

# Three Pabna edn instts closed due to trade fair

Teachers, parents anxious as final exams near

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Classes of Dublia High School, Dublia Primary School and Haji Jasim Uddin College in Pabna Sadar upazila have remained closed for a week as the premises as well as verandas are being used for 'Dublia Trade Fair'.

Teachers, students and guardians have expressed concern over the situation ahead of the school final examinations.

Several influential people of the village, mostly belonging to the ruling party, have organised the traditional fair at Dublia in Pabna Sadar upazila and it started on October 18, sources said.

Large canopies and a number of shops have been set up on the premises of the two schools and a college, forcing suspension of classes of the institutions for the last seven days.

Although the fair organising committee took permission for seven days, it is likely to continue a few more days, sources said.

"Dublia Trade Fair has a century-old tradition and several thousand people are involved with this fair. The visitors, mostly rural people, buy furniture and other things from this fair for very cheap prices," said Md Raich Uddin Khan, secretary of Dublia Trade Fair organising committee, also secretary of Sadullahpur union unit of Awami League (AL).

We have seven days permission for the fair but we are hopeful to continue it for more four or five days as there is a good response from people, Raich said.

During a visit to the fair premises, this correspondent saw that 128 shops were set up on the premises of Dublia High School and Dublia Primary School while the circus team, lottery, restaurants and a few other shops were set up on Haji Jasim Uddin College campus.

"Study of the primary children are hampered as the classes have remained suspended for a week. The primary final examination is knocking at the door. We cannot give any satisfactory answer to the guardians. Even the Bangabandhu Cup Tournament cannot be held on the school ground due to the situation," Nilufar Yasmin, the headmaster of Dublia Primary School said.

"The fair organisers are involved in politics. We have requested them and informed the higher authorities," she added.

Md Anwar Hossain, headmaster of Dublia High School, said the classes of the school have remained suspended from

October 18 due to holding of the fair on the school ground.

"As the final examination is near, we have requested the fair organising committee to enable us to resume classes from Sunday."

He also said that huge amounts of money from the fair are expected to come to the fund of the educational institutions.

When contacted, Pabna Sadar upazila parishad Chairman Mosharrif Hossain, also the president of Pabna Sadar upazila unit of AL, said on Sunday, "I have ordered the fair organising committee to open the educational institutions from today."

The fair organising committee sources had also said that the verandas of the schools would be cleared from Sunday (yesterday) so that classes can continue.

When contacted, Additional District Magistrate of Pabna Md Jafar Ullah said, "When the administration gave the permission for fair we did not know that they would close the educational institutions."

During a visit to the fair spot, this correspondent saw that gambling and lottery were being held.

The fair organising committee secretary, however, said they banned gambling in the fair.



Organisers of 'Dublia Trade Fair' have set up a good number of stalls on the premises of Dublia High School and Dublia Primary School in Pabna Sadar upazila, forcing the authorities to suspend classes since October 18, much to the worry of teachers, students and guardians ahead of the final examinations.



Treatment seekers throng the house of so-called spiritual healer Arman Quazi at Mollakanda village in Shibpur upzila of Narsingdi district a couple of days ago. Inset, Arman treats a physically challenged child.

## 100 followers of 'spiritual healer' injured in police action

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Around a hundred people were injured as police charged baton on the unruly mob who put up blockade on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway yesterday morning, protesting the local administration's order to close 'treatment' of complex diseases by a so-called spiritual healer.

Several local people claimed that patients suffering from complex diseases were cured after drinking water on which Arman Quazi of Mollakanda village under Putia union of Shibpur upazila in Narsingdi district puffed through mouth.

As the news spread to different areas, hundreds of people including men and women from Narsingdi and adjoining districts started thronging Arman Quazi's house to avail themselves of the 'treatment'.

Finding it hard to 'discipline' the increasing number of visitors, local administration on Thursday asked Arman Quazi to stop 'giving treatment'.

On Sunday several hundred treatment seekers who came to Quazi's house became aggrieved to know that the 'treatment' was stopped under pressure from the local administration.

As the agitated mob put up barricade on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at Shashpur in Shibpur upazila, police resorted to baton charge to free the highway from the agitators.

Additional Superintendent of Police Ejaz Ahmed said, "The followers of the so-called healer put up barricade on the highway and police dispersed them."

"There is no scientific basis for using water with puff as medicine. Believing a rumour, a large number of people from different parts of the country started coming to Shibganj with the hope of getting treatment for complex diseases. We have ordered Arman Quazi to stop giving such water to people," said Shibpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Helal Uddin.

## Man killed over land dispute

UNB, Sherpur

A man was killed by his rivals over land dispute at Chankanda village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Mosharrif Hossain, 45, son of Jonab Ali of the village.

Police said there was a long standing dispute over a piece of land between Mosharrif

and his neighbors Fatik and Hakim.

As a sequel to the dispute, Fatik and Hakim attacked Mosharrif and killed him while he was catching fish in a nearby river early in the morning.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

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## Outlaw held with bombs in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested an operative of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) at Jhaudia in Kushtia Sadar upazila early Sunday and recovered five bombs from his possession.

The arrestee, Mohammad Akram Hossain, is an accused in four cases including two for murder.

Acting on a tip-off, police led by Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abdul Halim raided an abandoned brickfield where Akram and his accomplices were holding a meeting at around 2:30am.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the outlaws opened fire and hurled a bomb at them. Later, police arrested Akram on the spot with five live bombs while the rest managed to flee.

Akram was brought to Kushtia Police Lines for interrogation. A case was logged with Islamic University Police Station.

Police said drive to arrest Akram's accomplices was going on as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.

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