

7 MPO listed teachers for only 3 students

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Four lecturers and three demonstrators, all receiving salary and other benefits under the government's monthly payment order (MPO), are serving for three science students of Mirzapur Degree College in Chatmohar upazila under the district.

The situation appears as a striking contrast against the backdrop of teacher shortage in a large number of educational institutions, especially in the rural areas.

A girl is studying as the lone science student in intermediate first year while there are only two second year students in the same group at

Mirzapur Degree College, said college sources.

In 2010, two students appeared in the HSC examinations from science group and one of them passed.

Four science lecturers including one each in physics, chemistry, botany and mathematics departments are working in the college. Besides, there are three demonstrators for science subjects.

"Students are less interested to study science. We are trying to increase the number of science students in the coming session," said Md Saidur Rahman, acting principal of the college.

However, expressing satisfaction over good number of students in

humanities and commerce groups, he said there are a total of 542 students in intermediate and degree classes while 51 teachers and two librarians are working in the college.

When contacted, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC -- Education) Md Abdur Rouf said, "Enrolment of at least 25 students is required to get the MPO approval for teachers. We will investigate the matter and take proper initiative through the authorities concerned."

Established in 1994 at Mirzapur village in Chatmohar upazila, 15 kilometres away from the upazila headquarters, Mirzapur Degree College was listed for

MPO in 2001.

All the teachers having MPO were included in the list during the tenure of founder principal Md Jamal Uddin, said Saidur Rahman.

Jamal Uddin, who was suspended on charge of misappropriating Tk 16 lakh from the college fund last year, said, "When the science teachers were included in the MPO list there were more than 25 science students at the college."

He refuted the allegation against him and blamed 'conspiracy' of some teachers of the college for "degradation of academic atmosphere leading to the present situation".



PHOTO: STAR

BARBARIC VENGEANCE! Aggrieved over a land dispute, rivals destroy newly planted aman seedlings by spraying poisonous chemicals on around two and a half acres of land of their opponents at Chouddaburia village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

Victim of bitter vendetta Aman plants destroyed by spraying poison

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

Criminals destroyed newly planted aman seedlings of about two and a half acres of land at Chouddaburia village of Kamlapur union in Patuakhali Sadar upazila by spraying poison on Sunday night. Six cows also became sick after eating grass from the field.

Following a complaint from cropland owner Eusuf Melker, also an MLSS of Chodhaburia Senior

Madrasah, Patuakhali superintendent of police yesterday asked the officer in charge of Patuakhali police station to take lawful action after proper investigation.

"A gang commanded by Ashrab Ali Melker of the same village destroyed our plants by spraying chemicals in the fields on Sunday night. We have a land dispute with them and a civil case is running with a Patuakhali court in this regard. The rivals destroyed our aman plants when they realised that they would lose the case," goes the complaint.

"Seeing that our newly planted aman seedlings on five fields comprising 2.47 acres of land turned yellow and lay slanting on Monday morning, my father became senseless. The plants died as harmful chemicals were sprayed there," Delwar Melker, son of Eusuf Melker, said.

Farmer Jalal Melker said, "My five cows have already become sick as I fed them grass cut from one of the poisoned fields yesterday. A cow of Forkan Sikder, another farmer, also became sick due to the same reason."

"I have seen never seen such an incident in my life. I demand punishment to the culprits," said Abdul Qader Fakir, 60, a locally revered person.

Asked about the matter over cellphone, Ashrab Ali Melker denied the allegation against him and said, "I have been in Dhaka for 15 days and I did not know anything about the matter."

AZM Momtazul Karim, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension, said, "I sent a field level officer to see the matter and report on it."

KUMARI PUJA CELEBRATED



Barbaric!

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

Twelve students of Mohashraddhee Nuria Fazil Madrasa were injured Monday after the principal gave them a good beating.

Of the injured, Md Kawsar, a student of class eight, had to be admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital yesterday.

Guardians and local elite demanded the removal of Principal Maulana Mohiuddin Afsaree following his atrocious action.

Sources said a protest brewed at the madrasa following a move by Maulana Mohiuddin to choose a certain number of guardians to form the managing committee of the institution without any formal notice or consultation with others.

The matter came to light on Monday and all students boycotted their classes protesting the action. At one stage of the protest, the principal had called 12 students into a room to exchange views with them to settle the issue. When the boys entered the room, he started beating them with a cane, injuring 12.

Hearing the matter, local guardians rushed to the madrasa and demanded removal of the principal.

Abdul Goni Sharif, father of a student, told this correspondent, "We demand immediate removal of the principal. Otherwise, we will go for agitation."

The principal was not available on phone for any comment.

4 firearms, 16 bombs recovered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Rapid Action Battalion Rab recovered at least four firearms and 16 bombs in Meherpur and Madaripur districts yesterday and the day before.

Our correspondent in Kushtia reports: The elite forces recovered six bombs and two light guns (LG) from Bagoan village in Mujibnagar upazila of Meherpur yesterday morning.

A team of Rab-6 led by captain ABM Abul Hasnat raided an abandoned godown in the village on information that a group of criminals were holding a meeting there.

"Sensing our (Rab) presence, the criminals fled the scene and we found six bombs and two LGs on the spot," Captain Hasnat told this correspondent over phone.

The Rab later handed over the firearms and bombs to Mujibnagar police.

At least 48 bombs were recovered from the district in last two months since

September 1.

In Madaripur, Rab members on Monday night arrested two youths along with two LGs and 10 bombs from Gomostapur area in Sadar upazila, reports UNB.

Tipped off, a Rab team stopped a Barisal-bound truck coming from Faridpur in the morning and arrested truck driver Barek Pramanik and his helper Zahid Mollah

along with the bombs and the firearms.

Rab camp commander Sirajul Islam said the arrestees were taking the arms and ammunition to Barisal for committing a crime.

In Khulna, police arrested two persons on Sunday midnight from Banishanta under Dakope upazila for keeping illegal arms in their possession, reports our Staff

Correspondent.

The arrestees were identified as UP member Abdul Halim Howlader and his relative Al-Amin Sheikh.

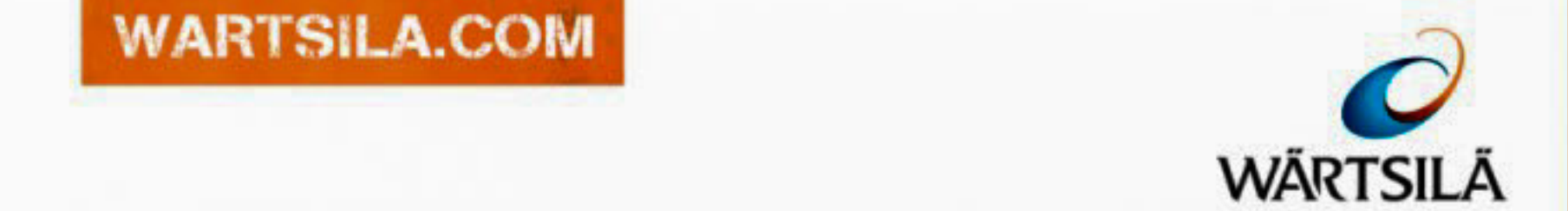
Police recovered a gun from the possession of Abdul Halim who is member of Banishanta union parishad and publicity secretary of the union unit of ruling party.

PHOTO: STAR
A devotee worships Goddess Durga during celebration of Kumari Puja, the virgin form of the deity, at Durgabari Ramkrishna Mission Temple in Gaibandha town and, below, a priest blessing a girl child symbolising a pre-pubescent at Dinajpur Ramkrishna Ashram on the occasion yesterday, the third day of the five-day Durga Puja.



Our heartiest congratulations to Summit Narayananj Power for being adjudged the "Best Fast Track Project in Asia" at the Asian Power Awards 2011.

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