigade commander close to the Dhaka garrison was reported to have surrendered.

The New York Times reported that Indian MIG jets flew back and forth across Dhaka city in the afternoon, strafing with rockets at low level and meeting virtually no resistance.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

Israel's PM meets crown prince on historic UAE visit

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met Abu Dhabi's crown prince yesterday after becoming the first leader of the Jewish state to visit the United Arab Emirates, a year after the establishment of ties.

Bennett met Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan at his private palace, Israeli officials said, following the premier's arrival in the Emirati capital late on Sunday.

Delayed start, result obvious

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construct a rail line from Madhukhali to Magura via Kamarkhali in Faridpur, aiming to bring Magura under the rail network.

The project authorities took one year to appoint a consultant firm for carrying out the feasibility study, preparing the detail design and tender documents and the firm took one and a half years to complete its job, sources said.

Usually, the feasibility study of a project is carried out before its approval. But in this particular case, the study was done after the project's approval.

On May 23 this year, BR signed contracts with two China-Bangladesh joint venture companies for building the 23.90-km broad gauge rail line, including a loop line, within 18 months.

Under the contract, China Railway Group Ltd, also known as CREC, and Castle Construction Company Ltd of Bangladesh will construct the Faridpur-Magura rail line at a cost of Tk 433.78 crore.

China Railway Construction Corporation Limited and Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd of Bangladesh will build two major bridges and an underpass on the route at a cost of Tk 448.98 crore.

Project Director Ashadul Haque said he wrote to BR last month seeking 26-month time extension. As per the contract, the contractors would get up to November next year for completing their works, he added.

Sources said the project authorities would require up to June 2024 to complete other related works. The BR forwarded the proposal to the railways ministry early this month.

Ashadul said it took the authorities two and a half years to have the feasibility done after the approval of the project.

"So, we were late in signing the contract and that's why we have to seek time extension," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Replying to a question, the PD said the total cost of the project would not go up as they already signed contracts.

Explanation of detectives

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The account of the event raised questions among locals who said it was unlikely that police would let a detainee enter the lockup room with a lace that could be used to die by suicide.

Babul's wife Sahanara Khatun earlier said her husband was the son of a freedom fighter and he did not die by suicide.

Police said DB officers in plainclothes arrested Babul from his house in Debhata upazila on Saturday with 50 bottles of Phensedyl. But his daughter Sultana Munnai said someone planted the drugs right before the raid.

After the arrest, police handcuffed him and beat him up in front of the family, she added.

After filing a case with Debhata Police Station, the cops took Babul to Sakhira DB office for interrogation and kept him at the lockup.

Sultana said her father was fine when police picked him up. "Why would he kill himself?"

Mustafizur Rahman, superintendent of police in Sakhira, formed a three-member committee headed by an additional superintendent of police to investigate the matter. An assistant sub-inspector and a constable have been suspended. Police also filed an unnatural death case on Sunday.

Babul was buried at the family graveyard around 10:00pm on Sunday after his body was handed over to the family following a postmortem.

Top military official killed in fight for Yemen's Marib

AFP, Dubai

A senior Yemeni military commander was among 28 troops killed in fighting between government forces and Huthi rebels for the strategic city of Marib, defence ministry sources said yesterday.

"Nasser al-Zubiani, head of the government forces' military operations, was killed along with 27 other soldiers during clashes with the Huthis in the past 24 hours south of Marib," on source told AFP on condition of anonymity.