

# Teaching on sub-contract!

## 9 including 2 headmasters suspended in Nilphamari for engaging unqualified teachers on their behalf

**EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari**

They were primary school teachers but seldom went to school. They hired some unqualified people to take classes on their behalf.

Nine such teachers including two headmasters of three government primary schools in Dimla upazila have been suspended by the District Primary Education Department (DPED) for such gross neglect to duty.

There may be more such teachers in some other government primary schools, sources at the DPED told this correspondent.

The suspended teachers are headmaster Tofael Ahmed and teachers Abdul Ali and Ruhul Amin of Moddho Khalisha Government Primary School, headmaster Yakub Ali, Abdullah Chowdhury and Taimur Rahman of East Kharibari Government Primary school and Rozina Akhtar, Ansar Ali and Abu Taher of Tepa Kharibari No. 2 Government Primary School.

They engaged nine unqualified people to take classes in exchange of monthly salaries ranging from Tk 500 to 1000, the sources said.

The nine teachers are linked with political parties. They could not make time to go to their school as they also were either involved in NGO activities or businesses.

They were suspended after investigation following complaints by local people, the sources said.

"They had been doing this practice for 10-12 years. This was within the knowledge of the TEO (Thana Education Officer)", one source said seeking anonymity.

A news item regarding the irregularities was published in a local newspaper, which awoke DPED officials. Tougher punishment for the nine teachers is in process, the sources said.

An NGO-- Campaign for Assistance, Mobility and Promotion (CAMP)-- recently conducted a survey in a number of primary schools in the district. In a report it said teachers of many

primary schools do not come to their schools regularly. They are involved in other works. Some teachers come to school once a month to put signature in the attendance register only to ensure salary.

The survey also revealed that in many schools, influential teachers have understanding with the headmaster.

They place leave application in advance to the headmaster without putting the date. It any inspector comes, the headmaster puts date on the application and shows it to the inspector.

In certain cases, the school managing committee also knows the gross irregularities.

The NGO survey also revealed that in many schools, students are fewer than on roll. This is done only to keep registration of the school and draw stipend money.

An official at the DPED office admitted that there are such irregularities in some government primary schools. Some schools were

punished last month for irregularities in drawing stipend.

The schools are Kisamat Dhaigan Abdul Mojib Government Primary School in Kishoregang upazila, Golmunda Government Primary School in Jaldhaka upazila, Mouja Sholmari Government Primary School in Jaldhaka upazila and Chaura Government Primary School of Saidpur upazila.

This correspondent contacted DPEO Abdus Sattar Sarkar. He admitted that there are irregularities in his department.

"We are taking action after investigation", he said.

But he rejected the survey report of the NGO. "They want to please their donors by highlighting their activities and tarnishing our image".

He however said, in the district, there are only 26 ATEO's and it is very difficult for them to inspect all government primary schools and 439 registered non-government primary schools in the district.



PHOTO: STAR

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) , joined by about 200 colleagues from northern districts, brought out a procession and held a rally in Bogra yesterday protesting murder and harassment of newsmen across the country.

## 2 killed in Comilla road mishap

**A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla**

Two persons were killed and two others injured in a road accident at Nulbag in Comilla Sadar upazila on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Tuesday.

The deceased are Yunus Mia ,32, son Charu Mia and an unidentified person while the injured persons are Habibur Abdul Majid of 11 Rifle Battalion, Kotbari and Md Siraj of Jhenida.

The accident occurred when a microbus carrying newspapers from the capital collided head-on with a loaded truck killing a victim on the spot, according to police. The other unidentified victim died at Comilla Medical College Hospital (CMCH). The injured persons are taking treatment at CMCH. Police seized the truck and the microbus.

## Protest in Bogra against murder, harassment of journalists

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra**

Three journalists' associations yesterday held a rally and brought out a procession in Bogra town protesting filing of 'false case' against journalist Hasibur Rahman Bilu, attack on photo journalist Bimu Rahman and police failure to identify the killers of Dipankar Chakraborti, vice-president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) in Bogra.

At the rally organised jointly by Bogra Union of Journalists (BUJ), Bogra Reporters Forum (BRF) and Uttaranchal Federal Journalists Parishad (UFJP), journalist leaders decided to form a human chain from 11:00am to 12:00 in all northern districts on

June 1.

The rally, presided over by BUJ President Akhtaruzzaman, also decided to boycott news of Noor Afroze Begum Jyoti, President of Bogra unit of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, for filing a "false case" against Hasibur Rahman Bilu, Bogra Correspondent of The Daily Sangbad.

Speaking as chief guest, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said his union will always be with journalists in any movement against repression and harassment of journalists.

BFUJ General Secretary Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul announced that they would hold a

grand rally in Dhaka in protest against repression on journalists in the country.

The Daily Uttarbarta Editor Mahbub-ul-Alam Tokon, Bogra Bar Association President Mir Iqbal Hossain, General Secretary Al Mahmood, Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad President Dr Mostafa Alam Nannu, UFJP President Towhidur Rahman Manik, Bogra Reporters Forum Convenor Hasibur Rahman Bilu and Bogra unit coordinator of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Sadrul Anam Ranj also spoke at the rally.

More than 200 journalists from different northern districts attended the protest programme.

## 4 get life for Bagerhat AL leader murder

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

A court here on Tuesday sentenced four persons to suffer life imprisonment for murdering Awami League (AL) leader and Baintala Union Parishad (UP) chairman Sardar Habibur Rahman of Rampal upazila in Bagerhat district.

Four convicts are Shaikh Mohammad Ali, Shaikh Zakir, Mukto Shaikh and Ruhul Amin Gulder. Three of them were tried in absentia while Mohammad Ali is in jail.

The court also fined each of them Tk 30,000, in default, to suffer three years' imprisonment more.

The victim was murdered in bomb and gun attacks by the convicts while taking tea at a restaurant at Sarafpur crossing at 8:30pm on June 2, 2003.

Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge MA Samad delivered the judgement.

## 72-hr transport strike in greater Mymensingh threatened

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

The transport owners' associations of Mymensingh region have threatened a 72-hour transport strike from 6 am tomorrow if their demand for halting of plying BRTC buses and locally-manufactured transport vehicles like Nasimon, Karimon, trolley and Bhatbati on Sherpur-Netrakona-Kishoreganj-Tarail and Dhulaura roads is not met by today.

The decision was announced at a press conference held at Mymensingh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) office under the banner of greater Mymensingh Transport Owners' Oikya Parishad on Monday.

It was addressed by transport leaders like AKM Shamsuddin, Atiqul Haque Khan, Lutfur Rahman Mohan, Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan, Suraj Ahmed, Shamsuzzaman Rana, Jahangir Alam, Osman Ali and Mir Latifur Rahman.

They also demanded immediate withdrawal of 'false cases' against Sherpur Transport Workers' Union president Shahidul Islam.

## 'Snatcher' lynched

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore**

An alleged snatcher was lynched in Barandipara Mandartala area of Jessore town early morning yesterday.

Police identified the victim as Babu Mollah, 28, son of Abul Mollah. Shahidul Islam, a fruit seller of Sheikhhati area on the outskirts of Jessore town, got down from a night coach coming from Dhaka at the old bus terminal at about 4.30 am Wednesday.

While going home in a rickshaw, he was intercepted by a gang of four muggers at Barandipara Mandartala.

The muggers led by Babu hit Shahidul on the head and snatched Tk 12,000 from him, As Shahidul Islam raised a hue and cry, local people rushed to the spot, caught and beat Babu. He died on the spot. His accomplices managed to escape.

## A little help does a lot for Rokeya

**STAR NATIONAL DESK**

Rokeya Khatun is one of many poor women in Hadipur village in Satkhira district who changed life by hard work.

She dropped out of school when she was a student of class ten. She faced hard days after her school-teacher husband Abdus Samad lost his job.

She enlisted herself under 'Institution Building & Income Generation (IBI) Project' launched at the village by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). After training, she took a loan and bought 300 chickens and sold them at a profit of Tk 3,000. She then purchased a cow. It was a turning point in her life. She learned the skill by reading books on poultry and livestock rearing at Ganokenra at her village.

She increased her chicks from 300 to 1,500. She also bought two milch cows, each producing six litres of milk daily. She sold the milk at Tk 20 per litre.

Rokeya now dreams of a small dairy farm with at least 10 cows. It is a dream not far out of reach for a struggling woman like her.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission president and chief executive Kazi Rafiqul Alam recently told The Daily Star that the IBI project began in 1983, aiming to create self-employment for the rural poor through income generating activities. "The special feature of the IBI programme is that it is not merely a micro-credit programme, rather we try to bring a qualitative change to poor people's lives through education", he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Rokeya Khatun at Hadipur village in Satkhira earns Tk 400 a day from her three milch cows.



PHOTO: STAR

People from different professions joined a three-hour token hunger strike at Shaheb Bazar in Rajshahi city, organised by Sammilito Shangkritik Jote on Tuesday.

## ‘Identify killers of Mili or face tougher agitation’

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

The Sammilito Shangkritik Jote here organised a three-hour token hunger strike at Shaheb Bazar Zero Point in the city Tuesday afternoon for punishment of the rapists and killers of schoolgirl Mili.

The demonstrators demanded speedy trial of the case.

In the last few days, demonstrations for the trial drew people from all walks of life including professionals, NGO workers, human rights activists and journalists, besides hundreds of school students.

The Jote's Rajshahi unit president, Dr Shafiqul Alam, chaired a rally held during yesterday's hunger strike.

Language movement veteran Golam Arif Tipu, engineer Tajul Islam,

Teachers' body leader Shafiur Rahman, columnist Proshanta Saha, lawyer Entajul Haque, senior journalist Mustafizur Rahman Khan Alam, Barendra Unnayan Forum Director Fayeazul Chowdhury, AK Azad and Quamruzzaman addressed the rally, among others.

The speakers expressed grave concern over alleged police indifference to identify the killers and said a tough agitation will be built for arrest and punishment of the killers.

They also deplored alleged indifference of political leaders and police officials for trial of the incident. They also alleged that some ruling party men have a hand behind the alleged police negligence.

They said, police are trying to hush up the Mili rape and murder case also, the speakers alleged.

Mafroza Begum Mili, 11 year-old student of class V at PN Government High School, was raped and killed at their rented house on May 3.

Her father Mansur Rahman Mollah, an instructor at Rajshahi Postal Academy, filed a case accusing Fazle Rabbi Rion, son of the house owner, his relative Saiduzzaman Minar and neighbour Fazlur Rahman, an employee of Power Development Board.

Police earlier said they interrogated the accused persons by taking them on remand thrice but could not gather any information from them.

"We have circumstantial evidences, not their confession. If we can get chemical report on elements found on the victim's body, the mystery would be solved easily", said SI Akhtar.

## INDUSTRIALIST ALAUDDIN MURDER IN SATKHIRA Case to resume after 8 yrs

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a High Court order to quash the SMAlauddin murder case, according to a message received here yesterday.

Freedom fighter, industrialist and journalist Alauddin was shot dead by miscreants on the night of June 19, 1996 while he was working at the office of Patradut, a local Bangla daily. He was the editor of the daily.

The SC also sent the case to Satkhira District Judge's court for trial.

After Alauddin's murder, his younger brother SM Nasir Uddin filed a case with Satkhira thana. Police had arrested Juba League activist Saiful Islam from his residence at Sultanpur in the town and recovered the cut rifle used in the murder.

The accused had made a confessional statement before a First Class Magistrate's court at Satkhira and disclosed the murder plan along with names of the persons involved.

The case was transferred to Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

CID ASP Iqbal Hossain, IO of the case, submitted a charge sheet accusing nine people.

The chargesheeted accused are Abdus Sabur of Alipur village, Khalilullah Jhharu and his two brothers Saifullah Kislu and Momin Ullah Mohon, Eskendar Mirza and Atiar Rahman of Sultanpur, Abul Kalam of Kamalnagar in the town and Nagarghata UP Chairman Abdur Rouf and Safiur Rahman in Tala upazila.

Abdus Sabur, Khalilullah Jhharu, and Abul Kalams surrendered to court on July 26, 1999.

After hearing, the court denied them bail and sent them to jail.

Later, they obtained bail from High Court and were released.

They then filed a writ petition to the High Court praying for quashing the case. The High Court granted the appeal.

But the Attorney General submitted a petition to the Appellate Division against the HC order.

The case will now be tried after eight years.

Alauddin's murder evoked a sharp reaction from all sections of people, who had staged demonstrations for the trial.

Alauddin was an elected a member of Ganoparishad (constituent assembly in 1972), president of Satkhira Chamber of Commerce and Industries and of Satkhira Truck Owners Association.

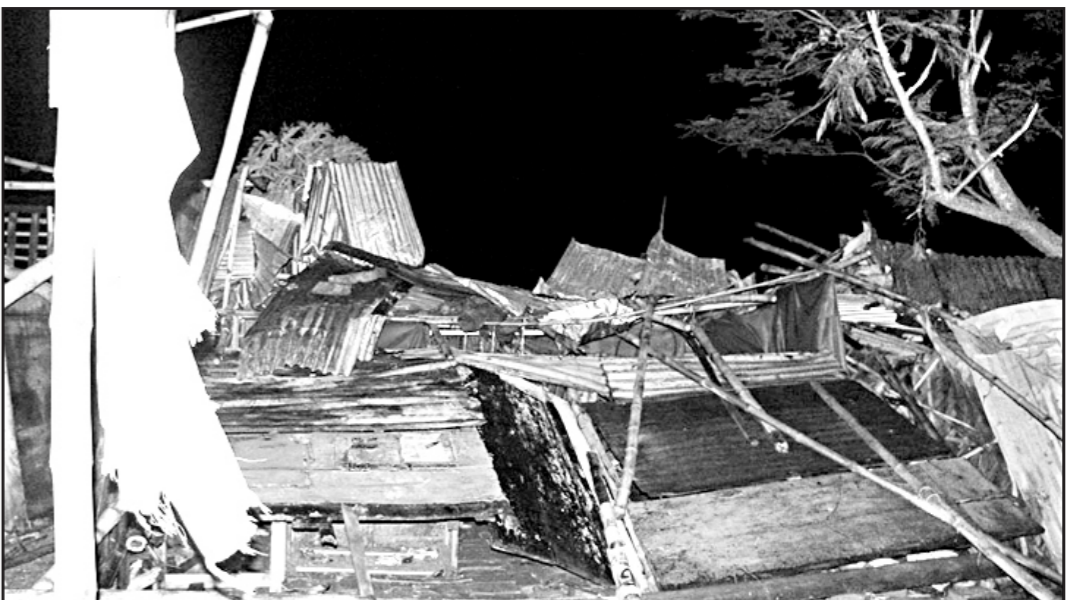


PHOTO: STAR

Tuesday's nor'wester in Natore turned houses into twisted tin scraps. The photo was taken from Amgachi village.

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