



PHOTO: STAR

This land, formerly used as the playground of Azad Bakth High School at Sherpur in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila, gives the appearance of a water body as a BNP man sold out huge earth from it years ago. Recently the school has lost possession of the land as Roads and Highways Department, taking the opportunity of 'mistake' in official record, has leased it out to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

# Tale of a disappearing school playground

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Students of Azad Bakth High School at Sherpur in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila formed a human chain on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway on Sunday afternoon in protest against leasing out their school playground by the Roads and Highways Department (RHD).

The RHD recently leased out the playground, recorded mistakenly in its name decades ago, to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), much to the grievance of students, teachers and local people.

Established in 1914, Azad Bakth High School possesses land, donated by founder Syed Yaar Bakth, in the *khatian* No 836, JL No-1, *dag* No 704 (existing *dag* No 1078) in Brahmingram *mouja* under Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

But during settlement survey in 1956, the 77 decimals of land of the school playground was mistakenly recorded in the name of RHD. However, the school students continued using the playground.

The school authorities on several occasions tried to correct the record through

negotiation with the RHD but the latter did not make any positive response.

Recently the RHD leased out the playground to the TCB for construction of its godown.

"The school authorities have been fighting to save the playground since it was mistakenly recorded as an RHD land. School students got chance to play here till 2000. But later an influential BNP man sold earth from the playground, which now looks like a pond. Students formed a human chain on Sunday afternoon at Sherpur in protest against

RHD's move to lease it out to TCB," said Shihabur Rahman, assistant headmaster of Azad Bakth High School.

Utpal Samanta, executive engineer of RHD, Moulvibazar, said, "I have not been informed about the matter concerning Azad Bakth High School. It may have occurred before my joining here."

"There is no scope to lease out a school playground even if the land is under RHD ownership. Necessary steps will be taken after examining the documents," he added.

## Former BCL leader murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was hacked to death by unknown assailants in the town on Sunday night.

The deceased -- Firoz Shah Newaz alias Shakil, 25, -- was a second year LLB student of Prime University in capital city Dhaka.

Although Shakil had been BCL vice-president of Patuakhali district unit a few years ago, he was no longer involved with the party, police said.

Quoting family members, police said at least three people hacked Shakil mercilessly when he came out of his Arambagh residence at about 11:30pm.

Family members and locals rushed Shakil to the local hospital in critical condition where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Police arrested Ohidul Islam, 25, Jubo Dal joint convener of Patuakhali Sadar upazila unit, and Mizanur Rahman Babu, a Shramik Dal activist of the district unit and one Khondakar Hasibul Hasan alias Rabbi, 28, in connection with the murder.

Fazilatunnesa, mother of Shakil said, a quarrel took place between one Touhidul Islam and Shakil over local matter on Sunday evening. After that when Shakil returned home, someone gave him life threat over cell phone.

Shakil also informed the matter of life threat to the OC of Patuakhali police station, she added.

Contacted, Md. Monirul Islam, OC of Patuakhali police station, said he had advised Shakil to file a GD after the life threat, but he did not turn up.

## 2005 SERIAL BLASTS IN JESSORE

# 2 JMB militants jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A court here on Sunday sentenced two ehars (cadres) of banned Islamist outfit JMB to six years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer more six months of RI.

They were convicted in connection with the case filed for serial bomb blasts at different spots in Jessore district on August 17 in 2005.

Judge of Khulna Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Md. Sekhander Ali delivered the judgement in the afternoon.

The two convicts are Abdur Rakib alias Nuruddin,

22, and Matiur Rahman alias Masud, 23. Besides, 19 other accused in the case were acquitted as charges against them could not be proved beyond doubt.

The prosecution story in brief is that members of Rab-6 arrested JMB ehars Abdur Rakib alias Nuruddin and Matiur Rahman alias Masud on February 7 in 2006 from Barandipara of Jessore town suspecting their involvement in serial bomb blasts in the district.

OC Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal of Jessore Kotwali PS filed a case as complainant the same night accusing 41 people following the statements made by the two.

Later on August 16 in 2008, SI Md. Alim Molla of Jessore CID, who investigated the case, pressed charges against 21 out of the 41 accused.

Meanwhile, Jamalpur police on Friday night arrested five suspected JMB members from Aramnagar Kamil Madrasa in Sarishabari upazila of the district.

The arrested JMB men are Shohag, 23, Robiul Islam, 16, Sohail, 26, Majnu, 20 and Sumon, 12, reports UNB.

Police said, acting on a tip-off, a team of Sarishabari police raided Aramnagar Kamil Madrasa and arrested them along with 10 CDs and a few Jehadi books.

## CONGRATULATION

Our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Obaidul Karim, Chairman, Orion Group on becoming the President of Mohammedan Sporting Club Ltd.

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Time flies.  
And before you know it, twenty  
five years have gone by. Today when we look  
back we realize we couldn't have made it alone. We  
couldn't have made it without you. Without you, there  
would be no one else to tell us how not to mess up when we  
were starting up. Without you, who would've told us that we have  
a lot of potential? That we shouldn't give up? Well  
that advice certainly turned out to be useful.  
We remember you called us when we  
needed you, not just when  
you needed us. It's not  
like every move we've  
ever made has been the  
right one. But without you,  
we wouldn't have the  
courage to take those risks.  
You were right there to tell us  
what we need to change, what  
needs to be improved. You  
never let us regret anything  
we ever did, but you never  
let us make the same  
mistake twice either. And  
let's not forget, we did  
have a lot of bright spots over the years as well. And without  
you, the celebrations wouldn't have been nearly as much fun.  
You felt as much joy as we did at our times of success, because let's  
face it; they were your successes as much as they were ours. Honestly,  
can you even imagine what it would've been like if you weren't with us  
from the first steps of our journey? Things would've been very different

indeed. Without you, our existence itself would've been in  
doubt; we probably would've had to fold up within the first  
year. Even if we did manage to survive the first few years,  
without you it would've been impossible for us to thrive like  
we did. And like we said before, without you, we wouldn't  
have enjoyed the good times as much as we did. There may  
also have been times when it seemed like we had hit a  
dead end, that there  
were no other inno-  
vations that we  
could possibly make.  
But again, you were  
right there to show us fresh new ways that would help  
us break new ground. Further, it's not like you helped us in just  
one particular area, or in one segment of our activities. You were  
there to help us in ventures new and old, in activities small and  
huge. You didn't budge an inch when  
we announced that we were  
going to move into a new  
type of business, one we  
hadn't been much famil-  
iar with before then. And  
us this support not only  
different times! The  
in us is beyond amazing,  
you gave  
once, but three  
amount of faith you have  
and thankfully that faith has  
never turned out to be  
misplaced. And you did something for us that is incredibly rare in  
these times. Without you, there would be no one to keep the  
promises that were made to us. So, what can we say that  
really expresses our gratitude? That shows our  
appreciation? We think the best way to  
put it is: **Thank You.**

