



PHOTO: STAR

Students of a Caritas-run community school, the lone educational institution at remote Char Gangamoti in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali district form a human chain a couple of days ago demanding steps to continue running of the institution to facilitate schooling for the children of the fishermen-inhabited area.

# Save lone school in remote Patuakhali village

## Demands human chain as NGO-run institution is to be closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The lone community school run by an NGO in remote Char Gangamoti, a fishermen's habitation in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district adjoining the Bay of Bengal, is to be closed by December this year, much to the worry of poor guardians.

Demanding continuation of the school that has run for 17 years, students and guard-

ians recently formed a human chain in Kalapara upazila town.

Caritas, an international NGO, built a cyclone shelter cum community school at Char Gangamoti about 20 km to the east of Kuakata sea beach in 1993 and lessons for classes one to three were arranged there.

About 300 students now study in the school.

But Caritas decided to close the school by coming

December 31 when their project ends.

"Six hundred families living in this char are fishermen. If the school closes our children will be deprived of education as we do not have the ability to send our children to another school that is at least five kilometres away. We submitted application to local administration including the deputy commissioner and the upazila nirbahi officer to continue the school

anyway," Khorshed Alam, chairman of the school managing committee, said.

Local UP Chairman Mohibur Rahman said, "We urge the district administration and education office to turn the school into a government primary school to help fishermen's children get schooling."

Kalapara upazila education officer said they have no plan to set up the school at Char Gangamoti as the number of school going children is very low.

"The school is to be closed at the end of our project duration. We have sent a proposal to our higher authorities not to close the school considering local people's demand but we are yet to get any response in this regard," said Joyanti Gomege, Barisal divisional coordinator for Caritas.

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## AL office in Nilphamari besieged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Agitated supporters of the president of Awami League (AL) district unit Dewan Kamal Ahmed yesterday besieged the party office demanding lone selection of the incumbent mayor as party candidate in the upcoming mayoral election.

At that time, a meeting of the party's municipal unit was going on over selection of the party's mayoral candidate. Local lawmaker and central cultural secretary Asaduzzaman Noor along with other senior party leaders of the district were present at the meeting.

AL sources said, the party's district committee called a meeting at 10:00 am yesterday at their district office to choose a prospective mayoral candidate for the municipal election here and send his name to the central committee of the party for a final decision.

Party's Sadar upazila unit general secretary Alimuddin Basunia who was present at the meeting said to this correspondent that names of three aspirant mayoral candidates were taken into consideration. They were incumbent mayor and district Awami League president Dewan Kamal Ahmed, former Chattrra League (BCL) leader and freedom fighter Aminur Rahman and Principal Anisuzzaman Rumi.

Later, the meeting decided not to choose a lone candidate but to send the names of all three aspirant candidates to the central committee for final selection, Basunia said.

As the news spread all over, supporters of Dewan Kamal who were waiting outside the party office burst into protest. They instantly besieged the party office for some time demanding instant declaration of Dewan Kamal as party's mayoral candidate for sending his name to Dhaka. When the collapsible gate of the entrance to the party office was closed, there arose a hue and cry.

However, agitated supporters of Dewan Kamal calmed down when lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor assured that the central selection committee is wise enough to select the right candidate.

Contacted, Dewan Kamal said his supporters gathered at their own will in a peaceful manner to hear the party decision only.

A contingent of police was present at the time of agitation.

## SNIPPETS

### Stalker jailed for six months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A mobile court in Bhurungamari upazila yesterday sentenced a stalker to six months imprisonment. The convict is Ashraful Islam Babu, 22, son of Abdul Kader of Birbaritara village under Andharirjhar union of the upazila. Police and locals said Babu used to tease Sonia Yasmin Nupur, a class-X student of Andharirjhar High School. Her mother Khodeza Khatun informed local Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Fazlul Haque Mondol of the matter on December 9. This has infuriated the stalker. Babu again teased Sonia yesterday morning while she was going to her school. He also threatened to kidnap and marry her at a convenient time. On return home, Sonia narrated the story to her mother who informed the matter to the police. Police rushed to the spot and arrested the stalker. Upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and executive magistrate of the mobile court Hamidul Haque punished the stalker.

### Two schoolgirls drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Two schoolgirls drowned in the Padma in Lalpur upazila of the district on Friday. They are Rini, 8, daughter of Nantu Mia of Palidoha village and Prity, 7, daughter of Panna Mia, also of the same village, police said. Both the girls were cousins and students of class one of Arambaria Government Primary School. Rini and Prity went to the Padma River for bathing, family sources said. Divers of Rajshahi fire brigade were conducting search operation as of filing of this report as 5:00pm yesterday.

### Housewife murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A housewife, who sustained injuries by her neighbour on Wednesday, succumbed to her injuries at Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital on Friday night. The victim is Beauty Khatun, 32, wife of Babul Hossain of Tetulia village in Santhia upazila. Officer-in-charge of Santhia Police Station Md Rejaul Islam said there was a long-standing dispute between Babul and sons of his neighbour Md Fayed Uddin. When Babul's wife Beauty went to dry paddy near his residence on Wednesday, Fayed Uddin's sons Mozammel Haque, Mafiz Uddin and Wazed Ali beat up her. In a critical condition, she was taken to Pabna General Hospital and then shifted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital on Thursday. She died there at around 10:00 pm on Friday. Yesterday police sent the body to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Firearms seized from bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A joint team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police on Friday recovered two firearms from a passenger bus in Meherpur. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-6 and Meherpur Sadar police raided a Chudanga-bound passenger bus coming from Natore at around 5:30 pm. They searched the bus, seized a small size carton and found a shutter gun and a pistol in it. Police said the firearms were being taken to Chudanga for sell. The matter is now under investigation, said deputy assistant director of Rab-6 Nazim Uddin.

### Four ISA men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police on Friday arrested four leaders and activists of Meherpur district unit of Islami Shasantantra Andolon (ISA). The arrestees are Organising Secretary Rezwanul Karim and activists Rokunuzzaman, Badar Uddin and Hira Mondol. As part of their central programme, leaders and activists of the party brought out a procession in the town on Friday afternoon. When they reached the Judge's Court area at around 5:00 pm, police obstructed the ISA men and picked up four of them from the spot.

# Brutal torture on brick kiln worker

## Owner sued, manager held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police on Friday night arrested the manager and a staff of a brick kiln on charge of brutally torturing a labourer at Sreepatipur village in Kalaroa upazila of Satkhira district.

The victim, Shahadat Hossain, 35, a labourer of M/s Hossain Bricks at Sreepatipur village, and a resident of Satpakhia village in Tala upazila, was admitted to Kalaroa hospital as police rescued him after his wife Nazma Begum filed a case against five people on Friday evening.

Police arrested brick kiln Manager Ahmad Gazi, 42, of Sabjibagh in Jessore town and staff Emam Hassan, 38, of village



Shahadat Hossain

Alaipur in Kalaroa upazila while the main accused Kamrul Hossain, owner of M/s Hossain Bricks, went into hiding soon after filing of the case.

"My husband Shahadat Hossain worked as a labourer at M/s Hossain

Bricks. On December 4, the owner and staffs of the brick kiln chained him to a chair and tortured him on the brick kiln premises for a dispute over transaction of money," the complainant said.

"On December 5, I went to the brick kiln and found my husband chained to a chair. I requested them to release him but to no effect. They even tortured him mercilessly in my presence. As they continued the torture for days, I filed a case with Kalaroa police station and police rescued him," she said.

On contact, Kalaroa police station Officer in Charge Enamul Haque said they are trying to arrest the other culprits accused of the barbaric incident.

# 20 fishermen abducted from Sundarbans

## Three of them buy freedom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Pirates abducted 20 fishermen from Chaltebari Canal in the Sundarbans on the night of December 7 and demanded Tk 5 lakh as ransom for their release.

Three of the abducted fishermen were released on December 9 on payment of Tk 50,000 by their relatives. The released fishermen are Nur Mohammad, 30, Jahangir Alam, 26, and Salam Gazi, 28, of Harinagar village in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira district.

The remaining 18 fishermen are now held hostage in deep forest and the pirates are demanding Tk 20,000 for release of each of them, police quoting the victims' relatives said.

The gang set December 14 as the deadline to give ransom. Otherwise, they (pirates) threatened to kill the fishermen.

The fishermen went to

the Sundarbans on December 4, taking permission from Kadamtala Forest Office. Pirates swooped on the fishermen when they were asleep in five boats in Chaltebari Canal.

The gang beat up the fishermen and looted money and other valuables from them, said Nur Mohammad who was released on payment of ransom.

Six of the abducted fishermen are Bakkar, 22, son of Gani Gazi, Nazmul, 31, son of Gafoor Gain, and Shajahan Gain, 32, of Harinagar village; Osman Gazi, 25, son of Farman Gazi of Chhotobhetkhal village and Rahim Gain, 38, son of Shawkat Gain of Munshganj village in Shyamnagar upazila. The identity of 12 others could not be known.

Contacted, Kadamtala forest officer Shahidul Islam said they are trying to rescue the fishermen.



PHOTO: STAR

Potato farmers take part in a demonstration organised by Programme for Eco-social Development at Satmatha intersection in Bogra town yesterday demanding steps to ensure fair price of the vegetable and end to harassment of the growers.

# No confidence against UP chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Nine ward commissioners of Jamalpur Union Parishad in Sadullapur upazila yesterday moved a no confidence motion against the chairman for his alleged involvement in corruption.

The members jointly submitted their resolution to the deputy commissioner (DC) and Sadar upazila nirbahi officer.

The signatories to the no-confidence motion are Ranajit Chandra Sarker, Sunil Chandra Sarker, Abdul Jalil Akand, Jainul Abedin, Bhola Mia, Alamgir Hossain, Abdul Wahed Sarker, Saju Mia and Asaduzzaman Sarker Asad.

When contacted, the chairman refused to make any comment.

# Clash over land in Sunamganj: 2 killed, 60 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two people were killed and at least 60 others injured in a clash between two rival groups over land dispute at Boglakhara village under South Sunamganj Police Station yesterday.

The dead were identified as Ayazur Rahman, 50, and Shamsu Mia, 55. They succumbed to their injuries on way to Sunamganj sadar Hospital.

Sources said there was a long-standing dispute between Abdur Razzak, former chairman of local

union parishad, and Rojob Ali, a resident of the village, over the ownership of a land.

The clash ensued at around 8:30am, when the supporters of Razzak and Rojob went to the land for cutting paddy.

Both the groups equipped with sticks and locally made weapons attacked each other, leaving at least 62 people from both sides injured.

Of the injured, 20 were admitted to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital, five to Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital while the rest given first aid.

# 3 muggers arrested in B'baria

UNB, B'baria

Police arrested three people for snatching Tk 4.70 lakh from Azampur area of Akhaura upazila on Friday.

The arrestees were identified as Ovi, 18, son of Niaz Ahmed Khan of South Morail village, Sumon, 19, son of Sayeed Mia, and Jisan, 18, son of Abu Jamal of Shmirailkandi area.

Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a drive at night and arrested them.

Police said on the night of November 14, a gang of snatchers looted the money from Yasmin of Kalishima village while she was passing through the Dak Bunglow area of the district town.

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Memo No. APSCL/Pro-29/2010/1737 Date: 11/12/2010

**“Amendment of APSCL Tender Enquiry”**

Tender Name, Enquiry No. & Date	Subject to be Amended for	Shall be Amended as
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of a New brushless Main exciter with pilot exciter (PMG) for Steam Turbine Unit of CCP, APSCL. APSCL/PRO-01/2010/1538 Dated. 04/11/2010	01) Tender last Selling date: 12/12/2010	01) Tender last Selling date: 04/01/2011
	02) Tender Closing date & Time: 13/12/2010 at 12:00 BST.	02) Tender Closing date & Time: 05/01/2011 at 12:00 BST.
	03) Tender Opening date & time: 13/12/2010 at 12.15 BST.	03) Tender Opening date & time: 05/01/2011 at 12.15 BST.

All other terms & Conditions shall remain unchanged

(A.M.M Sarzadur Rahman)  
Manager (Procurement).  
APSCL, Ashuganj, B-Barua.