



A huge quantity of unbaked bricks lie damaged on the premises of a brickfield in Kotbahuria area of Tangail's Mirzapur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

# Untimely rain damages huge unbaked bricks

Affected brick kiln owners claim total extent of loss could go up to Tk 14 crore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Untimely rain for the last couple of days damaged huge quantities of unbaked bricks that were piled up in the open sky for drying at many brick kilns in different upazilas of the district.

The rain affected brick kiln owners claimed that the total extent of loss could go up to Tk 14 crore.

The non-stop rain since Thursday night damaged raw bricks at different brick kilns in 12 upazilas of the district.

Local brick kiln owners said there are 91 brickfields in operation in Mirzapur

upazila in the current brick burning season.

The rain damaged unbaked bricks in at least 82 brickfields, they claimed.

While visiting a number of brickfields at different villages in Mirzapur this correspondent saw huge quantities of raw bricks piled up inside the kilns were damaged as the rain water entered the kilns premises.

Mohammad Mokhles, owner of NSMB Bricks at Bhaora Noyapara village, told this correspondent that raw bricks, which were kept for burning, worth around Tk 12 lakh were either completely or partially

damaged by the untimely rain.

"I will have to spend an additional Tk 3 lakh to remove the damaged bricks from kiln premises. Moreover, it will take at least 10 days to go for fresh production," Mokhles said, adding that if the weather condition does not improve soon the kiln owners will face severe shortage of raw bricks.

Mohammad Awlad Hossain, owner of Hakim Brick Kiln at Dherua village under Gorai union, said he incurred a loss of about Tk 14 lakh as the rain damaged most of the raw bricks which were piled for drying.

Mirzapur Brick Kiln Owners' Association President Firoz Haider Khan claimed that on an average bricks worth around Tk 10 lakh to Tk 12 lakh were damaged in each of the rain affected brick kilns in the upazila.

Moreover, they will have to bear additional labour cost to remove the damaged bricks, he added.

Meanwhile, thousands of unbaked bricks kept for drying in around 60 brickfields in different areas of Ghatail upazila were also badly damaged due to the untimely rain, Ghatail Brick Kiln Owners' Association General Secretary Faruk Hossain said.

## Boy burnt dead while warming by fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A minor boy was burnt to death while warming himself near a fire at Char Khalilpur village in Pabna's Sujanager upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Md Masud Rana, 7, son of Abdul Mazed of the village.

Masud along with some boys were keeping themselves warm by sitting beside a fire near the house around 7:00am, said Md Shahin Chowdhury, chairman of Sagarkandi union parishad.

Suddenly, the fire caught on Masud's clothe. At the time, he sustained serious burn injuries.

Critically injured Masud later died on the way to Pabna General Hospital, said the chairman.

## Jewellery shop looted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Robbers took away gold ornaments and cash from a jewellery shop at Sathi Road in Madhupur upazila headquarters on Monday night.

Durlov Karmakar, owner of the shop, said as soon as two men in guise of buyers entered the shop around 8:00pm, a crude bomb exploded in front of the shop.

Soon after the blast, some criminals equipped with lethal weapons swopped on the shop and beat him up with iron rod, said Durlov.

Later, the gang took away all the gold ornaments and Tk 65,000 from the shop and fled the scene blasting several bombs.

On information, police visited the spot.

Tarek Kamal, officer-in-charge of Madhupur Police Station, said they were raiding different areas to arrest the robbers.

## Four to die for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A court here on Monday sentenced four men to death for killing a businessman in 2014.

The convicts are Nuru Mia, Ziaul Haque, Lokman Khan and Qadir Hossain of Brahmanbaria's Nabinagar upazila. Of them, Nuru, Lokman and Quadir were tried in absentia.

According to the prosecution, Abdul Hannan Bahar, 45, used to run wholesale cosmetics business in Old Dhaka's Chawkbazar area. Retailers used to buy products from him on credit before Eid festivals.

In 2014, Hannan went to convict Lokman's shop in Bangara area of Cumilla's Muradnagar upazila to collect his dues.

Later, Lokman asked Hannan to come to the house of his in-laws in Bramanbaria's Banchharampur upazila. Lokman and his accomplices then threw him into the Titas river and fled the scene.

Two day after the incident, police recovered the body from the river.

The victim's brother later filed a murder case with Banchharampur Model Police Station.

After examining witnesses and evidence, District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Safiul Azam found the four guilty and pronounced the verdict.

ATTACK ON 4 JOURNOS IN BHUAPUR

# Agitation on for arrest of main culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Demanding arrest of perpetrators who led Thursday's attack on four journalists in Bhuapur upazila, journalists from different media outlets yesterday formed separate human chains in Tangail.

One human chain was formed in Elega Bus Stand area while the other was formed on Tangail-Bangabandhu Bridge highway.

Speakers at both the human chains alleged that although five days have passed after the incident, Fazal Mondol, the prime accused, and his accomplices are yet to be arrested.

They warned of launching tougher agitation programmes unless Fazal and his accomplices are arrested within 24 hours.

On Thursday afternoon, four journalists were attacked by gamblers in Govindasi area of Bhuapur where the former went to cover a news event on gambling.

The injured journalists are Soheli Talukder, Tangail correspondent of private television channel DBC; Ashikur Rahman, camera person of DBC; Ovijit Ghosh, Bhuapur upazila correspondent of Daily Ittefaq; and Mohaimenul Islam, local

correspondent of Daily Ekusher Bani. Two of them were injured seriously.

Soheli Talukder, one of the injured, filed a case with Bhuapur Police Station the same night, accusing eight identified and 30 other unidentified attackers.

Rashidul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, said till early Friday, they arrested four of the accused -- Samad, Salam, Ramzan and Razzak. The arrestees were sent to jail on Saturday after one-day remands of each expired.

Police teams were carrying out drives at different locations to arrest the other accused, he added.

**HUMAN CHAIN FOR JAMALPUR JOURNO**

Meanwhile, in Jamalpur town yesterday morning, speakers at a human chain demanded immediate arrest of all the accused who attacked and injured journalist Shelu Akanda on December 18, 2019.

The hour-long programme, organised by Apex Club of Jamalpur, was held at Dayamoyee intersection in the town where a good number of people including local journalists and rights activists gathered, reports

our Jamalpur correspondent.

Shelu Akanda is undergoing treatment at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in Dhaka.

On the night of December 18, when Shelu went out for a walk in the town's Dewanpara area, a group of criminals led by Rakib Khan -- religious affairs secretary of Tangail district unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League and son of Jamalpur municipality Ward Councillor Hasanuzzaman Khan Runu -- attacked him with iron rods and broke both his legs, alleged the speakers.

Shelu's elder brother Delwar Hossain Akanda filed a case in this connection with Jamalpur Sadar Police Station, accusing six people including Rakib and his father.

Four of the accused, including the councillor, are still on the loose.

Shelu is the key witness in a case filed over the assault on another journalist in September of 2018. Rakib's father Hasanuzzaman is the prime accused in the case.

Shelu was attacked as he testified against Hasanuzzaman, said Shelu's brother Delwar.



People of Bamongaon village in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila caught this wild cat from a nearby jungle yesterday. The wild species is now under the supervision of Kalmakanda Upazila Livestock Officer Dr Md Faruq Hossain.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# 'What would she do with education?'

Insulting remarks made by headteacher of a government school drive disabled student away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

"You can carry a sack of paddy; then why can't you carry your daughter upstairs [to the classroom]?"

"How could you bring such a physically challenged girl to school? What would she do with education?"

These were the questions Haidar Ali, the headteacher of Monirampur Government Girls' High School in Jashore, asked the mother of Litun Jira, the disabled girl who secured GPA-5 in the last Primary Education Completion examinations in Monirampur upazila.

Seeing her mother mistreated by the man, Litun finally took admission at Gopalpur School and College near her house.

Born to Habibur Rahman and Jahanara Begum in Sheikhpura Khanpur village in the upazila,



Litun Jira

Litun, 12, took PEC exams last year from Khanpur Government Primary School. She writes holding the pen in her mouth as she was born without any functioning limbs.

The incident of the headteacher's misconduct took place on December 23 when Litun, in her wheel chair,

took her mother to the government school for taking admission test. Her good grades in the PEC exams made her eligible for admission test at the high school.

Haidar Ali made the insulting comments in front of the young student after her mother requested for special arrangements on the ground floor of the school after finding out that Litun's test was being held on the upper floor of the school.

Although she wanted to test her competency in the admission test at the government high school, the school's headteacher's shocking and degrading remarks compelled her to opt for a different school.

However, Haidar Ali refuted the allegations made against him, saying that he was not sure why the girl refused to take admission test at his school.



Yesterday's human chain of journalists in Elega Bus Stand area of Tangail town.

PHOTO: COLLECTED