



PHOTO: STAR

Lactating mothers from underprivileged classes demonstrate on the premises of Lalmonirhat municipality office on Wednesday demanding punishment to the councillor of ward No 4 under the municipality for his alleged bribery for issuing cards that would enable the women receive monthly allowance from a government fund meant for their nutrition.

## Councillor extorts lactating mothers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Over two hundred lactating mothers demonstrated on the premises of Lalmonirhat municipality office on Wednesday demanding action against a ward councillor who allegedly took bribe for issuing cards for benefit from 'fund for assistance to lactating mothers'.

Each of listed lactating mothers, all from ultra poor classes, will get Tk 350 every month for two years under the project meant for enabling them to arrange nutritious food.

Lalmonirhat municipality authorities make list of local eligible women for the purpose and issues them cards for benefit from the project conducted by the Directorate of Woman Affairs.

The demonstrators on Wednesday lodged a complaint to the mayor that Abdul Hossain, councillor of ward No 4 under Lalmonirhat municipality, took Tk 500 in bribe from each of lactating 220 mothers, assuring them of giving the cards.

A total of 1050 cards for

1050 lactating mothers were issued under the project for nine wards under Lalmonirhat municipality and 170 of the cards were issued for ward No 4, said officials of Lalmonirhat Woman Affairs Department.

A total of 220 lactating mothers submitted applications to the office and 170 cards were finalised as per recommendations from ward councillors, they said, adding that 50 other women were not issued cards despite giving the bribe.

Lactating mothers Monowara Begum (bearing card No 52), 26, wife of Abul Kalam at Shahjahan Colony slum of ward No 4, and Mukta Begum, (bearing card No 163), 24, wife of Mohaddes Ali of the same area said councillor Abdul Hossain took Tk 500 from each of them in exchange of giving a card.

"I borrowed Tk 500 on interest from a neighbour and gave the money to the councillor of ward No 4 as he assured me of giving a card. But I am yet to get it," said Jamila Begum, 26, wife of Sobuj Miah of Dalpotti vil-

lage of ward No 4.

"I have received allegation from lactating mothers in Ward No 4 that councillor Abdul Hossain took bribe from 220 applicants, assuring them of giving card for the benefit under Lactating Mothers Helping Fund project. I will take official step against the councillor immediately," said Lalmonirhat municipality Mayor Reazul Islam Rintu.

When contacted, councillor Abdul Hossain declined to talk with the journalists regarding the allegation of taking bribe from lactating mothers.

Contacted, deputy director women affairs directorate in Lalmonirhat Shamim Ara Begum said, "The directorate is implementing the project for helping lactating mothers. Applications for benefit from the project are granted as per recommendation of municipality councillors. As the authority of the councillors, the mayor will take necessary step if any councillor is found guilty of taking bribe from lactating mothers."

## Bangladeshi beaten to death by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was beaten to death allegedly by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Burimari border under Patgram upazila yesterday.

Patgram police recovered the body of the deceased from the Saniyazan River in the morning.

The victim was identified as Mizanur Rahman, 25, son of Fazlul Haque of Bamondol village near Burimari border.

Quoting family sources, OC of Patgram PS Murshidul Karim said Mizanur Rahman was caught by BSF men of Changrabandha while he

along with four others were bringing cattle from India through Burimari border.

Mizanur was tortured severely. When he died the BSF men threw his body into Saniyazan River, he said.

Mizanur's father said that his son and a few other locals went to India to bring cattle on Wednesday. "My son was tortured to death by BSF yesterday morning," he said.

However, Burimari BGB camp commander Subedar Baset Miah said, he had no information of torturing any Bangladeshi to death by BSF.

Police sent the body to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday.

## 20 BGB jawans relieved of sedition charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Sedition charges against 20 jawans of BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh) Joypurhat-3 Battalion have been withdrawn as per decision of the home ministry.

Judge Shafiur Rahman of Joypurhat District and Sessions Judge's Court on Wednesday relieved the jawans of sedition charges following an appeal made by Public Prosecutor (PP) advocate Nripendranath Mondol, court sources said.

Following a mutiny at the battalion on February 26 in 2009, the then officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Police Station Rezaul Haque filed a sedition case against 20 jawans with the chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Joypurhat, in May the same year.

The jawans, however, were sentenced to different terms of imprisonment in a case for mutiny at the battalion by a BGB special

court led by Col Saleh Ahmad, sector commander of Dinajpur sector, on December 23 in 2010.

They are Siddiqur Rahman, Obaidul Islam, Abdul Karim, Shahidul Islam, Biplob Hossain, Akhtaruzzaman Lition, Abdur Razzak, Abdul Latif, Mofizul Haque, Firoz Uddin, Rabiul Islam, Abdul Mannan Asaduzzaman, Jamal Uddin, Jaberul Islam, Akmal Hossain, Anisur Rahman Moniru Islam, Abdul Karim and Hafizur Rahman.

In the case statement, OC Rezaul Haque alleged that the border guards revolted against their officers at Joypurhat-3 Battalion on February 26, 2009 and looted firearms from armoury.

They damaged vehicles on Hili-Joypurhat highway, put up barricades on the road and fired bullets, creating panic among the residents of the surrounding areas, the OC stated.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Hilsa catching season has already started but a good number of trawlers meant for the purpose lie anchored on the Chaktai Channel of Karnaphuli River in Chittagong yesterday due to rough weather in the sea.

## Youth stabbed to death by muggers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A youth was stabbed to death and his two younger brothers were severely injured allegedly by a mugger at Boro Paikpara village under Sadar upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Shahin Sheikh, 25, son of Kamal Sheikh of the village.

Police with the help of locals arrested two alleged muggers -- Sohel, 22, and Al-Amin, 26, from the spot.

Meanwhile, police constable Kamal Hossain was injured while trying to save the muggers from mob beating.

Rakhalgachhi UP chairman Kazi Shamim said the incident occurred at about 9:30pm when Shahin refused to give shelter to alleged mugger Sohel, 22, at their house when chased by villagers for committing a robbery.

At one stage of their altercation, Sohel stabbed Shahin to death and injured his two younger brothers as they tried to save Shahin.

Hearing their screams, locals rushed to the spot and caught two muggers red-handed and gave them a good beating.

Earlier at around 9:00pm, a motorbike of Zakir Hossain of the village was hijacked by the muggers from Khulna-Bagerhat highway.

On information, police aided by villagers raided the Boro Paikpara village and chased the muggers.

Moazzem Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bagerhat Model police station said they were interrogating the arrested muggers and the body was sent to Bagerhat Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

## JUNE 13 ATTACK ON TRAINEE NURSES AT MMCH

## Probe body seeks more time again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The probe body formed after the attack on the trainee nurses at Mymensingh Nursing College (MNC) by the fourth class employees of Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) on June 13, has sought five more days to submit its report.

The probe body that missed the deadline twice is now due to submit report on July 3.

It sought fresh time extension on Tuesday, sources said.

A six-member probe body headed Prof Dr Motiur Rahman of surgery department was formed on June 14,

the day after the incident and it was due to submit its report to the MMCH authorities by June 20.

The first deadline expired 10 days ago. Later the probe body sought seven more days but failed to submit the report on June 26.

Contacted, director of MMCH Brigadier General Dr Mohammad Shahjahan yesterday said, "I can not interrupt their work and for a free and fair investigation, I allowed the time extension."

The body must submit its report by the third deadline and no more time will be allowed for it, the director added.

Prof Dr Motiur Rahman,

head of the probe body, could not be contacted for his views.

At least 35 people were injured as trainee nurses and employees of MMCH locked in a series of clashes on June 13. Among the injured, 30 are students of Mymensingh Nursing College (MNC)

Later the trainee nurses went on a week-long agitation programme including class boycott, formation of human chains, sit-in procession and rallies protesting the attack. All academic activities of MNC including examinations remained suspended during the agitation.

Sources said, earlier the trainee nurses on June 13

morning went to meet the hospital director to know the reasons for cancellation of their sickroom facilities.

When the students entered the director's room, a group of fourth class employees of the hospital rushed to the spot and asked the students to give them easy passage.

As the students refused to leave the place, an altercation began and at one stage an employee pushed a female student and pulled her scarf triggering a clash, students said.

The employees later swooped on the students and beat them up with sticks indiscriminately, injuring at least 30 students.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Large potholes and muddy surface make Kalapara-Kuakata road in Patuakhali district a nuisance for commuters. The photo was taken from Ghutabachha yesterday.

## Shamim's resignation sparks protest by Sylhet AL men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Hundreds of leaders and activists of Sylhet district Awami League (AL) yesterday took to the streets to protest against the resignation of the district AL general secretary (GS) Iftekhar Hossain Shamim.

Shamim announced his resignation last week at a programme at the Sylhet Central Shahid Minar. He did it protesting the 'conspiracy in forming the new committee of AL'.

Sources said, he resigned after the move to make Sadar upazila chairman Ashfaq Ahmed or lawmaker Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, close aide to the finance minister, the general secretary.

The latest conference of the district and city AL was held in 2005. In the wake of long-standing disputes between factions in Sylhet AL, the central leaders that time stopped the council and announced ANM Shafiqur and Iftekhar Hossain Shamim, as president and general secretary.

Although they assured of announcing a

full fledged committee soon it is yet to be formed.

Besides, party general secretary Syed Ashraful Islam during his several tours in Sylhet during the last two years informed the partymen that the committees of the city and district units will be announced soon.

However, some newspapers carried stories last week that a new district committee with Zahir Chowdhury Sufian as president and Ashfaq Ahmed or lawmaker Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury as general secretary will be announced in days.

Besides, Shafiqur Alam Nadel is being named as general secretary of the city unit.

The news sparked serious commotion among the partymen as a weaker faction enjoys the blessings of finance minister.

Agitated partymen also held a rally at the Central Shahid minar yesterday. The speakers said they would not accept any 'intruder' as a party leader.

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