

# Where schools shut, exams shifted for Eid cattle market

RAFIQUE ISLAM, from Pirojpur

Arrangement of regular cattle market on the common ground of two schools in Shutiakati union of Swarupkathi upazila under Pirojpur district has become a nuisance for teachers, students and guardians.

This time the two schools -- Shutiakati Union High School and Shutiakati Government Primary School -- were closed,

the class five public examinations centre was shifted and early examinations of other classes were taken to facilitate a special cattle market for the Eid-ul-Azha.

The high school was established on the bank of Sugandha River in 1909 and the primary school after the independence of Bangladesh, locals said.

Several decades ago, a regular twice a week cattle

market started on the high school ground.

The market, arranged every Sunday and Thursday, causes suspension of classes after first half of the two days, students said.

"Many people in the area are about to forget the actual name of the school. Sometimes people jeered at us saying that we studied in a 'gorur hat' [cattle market]," Al-Imran, an ex-student of the school, told

this correspondent.

"Men employed by the market authorities remove excreta of the cattle but the remains does us a lot of trouble," said Nur Hossain, a student of Class-VII.

"Vested quarters always bar shifting of the cattle market, whenever attempted," said Mohammad Ali, a local youth.

Nasrin Jahan, headmaster of Shutiakati Government Primary School, said the cattle market has led to suspending closing the school and shifting the centre for public examination of class five to adjoining Shutiakati Pilot Girls High School.

"The upazila education office and the committee concerned may shift the venue of public examination centre, but the District Primary Education Office should be informed of it. It was not done," District Primary Education Officer Parvin Jahan said.

Enayet Hossain, president of Shutiakati Union High School managing committee, and Md Abdus Salam, headmaster of the school, said the administration had been assuring them of shifting the market for long but to no effect.

Gaus Talukder, president of Shutiakati union unit of Awami League (AL) and a member of the cattle market advisory committee, said the 55-member advisory committee for managing the cattle market has been formed by the local AL lawmaker and they had no problem in shifting the market to another place if the administration arranges it.

"Arranging the Eid cattle market on the school ground is illegal as the deputy commissioner's office did not permit it," said Swarupkati Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nuruzzaman.



PHOTO: STAR

The makeshift cattle market set up on the joint ground of two schools in Pirojpur. Every year the authorities of the schools suspend the classes and examinations to arrange the cattle market on the ground ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha. Inset, Sacrificial cattle tied to a school's shaheed minar.

## Arms seized from houses of BNP, Jubo Dal men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police seized five firearms, 26 bullets and a dagger from the houses of three BNP and Jubo Dal men in Bagerhat on Tuesday night.

They recovered a shutter gun and five bullets from the residence of district unit member Khadem Niamul Naser alias Alap at Harhikhali under Bagerhat Sadar Police station at around 9:30pm and arrested him.

On Alap's statement, the law enforcers raided the house of Mahbubul Huq Kishore, general secretary of Jubo Dal Bagerhat unit, at around 10:30pm and seized a revolver, a shutter gun, a large size

dagger and nine bullets from there. Kishore was the gunman of former BNP lawmaker from Bagerhat MAH Selim.

Later, police raided the house of district BNP member Golam Mostafa in the town and recovered one shutter gun and 12 bullets from there. Kishore and Mostafa fled their houses sensing the presence of the law enforcers.

Three separate cases under Arms Act were filed against them with Bagerhat Sadar Police Station yesterday.

According to Police Superintendent Mizanur Rahman, the three BNP men were wanted in several criminal cases filed with different police stations of Bagerhat district.

## 5 get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A court yesterday sentenced five people to life imprisonment in a murder case.

They were also fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer two more years in jail.

The lifers are: Kashem Master, Monoara Begum, Samad Sheikh, Kobbat and Idris.

All the convicts are on the run except for Samad Sheikh.

According to prosecution,

Majeda Khatun of Dhuldi under Sadar upazila of the district was murdered and her body was later found in a water body at Kolosgara in Dhuldi area on January 1, 1990.

A case was filed with Kotwali police station accusing eight people on the same day.

Examining the witnesses, Faridpur special judge Sirajul Islam Rony handed down the verdict yesterday.

The three other accused were acquitted. Of them, two died during trial period.

## All-party body to probe Ghilachhari incident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A 15-member all-party committee, formed on Tuesday by Naniarchar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), visited Ghilachhari yesterday and held a meeting with the agitating women of the union.

The women of the union have been agitating since October 17 demanding punishment to a security man who allegedly made an attempt to rape an indigenous woman at Krishnamachhara in Ghilachhari Union of the upazila on November 8.

In the meeting, the members of the committee requested the indigenous women to postpone their agitation programme until December 5. Within the time, the committee members said, will complete their investigation into the incident.

Responding to the request, the indigenous women postponed their programme until December 5. The all-party committee was formed in an emergency meeting held at upazila hall room with UNO Md Zahurul Islam in the chair.

Vice-Chairman of Naniarchar upazila Parishad Komendu Bikash Chakma is the convener of the committee while upazila AL and BNP leaders, headmen, karbaries and chairmen of all the four union parishads are the members.



PHOTO: STAR

Jana Udjog, People's Voice and Sristi, three non-governmental organisations in Chittagong city, yesterday form a human chain in front of the local press club demanding immediate steps to stop hill cutting and action against the perpetrators.

## Army man gets life for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A trial court here yesterday sentenced an army man to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for raping a college girl in 2008.

Judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 Anwar Hossain pronounced the verdict in presence of the accused.

The court also fined him Tk 50,000, in default, to suffer more three years' rigorous imprisonment.

Convict Monirul Islam, 25, is son of Almas Uddin of Kalinagar-Bablabona village

under Sadar upazila in the district.

According to the prosecution story, Monirul Islam was a sepoy of Bangladesh Army at Jessore Cantonment. He took leave in May 2008 and came to his village home in Chapainawabganj. On May 14, he met college girl Merina Khatun of his village when she was waiting for a rickshaw in front of Chapainawabganj Government College. He offered her to share his rickshaw. As Merina readily agreed, Monirul took her to a place at Shahibag in the town instead of her house. There he violated her at noon.

Later, Monirul sent Merina

to her parents' house at Kalinagar-Bablabona by a mishuk and fled away. Merina was immediately admitted to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital.

The next day, victim's father Rafiqul Islam filed a case with Sadar police station under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2003 bringing rape charge against Monirul.

After investigation, police pressed charges against Monirul on March 2, 2009.

Examining the prosecution witnesses and other relevant documents, the trial court handed down the verdict.

## DEATH THREAT TO ATTORNEY GEN Ahle Hadith man held, placed on 7-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday arrested the secretary general of Jamaat-e-Ahle Hadith, suspecting his hand in giving death threat to Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

Md Rezaul Karim, also a teacher of Bogra Government Azizul Haque College, was shown arrested under Section 54 and produced in Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, seeking a 10-day remand.

Judge Ruhul Amin granted seven days' remand for Jamaat-e-Ahle Hadith leader.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mahfuzur Rahman, Assistant Commissioner of DB of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, said a copy of the

handwritten letter conveying the death threat to the attorney general was also posted to a local daily.

"We took samples of Rejaul's handwriting and sent those to CID's handwriting experts two days ago. The experts verbally confirmed us that the samples matched," said Rahman.

Police claimed they arrested Rejaul on secret information that he had visited Rajshahi on November 16 from Bogra for posting the letter conveying the death threat but they did not give details.

Meanwhile, JAH Law Affairs Secretary Golam Hossain Sarwar termed the allegations against Rejaul false and claimed that police picked up Rejaul from his house in Bogra on Monday night.

## 14 JMB militants held in Jhenidah being grilled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Fourteen members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were remanded yesterday for three days.

Jhenidah Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court passed the remand order after police yesterday sought 10 days remand.

The militants were arrested on November 21 from a house near the truck terminal of the town.

Jhenidah police, acting on a tip-off, arrested them from the house of Malek Joarder, a retired primary school teacher. Police recovered nine mobile sets, copies of Bible,

Quran, Islami booklets and copies of first information report (FIR) of August 17 and 21 bomb blasts cases and FIR of Kushtia bomb blast on 2005 from their possession.

The arrestees are Shafiqul Islam of Pabna Moktabpara, Alamgir Hossain of Sujonagar, Shajahan, Laltu Sheikh of Jhenidah town, Akram Ali of Bhutiargati, Mintu of Chowgachha under Jessore district, Rabiul of Kotchandpur upazila of the district, Faruk Hossain, Tuhin Mahmud, Shahinur, Abu Sayed of Kaliganj upazila of the district, Ali Hossain of Meherpur, Hasan of Pabna and Nazrul Islam of Gaibandha.



Odhikar in Patuakhali and Manusher Jonno Foundation in Dinajpur bring out processions in the district towns to mark the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women yesterday. Similar programmes were held by the non-governmental organisations in other districts to observe the day.



PHOTO: STAR