

Protests against 'madrasa' on temple land continue

Dinajpur DC terms leasing illegal, promises steps to recover Kantajieu Temple's land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Protests continue as 'madrasa rooms' illegally built on the deity land of historic Kantajieu Mandir, in Birganj upazila in the district, are yet to be removed.

Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner Md Nabiul Haque Mollah, who is also chief of the Trustee Board on Kantajieu Temple Deity Land, at a meeting on the deity land yesterday said 'permanent leasing' of the deity land is illegal.

"I will write to the Ministry of Land urging cancellation of the 'leasing deal' within two or three days if the land code does not give me power to cancel it," he said at the meeting presided over by himself.

On January 16, some people put corrugated iron sheets and bamboos on the deity land and hung a signboard in the name of Shantibagh Alhera Nurani Talimul Quran Madrasa there.

On January 28, they built three rooms on the temple land under police protection although they did not have any valid land documents, locals said.

Since then tension prevails in the area triggering series of protests.

Dinajpur Chapter of World Hindu Federation, Human Right Congress For Bangladesh Minorities and Hindu Dharma Kalyan Trust yesterday brought out a silent procession demanding immediate steps to recover the grabbed deity land.

According to the records of Birganj land office, Maharaja Jagadish Chandra Roy, son of Maharaja Girijanath Roy

Bahadur, donated 16.53 acres of land to lord Kantajieu at Makrai under Birganj upazila as deity land of Kantajieu Temple.

Records of Birganj upazila land office say that at least 85 decimals of 16.53 acres land was permanently leased out to Mohammad Nuhu of village

Makrai under Birganj upazila in 1978-79.

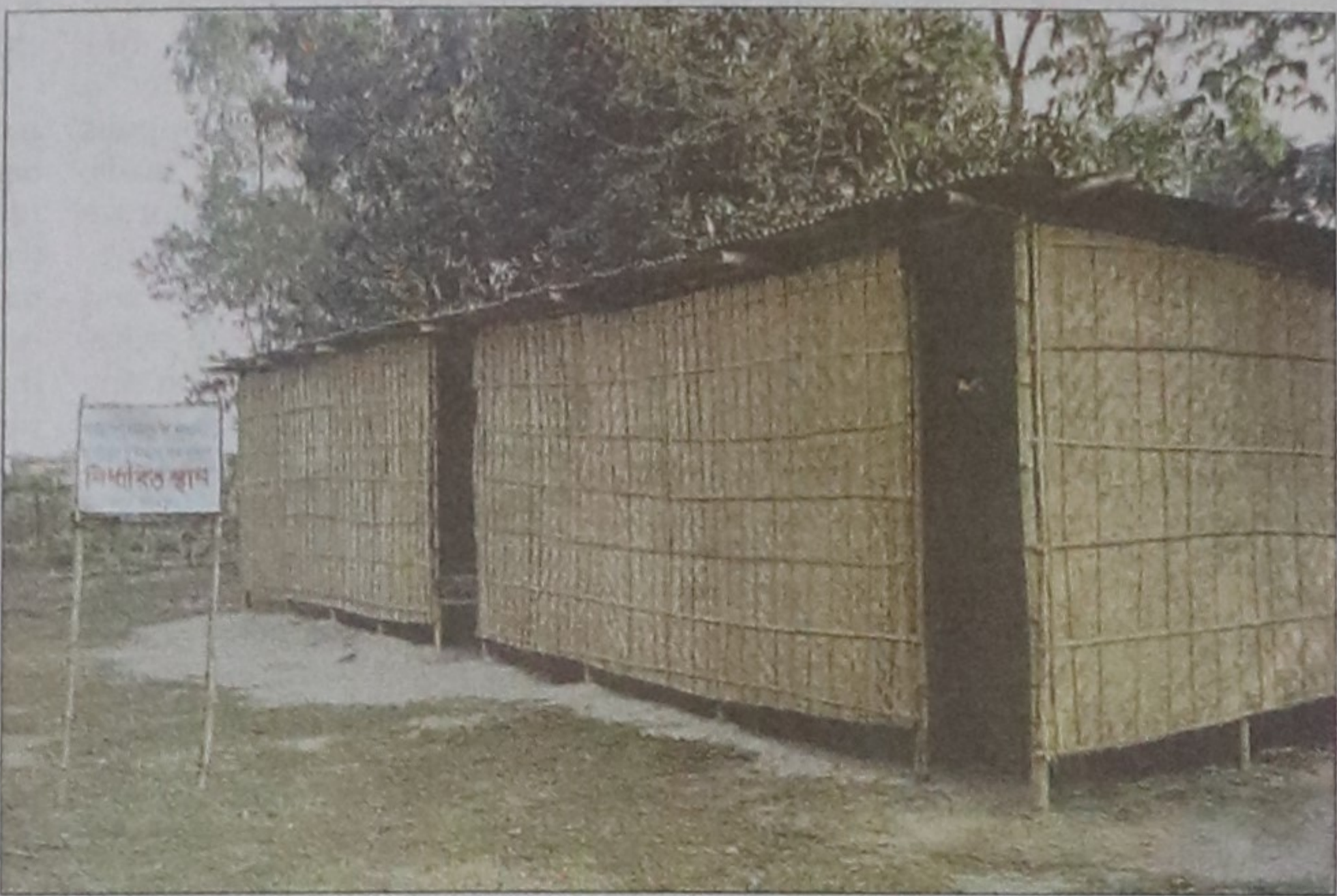
Md Shiddiquil Alam, president of the madrasa committee, said they purchased the land from Nuhu in 2007 but the land has not been registered due to complexities regarding the documents.

Md Abu Raihan, assistant land commissioner of Birganj upazila, said there is no provision to permanently lease out any deity land to any person.

Meanwhile, there are allegations of harassing minority people after Nuhu filed a case with Birganj Executive Magistrate's Court on February 2 accusing four minority people of inciting his community members to build a Ram Temple on the madrasa land.



A silent procession demanding immediate steps to recover the grabbed land of Kantajieu Temple yesterday.



A signboard, near the structure illegally erected on the land of Kantajieu Temple, popularly known as Kantajieu Mandir, claims the land as site for a madrasa.



Deprived of schooling due to poverty, nine-year-old Saddam reads a book at his footpath stall outside the venue of Ekushey Book Fair at DC Hills in Chittagong.

MONDAY'S CLASH 20 arrested in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 20 people were arrested in connection with a violent clash between two groups of villagers at remote Char Kamalpur village in Ishwardi upazila on Monday.

Five people were killed and 20 others were injured in the clash over capturing khas char (shoal) land in the Padma river.

Of the arrested, 15 were produced before Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court here and sent to jail yesterday, court sources said.

They are Jahangir, Kabul, Alam Sardar, Abdul Jalil, Rajob Ali, Minarul, Ripon, Alauddin, Jewel, Sirajul Islam, Md Tofael Pramanik and Sajedul of village Kamalpur, Motin Miah, Shahidul Islam and Abdul Berek of village Gorgoria in the upazila. They were arrested in police raids conducted at villages Char Kamalpur, Char Gorgori, Char Madia and other villages of Laxmikunda union and some other places in Kushtia district, said Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of Pabna Md Anisuzzaman.

Five other arrested are now undergoing treatment in police custody at different hospitals in Kushtia where they fled to evade arrest.

Both the groups filed two separate cases with Ishwardi Police Station accusing about 350 people, of whom 91 were identified, police said.

ACUTE FUND CRISIS 7 Khulna-Jessore jute mills on brink of closure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Seven state-owned Jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt are now on the brink of closure due to acute fund crisis.

Sources in the local BJMC office said the mills need over Tk 1000 crore to buy raw jute and pay off all arrears of workers and employees.

If fund crisis is not solved urgently, the authorities will be compelled to lay off the Jute mills, sources added.

Meanwhile, production at the state-owned Alim Jute Mills and Star Jute Mills has remained suspended for the last eight days due to shortage of raw jute.

It is learnt from reliable sources that five other jute mills will face the similar situation, as present stock of raw jute will exhaust in three to four days. These are Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills, Crescent Jute Mills, Eastern Jute Mills, Jessore Jute Industries and Carpeting Jute Mills.

Project directors of the state-run jute mills said, "We will have no other alternative but to suspend productions if government does not allocate required fund to buy raw jute."

Besides, allocation of fund is also needed for payment of all arrears to employees and workers who are our main forces to keep production going.

Meanwhile, Jute Mills workers and Employees Action Committee (JMWEAC) has placed a 10-point demand before the government to make the state-run jute mill more active and productive.

The demands include allocation of fund to buy high quality raw jute, uninterrupted power supply to the industrial units, payment of arrears to employees and workers and reinstatement of retrenched workers.

Tension prevailed in the industrial belt as workers demonstrated yesterday protesting suspension of production at Alim and Star jute mills.

RESERVED JS SEATS 9 women lobby for AL tickets in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Nine women leaders of the ruling Awami League are aspiring for party nomination to become a lawmaker from Satkhira-Jessore reserved seat.

They are Ismat Ara Sadeque, widow of ASHK Sadeque, Aleya Afroz, Firoza Reza, wife of former AL lawmaker Md Ali Reza Raju, Rawshan Ara Sathi, wife of slain JSD central leader Kazi Aref Ahmed, Satkhira district Mohila Awami League President Rifat Amin, Vice-President Advocate Farida Akhtar Banu and General Secretary Safiya Karim and Jesmin Parvin and Mahua Begum, leaders of Dhaka City Mohila Awami League.

All the nine aspirants are lobbying with the party high ups in the capital to get the party ticket, party sources said.

Of the aspirants, six are ahead in the race so far as their performances in organisational affairs are concerned. They are Ismat Ara Sadeque, Aleya Afroz, Firoza Reza, Rawshan Ara Sathi and Rifat Amin.

RESIGNATION OF ACTING VC, 10 OTHERS

RU administration at a standstill

RU CORRESPONDENT

Administrative activities at Rajshahi University (RU) came to a standstill following resignation of acting vice-chancellor, proctor, nine assistant proctors and students' adviser.

As the key administrative posts remain vacant, the present authorities refrain themselves from taking any policy-making decisions and doing other activities relating to the welfare of teachers

and students.

On February, 8, acting vice-chancellor Prof Mamnunul Keramat resigned in the face of demonstrations by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and pro-Awami League teachers. They demanded his resignation for his alleged link to Jamaat.

Earlier on January 26, university proctor Prof Enamul Haque and all nine assistant proctors resigned en masse in the wake of

demand for their resignation from various student organisations.

Student adviser Faridul Islam Pintu quit his job on January 28 stating that the campus situation was not favourable for performing his duty.

Many teachers said administrative functions at many departments and faculties are being hampered in absence of vice-chancellor, registrar, and others key administrative

officials.

RU syndicate member Prof Abdus Sobhan has said we are passing a difficult situation in absence of a full-fledged VC, proctor, assistant proctors and students adviser.

Prof Mozaffar Hossain, convener of Progressive Teachers' Society (PTS), has urged the government to immediately appoint a vice-chancellor, registrar and proctor to run the university smoothly.

Advertisement for Khulna Shipyard Limited (খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড) featuring a logo and details about recruitment and company information.

Statue seized, 2 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Rab yesterday recovered a touchstone statue of Radha worth about Tk 2 crore from a Dhaka-bound bus coming from Pabna at Bangabandhu Bridge east end, Rab sources said.

Rab also arrested two people for possessing the one foot long black statue weighing about 2.5 kilogram.

THAKURGAON POWER STATION Last of the ten generators comes to halt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon power station stopped operation Monday night due to acute fuel crisis.

Agitated locals formed a human chain on Thakurgaon Road yesterday demanding immediate resumption of operation as power failure hampered agricultural sector and production in industries in the area.

The speakers at a rally also said 1,039 deep tube wells will become idle and Boro production will suffer a serious setback.

Among others, Awami League leader Prof Aminul Haque, general secretary of Red Crescent Society Solaiman Ali, commissioner Md Selim, businessman Faruq Ahmed, addressed at the rally.

In 1964, the Thakurgaon Diesel Power Station went into operation

Imam held for alleged bid to harass girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A local Jamaat leader was arrested yesterday for his alleged bid to sexually harass a nine-year-old girl at village Raghunathpur under Gaibandha Sadar upazila.

Police said Ruhul Amin, chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Ballamjar Union unit and also imam of Raghunathpur mosque, has been conducting a mosque based education programme at the village.

The victim, Nurunnahar Khatun, is one of the participants of that programme. At around 3:00pm yesterday, Ruhul Amin took Nurunnahar to a classroom and tried to harass her.

As the girl cried for help, locals rushed to the spot and beat up Ruhul Amin. They later handed him over to the police. A case was filed with Gaibandha Sadar Police station.

with 10 generators of 10.5 MW capacity each on a 36-acre land.

However, nine generators went out of order one after another in the last few years for lack of renovation and proper initiative to repair them by the authorities.

For the last two years, the lone generator was running and producing 1 MW power for national grid. Sub-Assistant Engineer of Thakurgaon Power Development Board (Production) Abu Asad and Hafizur Rahaman said.

Some staffs on condition of anonymity said the relevant engineer did not write to the higher authorities for fuel for 'unknown reasons' though fund for diesel procurement was allocated.

They said the generator is still in shape to produce power if the fuel is supplied.

Official recruitment notice from the Bangladesh Army (সেনাসদর, কিউ এম জি'র শাখা) for the position of Junior Commissioned Officer (দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি). Includes details of the exam, application process, and contact information.