

# From darkness to light

## Sex workers' children being educated and trained in Jessore to have normal life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Born in the dark world, they can now dream of education like other children and have a normal life in society.

These ill-fated children have at last got a shelter where they are growing with all amenities.

Gagorani Chakra Foundation (GCF), an NGO based at Jessore, has arranged shelter and education for children born to sex workers.

The GCF started the three-year project titled Human Rights for Brothel Children and their Mothers in March 2002 with financial assistance from the European Commission and TVH, Italy.

The project includes programmes for their upbringing, treatment, education and ensuring human rights.

They now live in a two-storied building built on 25 kathas of land in Arabpur area of Jessore town. There are classrooms, bedrooms, a cultural centre, a hall room and a guestroom in the building.

They also play on the open field and grow vegetables and flowers on the compound.

Though the project was taken up for children of Jessore brothels, it has been expanded to cover children from brothels in Magura, Pultala and Khulna.

The complex now accommodates 178 children -- 95 boys and 83 girls --, brought from darkness to light. Of them, 58 including 30 boys and 28 girls are residents there.

Their mothers can visit their children everyday during visiting hour.

Twenty-seven including 22 female workers have been employed for nursing, feeding, educating and

giving medical treatment to sick ones.

Activities under the project also include vocational training and employment to the grown-up children, giving medicare service and legal aid to their mothers to ensure human rights, holding community meetings with the local elite, guardians' meeting, ensuring social justice and preparing reports on rights of sex workers.

Talking to this correspondent, JCF Director Azadul Kabir Arju said, "We had to face so many obstacles in implementing the project. Even

their mothers created problems at the initial stage. Now we face less trouble".

Manager of the project said children from six months to 14 years are getting all facilities there, including entertainment. The children get education up to class five. When they are promoted to class six, they are admitted to other schools. They are no more neglected.

These children go to the Shahid Miner with flowers on the Shaheed Day on February 21. They go to Eidgah and mosque for prayers, wearing punjabi, pajama and cap.

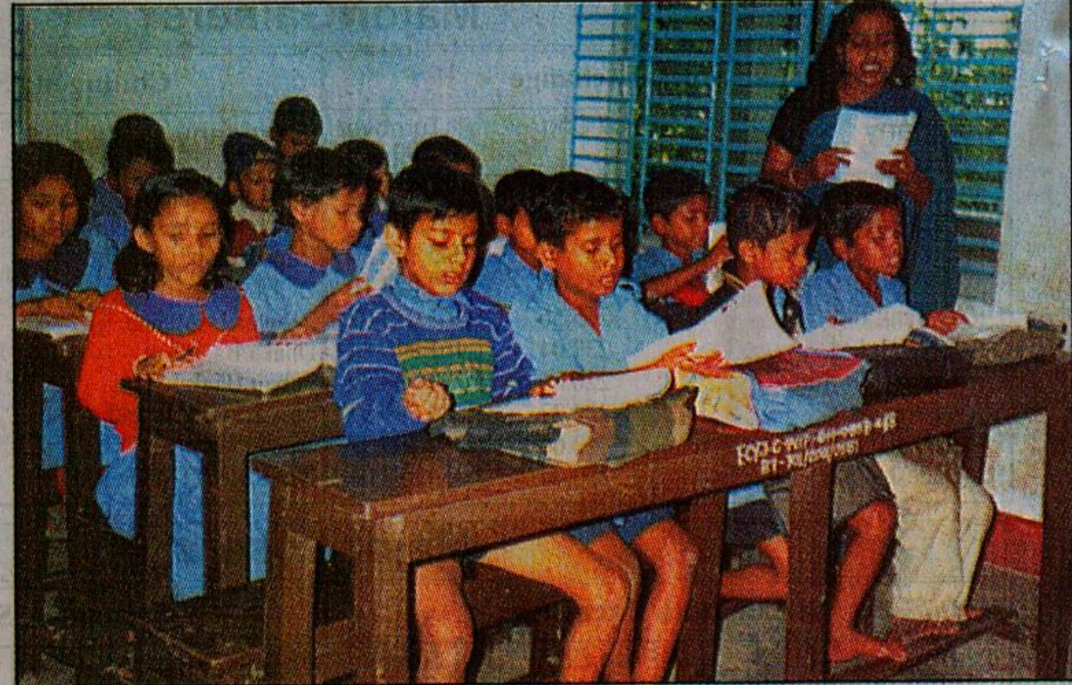
The Imam of the mosque teach them Arabic and the holy Quran. "He (Imam) sometimes comes to the complex and praise the project officials for their noble work.

"Though they are born in dark lane, they are innocent. It is the greatest virtue to bring them up," the manager quoting the Imam as saying.

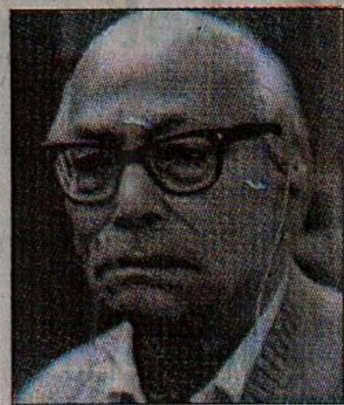
This correspondent found good spirit among the inmates.

"I do not like the profession of my mother. I want to grow as other children", said 10-year-old Laboni.

We want to grow as good human beings, said Biplab and Rana



A classroom at the complex run by Gagorani Chakra Foundation.



## Moni Mela begins at Durgapur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A weeklong Moni Mela began at Susong Durgapur, marking the 4th death anniversary of Comrade Moni Singh, founder of Communist Party of Bangladesh and adviser to the provisional government of Bangladesh during the Liberation War.

The programme, attended by communist leaders and people from all strata of life, began with placing floral wreaths at the Tong Memorial that commemorates the supreme sacrifices of people in the Tong movement launched by Moni Singh to realise land rights of the landless.

It was followed by a colourful procession. People carrying banners and portraits of Moni Singh paraded the Durgapur pourasabha area, chanting various slogans for government land to the landless and ensuring workers' rights.

A discussion meeting presided over by Moni Singh's son Dr Dibalok Singh highlighted the sacrifices of the great leader for realising rights of the toiling masses. The day's programmes concluded with a cultural function participated by artists of Udichi Shilpi Goshti from Dhaka.

The week-long programme includes discussion meetings, drama and cultural functions and an eye camp. Handicrafts and other fashionable articles made in rural areas drew a large crowd in the fair.



Scenic rural Bangladesh in winter...Vast yellow mustard fields are common sights now. The photo was taken from Natua Para in Jessore Sadar upazila on Thursday.

# Sylhet blasts: Face-saving probe by lone IO

## Boy killed in bomb blast in cinema may be shown as prime accused!

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The CID could not find any significant clue to any of the six incidents of bomb and grenade blast in Sylhet city last year, that killed 12 and injured over 100 people.

However, officials claimed that investigation is in progress and it is nearing completion in at least one case.

Charge sheet in the twin blast in cinemas will be submitted soon, they said.

The much talked about incidents include the bomb blast at the shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) during Urs in January 12, grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury after Juma prayer on May 21, bomb blast at the meeting of Awami League (AL) stalwart Suranjit Sengupta MP in Sunamganj on June 21, grenade blast at a meeting of city AL on the night of August 7 and blasts in two cinemas in the city on August 5.

Those killed included a Sub-Inspector, an AL leader and a party activist and a street urchin.

Five of the six cases were transferred to CID (Criminal Investigation department), now being probed by an ASB engaged on a two-year contract after expiry of LPR (leave preparatory to retirement). This raised questions in the police department, sources said.

Police arrested at least 50 people in the January 12 Shahjalal shrine blast case, but failed to make any significant clue. Later, the case was

transferred to CID.

Police picked up 30 people after the May 21 grenade blast that killed Sub Inspector Kamal Uddin and injured 70 people including the British High Commissioner, but could not make any headway in the probe.

Investigators from Scotland Yard visited the shrine several times. The then Police Superintendent was suspended and withdrawn from Sylhet on charge of negligence in duty during the British High Commissioner's visit to the shrine.

The Investigation Officer made trips to Singapore and London to quiz an injured person being treated there. But nothing significant was found.

Street urchin Shahad, 11, was killed in Rangmohal cinema hall blast in the city on the night of August 5.

Police are preparing to show the 11-year boy as the carrier of the bomb and prime accused in the incident. The charge sheet will be soon, said an official.

Soleman, believed to be the bomb carrier in the other cinema blast incident is now a crippled man from injuries.

The CID interrogated at least 60 people including Awami League leaders and activists in connection with the grenade blast at a sports car on the premises of Gulshan Centre on the night of August 7.

The blast took place minutes after the departure of city Mayor and

AL leader Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran following a party meeting there. Ibrahim Ali, city AL Publicity Secretary and a close associate of the Mayor and 30 others were seriously injured in the blast.

On the other hand, police took AL leader and Bangladeshi expatriate SM Nunu Miah into custody immediately after the blast. Police allegedly tortured him. Nunu was later released at the intervention of British MP Oona King, who came on an ashort trip to Bangladesh.

AL later alleged there had been attempts to implicate party leaders and activists in the incident.

## Patuakhali BCL stages 2-hour hunger strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali district unit of Chhatra League (BCL) staged a two-hour token hunger strike in front of press club demanding withdrawal of cases filed against one of their leaders on Thursday.

The leader is former secretary of the party, Monirul Islam Khokon. BCL leaders Jahangir Hossain, Jahiruddin and others addressed there.

About a dozen cases were filed against Khokon by the ruling alliance.

## Joint survey resolves border dispute

### WDB starts Atrai retirement work today in Dinajpur

BSS, Mohanpur (Dinajpur)

The dispute between Bangladesh and India over construction of a revetment on the bank of Atrai river in Mohanpur border in the district has been resolved following a joint Indo-Bangla border survey.

According to BDR sources, officials from the two countries began the survey on December 25.

Work on the 287-metre revetment by Water Develop Bank (WDB) will begin today, the sources said yesterday. It will cost Tk 50 lakh.

The revetment will save four villages and Mohanpur outpost of BDR from erosion by the Atrai River.

WDB officials have been asked to complete the work before the next rainy season.

## Know labour laws before starting agitation

### Leaders told at Satkhira BILS seminar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a two-day seminar that concluded here yesterday called upon workers to unite to realise their rights allowed by labour laws and industrial laws.

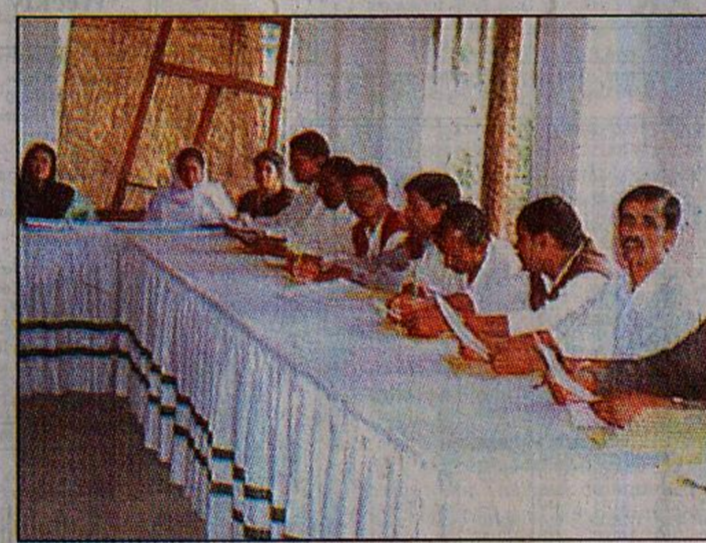
The seminar on "Labour Rights and Labour Laws", was organised by the Satkhira chapter of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS).

Held at Satkhira Unnayan Kendra in the town with BILS Co-ordinator Sheikh Harun-ur-Rashid in the chair, it was addressed by, among others, journalists Anisur Rahim, Abu Ahmed and Subhash Chowdhury, lawyer Abul Kalam Azad, labour leaders Rabeya Sattar and Shahabur Rahman.

They said workers' movements at times fail because labour leaders are not well aware of industrial and labour laws.

They should be well aware of the country's Constitutional, ILO Convention-87 and 98, Universal Human Rights Declaration and industrial and labour laws.

They also advised the labour leaders to help maintain congenial atmosphere at working places. Realising rights does not always mean random agitation, they said.



A partial view of the seminar on Labour Rights and Labour laws held by BILS.

## AK-47s among 40 modern arms seized in Bandarban last yr

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Army and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in joint drives recovered 22 AK-47 assault rifles, eight light machine guns (LMG) and sten guns, three M-16 rifles, seven semi-machine guns (SMG), three foreign made 9mm pistols, 24 guns, ten 303 rifles and huge

ammunition and combat equipment from different parts of Bangladesh-Myanmar border last year.

Army personnel also recovered one rocket launcher and 24,585 rounds of ammunition of different weapons. Of the recovered bullets 11,367 rounds were of AK-47 rifle, 3,206 rounds of M-16 rifles and 5,260 pistol bullets.

Recovered arms and ammunition were smuggled in with the purpose of operating insurgencies and destructive activities.

Most of the arms and ammunition were recovered during the period of late October and November. Same type of arms was

also recovered in last two years.

Security officials are in a dilemma as there is no source of origin and they could not arrest anyone.

In the biggest ever arms haul in the area on November 30, the security officials recovered eight AK-47 rifles, eight LMGs and 4,630 rounds of ammunition from Jarulachori in Naikhongchhori upazila.

Armed forces officials recovered seven AK-47 rifles, two M-16 rifles, one point 22 bore rifle, two 12 bolt shotguns, one automatic rifle and huge ammunitions from Techori area on November 23.

## SNAPS

### Tk 6 lakh Indian garment accessories seized

BSS, Chuadanga

A BDR patrol team seized Indian smuggled garment accessories worth Tk six lakh from a truck on the Dehati-Kaliganj road in Jibannagar upazila on Monday. The seized goods included ornamenting and embroidery materials of garment like puiti, chumki, kundon, stones etc. The driver and smugglers fled away.

### Urs at Shah Jalal shrine begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A two-day 685th annual Urs of great Muslim saint Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) begins at his shrine in Sylhet city today amid light security. The programme includes placing of Gilaf (cover) over the Mazar, Qurankhuni, Faleha Khwani and Zikr. Traditionally, thousands of people from all over the country attend the annual event.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Roads and Highways Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Road Division, Bhola

Memo No. 2825

Date: 22-12-2004 Eng

### RHD Tender Corrigendum Notice

RHD, Road Division, Bhola Tender Notice No. 10/Bho.RD/2004-2005 Eng. have been invited vide this office Memo No-2595 dated: 25-11-2004 Eng. Now the tenders mentioned above have been further revived and made the following amendments due to unavoidable circumstances.

Tender Notice No.	17	Tender last selling date	06-01-2005 Eng instead of 26-12-2004 Eng.	Up to office hours.
10/Bho.RD/2004-2005 Eng	18	Tenders closing date & time	10-01-2005 Eng instead of 29-12-2004 Eng.	12-30 PM
	19	Tender opening date & time	10-01-2005 Eng instead of 29-12-2004 Eng.	3.30 PM
	20	Name and address of the office receiving tender document	Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Bhola instead of Superintending Engineer, RHD Road Circle, Barisal/Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Bhola.	

It shall be part of the tender documents & shall be enclosed with the tender documents at the time of submission of the tenders by the tenderers. This corrigendum notice shall become part of the contract agreement & it will be issued free of cost to all tenderers.

Subodh Kumar Sarkar  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Bhola

DFP-31239-27/12/04  
G-1312

## Export, import stop at Bhomra port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The government is incurring a great loss due to stoppage of export and import activities at Bhomra Land Port in Sadar upazila from Thursday.

Arrest of a staff of Allar Dan Clearing and Forwarding Agent (C&F) at Bhomra port by members of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has led to the situation.

The arrested person is Abdul Hamid. He was arrested when he went to Ghojadanga Land Port in India opposite to Bhomra land for profession work, according to Bhomra C&F agent sources.

The BSF action infuriated the officials and staff of C&F agents at Bhomra and they stopped their activities.

Later, BSF released him but activities of the land port remained suspended.

At least eleven trucks loaded with exportable fishes returned from the port, C&F agent sources said. Over 50 trucks loaded with perishable goods were waiting at Ghojadanga port to enter Bhomra port, sources further said.

No initiative was taken to resume port activities.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District-Chapainawabganj

Memo No-LGED/XEN/C:Nab/3117 Date: 19/12/2004

### Invitation for Tender (IFT)

**Tender Notice Number: 12/2004-05**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned list of works of Chapainawabganj district under Greater Bogra, Rajshahi & Pabna District Abokathamo Unnayan Project as per terms and conditions stated below:

Gr No	Name of contract	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion (days)	Price of tender documents (Tk)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Improvement of road from Omarpur Ghat Pucca Road to Hazaribighi Madrassah Bazar (Via Koyladiar High School), (Ch 0.00m to 866.00m) under Shibganj upazila.	55,000.00	90	750.00
2.	Improvement of road from Paikortola Pucca Road of Raninagar Hangami village Mour to Thutapara (Via Gopalpur Ghat), (Ch 0.00m to 866.00m) under Shibganj upazila.	55,000.00	90	750.00
3.	Improvement of road from Regional Highway at Moshaque Sarker's Mour Pucca Road to Pucca Road at Bholahat Govt Primary School, (Ch 700.00m to 1532.00m) under Shibganj upazila.	55,000.00	90	750.00

- Last date, time and places of selling tender documents : 08-02-2005, 4:00 PM and  
a) Office of the undersigned.  
b) Office of the Upazila Engineer, LGED, Sadar/Shibganj/Gomastapur/Bholahat/Nachole, District: Chapainawabganj.  
c) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chapainawabganj.  
d) Office of the Project Director, Greater Bogra, Rajshahi & Pabna District Abokathamo Unnayan Project, LGED, Dhaka.
- Last date, time and places of receiving tender : 09-02-2005, 12:00 Noon  
a) Office of the undersigned.  
b) Office of the Upazila Engineer, LGED, Sadar/Shibganj/Gomastapur/Nachole, District: Chapainawabganj.  
c) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chapainawabganj.
- Date, time and place of opening of tender : 09-02-2005, 3:00 PM, office of the undersigned.
- Tender shall be valid for a period of 119 days after bid opening and interested tenderer may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned and purchase the tender documents on payment of fixed price respectively in Cash/Treasury Chalan/Bank Draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders.
- Tender must be accompanied by tender security as mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Syed Shafiqul Alam  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Chapainawabganj

DFP-31127-24/12/04  
G-1309