

2 beaten to death on suspicion of theft in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two construction workers were beaten to death on suspicion of theft in Rajshahi city's Sopura BSCIC area on Thursday night.

The victims were identified as Ataur Rahman, 45, and Rakibul Islam, 43, said Majharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station.

Ataur and Rakibul were doing repair works at the house, he said.

The bodies were sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Rakibul's wife Suma Khatun filed a murder case with the police station.

Police arrested four persons -- the house owner Abdullah, 38, his father-in-law Masum Reza, 50, cousin Moin Uddin, 20, and employee Imran Hossain, 21.

The house owner suspected that the two construction workers were involved in stealing Tk 4 lakh from the house. He and his relatives kept them confined to their house in the afternoon and tortured them after tying them to bamboo poles, said police. On information from locals, police rescued the two injured from the house at 8:00pm and admitted them to RMCH.

They succumbed to his injuries at the hospital at night. Police said they got a hold of a video footage of the torture where they were seen forcing the workers to admit that they stole the money.



For years, Jahangirnagar University campus has served as a welcoming transit spot for migratory birds during winter. But owing to lack of greenery, ill-mannered birdwatchers and noise pollution, they've started to leave the premises early this year, within the first week of January. The photos was taken from a lake at the university recently.

PHOTO COURTESY: AURITRA SATTAR

26 hurt as picnic bus collides with lorry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 26 people were injured in a head-on collision between a lorry and picnic bus bound for Cox's Bazar from Netrakona on Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway in Chattogram early yesterday.

The accident took place around 5:30am in Chunti area of Lohagara upazila, said police.

All the injured were teachers and students of Political Science Department at Netrakona Government College, said police.

The injured were sent to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said Mohammad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Dohazari Highway Police Station. Both the vehicles have been detained while the drivers managed to flee, he said.

Alauddin Talukder, in-charge of CMCH Police Camp, said three of the 26 injured were in a critical condition.

Leaders at home, robbers on highways

Four members of theft gang arrested

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Locally, they were known as politicians or social workers. They even held social programmes spending a considerable sum of money.

However, their true faces emerge once they step outside their area. These so-called respected politicians are, in reality, notorious robbers.

Identifying themselves as police officials, they conducted robberies on highways after intercepting public transports.

Police's Detective Branch (DB) disclosed the findings of the robber gang with this newspaper on Thursday, following the arrest of its four members recently.

The arrestees are Mahtab Uddin, Kawsar Ahmed, Jamal Hossain, and Mujibor Rahman. The arrestees already disclosed the gang's activities in detail during remand. Besides, arrestee Kawsar has given a confessional statement before the court on January 24.

The detective arrested the four while investigating a bus robbery that took place on Dhaka-Shariatpur highway in October last year.

Investigators said the ringleader of the gang is Rasel Kabir.

Hailing from Amtoli of Barguna, Rasel is involved with the politics of BNP and was the joint convener of the district's Holudia Union Jubo Dal unit.

Arrestee Mahtab is the gang's second-in-command. In his native town of Patuakhali, he is known as a contractor among the locals. Kawsar is also known as a contractor and a supporter of Jubo Dal's Patuakhali district unit, while Jamal and Mujibor are their associates, said detectives.

Mashiur Rahman, the deputy commissioner of DB (Lalbagh Division) under DMP, told The Daily Star that Rafiqul Islam,

On the day, two motorbikes intercepted our bus and the criminals got on board. All of a sudden, they stopped in front of me and started beating me. Other passengers were silent as they identified themselves as police.

RAFIQUL ISLAM, a victim

a trader, was going to his village home in Shariatpur from Dhaka after withdrawing Tk 41 lakh in cash from Babubazar area on October 6 last year.

On the way, a group of people, identifying themselves as policemen, stopped the bus he was travelling on in the Chunkutia area of Keranigan.

They then dragged Rafiqul out of the bus, beat him mercilessly, snatched away all his

money and promptly left the spot. A case was filed over this incident with the South Keraniganj Police Station.

"On the day, two motorbikes intercepted our bus and the criminals got on board. All of a sudden, they stopped in front of me and started beating me. Other passengers were silent as they identified themselves as police," Rafiqul told this correspondent.

"They left me alone beside the road after taking all my money," he added.

Detectives started a shadow probe into the case and were finally able to detect the gang after a month of investigation.

On November 4, last year, a DB team attempted to apprehend the gang in Old Dhaka's Sutrapur area, but they managed to flee by holding local shopkeepers at gunpoint.

However, the cops succeeded in arresting the four in a similar operation in mid-January.

Police recovered two motorbikes used for robbery, four cell phones, and Tk 11 lakh from their possession.

Asaduzzaman Mintu, chairman of the Holudia Union Parishad of the Amtoli area of Borguna, told The Daily Star that he had heard of Rasel's involvement with many criminal activities.

"He was missing from the locality for the last three to four months. We heard that he went into hiding in India or Dubai after police started looking for him," he said.

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Avian guests bid early farewell

Reduced greenery, ill-mannered visitors discourage bird migration in JU

SHEIKH TAJUL ISLAM TAJ

For decades, the Jahangirnagar University campus has been buzzing with the chirping of migratory birds at the beginning of winter every year. As many as 20-25 species of avian guests used to spend the winters on this campus after travelling thousands of miles from Serbia, Russia, Northern Mongolia, Tibet and China.

However, the university is no longer the bird haven it once was. Unplanned development, construction work, noise pollution, high-rises, irresponsible birdwatchers, and a slew of other adversities have managed to clear the university grounds of birds even before the end of winter this year.

Campus sources said thousands of ill-mannered visitors come to watch the birds every day, and often throw rocks at the birds.

Then there's the case of all the noise made by cars and battery-run rickshaws that ply around the campus which makes the birds feel even more unsafe.

Prof Adil Muhammad Khan of the university's urban and regional planning department said, "A bird flies in search of greenery. Year after year, the green environment has drawn birds to our

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INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Raise awareness on SRHR among them: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The civil society leaders and development partners should come forward to raise awareness about sexual reproductive and health rights (SRHR) in the indigenous community, said speakers at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

The seminar titled "Diversity, Indigenous People and SRHR" was organised by Indigenous Peoples Development Services (IPDS) at Folk Centre.

Tuly Labanna Mrong, coordinator of IPDS who

SRHR is an important issue for indigenous women and girls, but they are not fully aware of it. The government, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society organisations should come forward and take special measures to address SRHR issues for the indigenous community.

TULY LABANNA MRONG
Coordinator of IPDS

also presented the keynote paper, said SRHR is an important issue for indigenous women and girls, but they are not fully aware of it.

She recommended that the government, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society organisations should come forward and take special measures to address SRHR issues for the indigenous community. Sanjeeb Drong, president of IPDS, chaired the seminar while Ruhana Shama, manager, Dutch NGO Red Orange; and Anne Drong, ILO representative, were also present.

ATTACK ON NURSE

Key accused held, sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police yesterday arrested the prime accused in a case over the assault of an intern nurse at Pabna 250-bed General Hospital on Tuesday.

A broker named Saddam Hossain was arrested around 3:00am after the victim filed a case against him and 4 to 5 unidentified people on Thursday, two days after the incident.

Later, the accused was produced before a court that sent him to jail yesterday, said Kripa Shindhu Bala, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar police station.

Raja Hossain, a second-year student at Ichhamati Nursing Institute, was assaulted by Saddam on Tuesday.

According to Raja, locally influential Saddam took Tk 600 from a patient for an electrocardiogram

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500 people get free health check-ups

Faraaz Hossain Foundation holds medical camp in Nilphamari



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

More than 500 people with various health complications got a chance to consult specialised doctors free of cost at a health camp at Dangapara Kaniakhatra village in Sadar upazila of Nilphamari yesterday.

The daylong health camp was organised by Faraaz Hossain Foundation at the local Eidgah field. Since morning, there were long queues of people at the camp where the doctors provided services.

Alimuddin (65) said, "I'm suffering from diabetes for a long time... but due to poverty I could

not afford treatment. But today, I was able to consult a doctor and got medicine from them free of charge."

Monufa Begum (50), who has been suffering from asthma, echoed the same.

The camp was held commemorating Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain.

Faraaz has become an epitome of supreme sacrifice for the cause of humanity. His refusal to leave his friends during the militant attack at Gulshan's Holey Artisan Bakery on July 1, 2016 was not only an act of bravery that the world saluted but also set the burning example of

what a pristine youthful mind can do when it comes to choosing the right path at the expense of mere mortality.

A discussion was also held as part of the event.

Principal of Nilphamari Medical College Prof Md. Rabiul Islam Shah inaugurated the event where district council chairman Md Momtazul Huque was the chief guest. Md Wahiduzzaman, manager of Faraaz Hossain Foundation, also attended the programme.

Local organisation "Uddipto Tarun Foundation" provided volunteers for the medical camp.

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PRAYER TIMING					
FEBRUARY 4					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:15	5:52	7:15	
JAMAAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56	7:45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					