

ALLEGED ASSAULT ON ELECTION OFFICER

# Warrant for arrest of 4 magistrates, 10 other officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Meherpur court issued an warrant for arrest of 14 officials including four magistrates of Meherpur district administration on Wednesday evening.

The warrant was issued after the district election officer of Meherpur filed a case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on Tuesday on charge of assaulting him.

The accused include Nezarat Deputy Collector (NDC) Aslam Uddin and assistant commissioners Abidio Mardi, Jubayer Ahmed, Sujit Hawladar, personal secretary of Meherpur deputy commissioner Mahfuzzaman and district Nazir Aminul Islam Rana.

According to the case, deputy commissioner (DC) of Meherpur Sahar Ara Banu called the election officer Tareq Ahmed through her assistant per-

sonal secretary (APS). The election officer replied that he will meet the DC just after finishing some urgent jobs.

After some times, NDC Aslam and magistrate Mardi with some staffs entered the office of the DEO on the second floor on DC court compound, dragged him out of office and took him to a room on the third floor.

"After taking me there, the duo assaulted me physically and locked me inside the room," the election officer said in the case.

The election officer called his staffs narrating the matter over his mobile phone. The staffs rescued him from captivity.

The incident was officially brought to the notice of the Election Secretariat in Dhaka and cabinet division.

On an instruction from the Cabinet Secretariat, Khulna divisional commissioner Mashiur Rahman ordered stand release of two magistrates Nezarat Deputy

Collector (NDC) Aslam Uddin and assistant commissioner Abidio Mardi. They were sent to Narail and Satkhira.

DC Sahar Ara Banu later told journalists that the matter was under investigation.

Three separate bodies, one by Cabinet Secretariat, the other by Election Commission Secretariat and the third one by Khulna Divisional Commissioner, have been formed to probe the incident.

Besides, the Meherpur DC instantly ordered transfer of the other officials.

Election officer Tareq Ahmed said, he filed the case on instruction from Election Commission in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, the officers and employees of election office in Meherpur brought out a procession in the collectorate area yesterday. They demanded immediate action against the people who assaulted the election officer.



Vegetable cultivation on floating gardens, like this one on the Kobadak River in Keshabpur upazila under Jessore district, is gaining popularity in different parts of the country. Revival of the low cost cultivation process bears bright prospect, especially for the poor farmers living in riverbank areas.

PHOTO: STAR



Premises of this mosque at Gobinda village in Pabna town witnessed the most unimaginable barbarity on March 26 in 1971 when the Pakistan occupation army opened fire at the people taking part in janaza prayers as part of a deceased villager's funeral.

PHOTO: STAR

## The mosque still remains witness to Pak brutality

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

It was around 5:00pm on March 26, 1971. People gathered in front of a mosque at Gobinda village in Pabna town to attend janaza prayers before burial of a deceased political activist.

But the innocent people experienced the most unimaginably horrible experience as the Pakistan occupation army went in a shooting spree during the funeral prayers.

One person was killed and 10/12 others including the imam (leader) of the prayers were injured in the brutal attack of the Pakistan occupation army at the very beginning of the Liberation War, said elderly people including freedom fighters of Pabna.

Awami League activist Shukur Ali, a young man of Krishnapur village in the district town, died at Pabna General Hospital on March 25 evening following his serious injuries in a political clash the same day.

Amid curfew, relatives and neighbours took the body to the village on March 26 afternoon with special permission from the then deputy commissioner and arranged janaza prayers for burial of the body.

"Several hundred people of Krishnapur, Gobinda and adjoining villages participated in the prayers held on the premises of the mosque at Gobinda village after the Asar prayers," said freedom fighter and journalist Md Robiul Islam Robi, also an eyewitness to the incident.

"Moulana Ibrahim Khalil, imam of the mosque, was conducting the prayers when 8 to 10 Pakistani soldiers came to the spot and started firing at the people attending the prayer," he said.

"Brutal Pak army shot dead Abdus Samad, an elderly person of Krishnapur village, who was standing beside me during the prayers. Moulana Ibrahim Khalil and several others including Md Abdus Samad, Md Badiuzzaman and Md Akkas Ali received bullet injuries during this attack. Leaving the prayer, people started running for life," he added.

"It was beyond our imagination that a regular force would attack innocent people attending janaza prayers," said freedom fighter Baby Islam.

Mass people of the area along with Bangalee members of the then EPR fought against the Pakistan occupation army on March 27 and 28 in front of Pabna Telephone Exchange camp and killed around 40 Pakistani soldiers there, he said.

Later on March 29, the Pakistan force started air attack on the freedom fighters to make way for retreat of their 182-strong force staying in Pabna BSCIC camp.

When the occupation forces tried to leave the district on Pabna-Ishwardi road, the mass people, mostly armed with locally made weapons, chased and fought against them at Dashuria and Gopalpur in Ishwardi upazila on March 29. As the Pakistani soldiers either got killed or fled from the district, Pabna remained freed from March 30 to April 9.

Later large contingents of the occupation forces entered the district on April 10. They committed massacre and inhuman torture on the people while freedom fighters continued resistance for months till the final victory in December 1971.

### The Daily Star - ENGLISH FAIR

## Students of two Khulna schools learn amid fun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Students of Apex Girls' High School and MA Majid High School in Digholia upazila under the district took part in the English language fair held under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi, at Apex Girls' High School yesterday.

The fair events comprised presentation of globally renowned movie The Lion King, contests on vocabulary, situation-based questions, extempore speech, role play and etiquette test.

Students of the two schools took part in joyful interactions and entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.

Apex Girls' High School Headmaster Md Saifuddin Lashkar, who presided over the programme, distributed prizes among winners of different competitions.

Mahumudul Hasan Rakib of Robi conducted the programme while Digholia Upazila Parishad Chairman M Allic M ohiuddin



attended there as chief guest.

Aiming to promote English language learning among school students across the country, The Daily Star in cooperation with Robi undertook English in Schools programme in 2009.

Under the initiative, each of one thousand schools selected from 64 districts of the country receives three complimentary copies of The Daily Star five days a week.

The ongoing English language fairs at different schools are being held in coordination with the education ministry as part of the three-year-long programme.

Adcom Ltd is the creative and event partner of the fairs.

## 26 'captive' labourers rescued from Patuakhali brick kiln

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police rescued 26 brick kiln labourers, including three women, from captivity in Bamna upazila under Barguna district early Wednesday.

They were allegedly locked in the room of a house for several days by the musclemen of the owners at CBC Brickfield.

The law enforcers also arrested three people-- Yunus Ali Khan, 45, Munsur Ali Mridha, 35 and Moshref Hossain, 30, manager and staffs of the brickfield--in

this connection.

Azam Khan Faruquee, officer in-charge of Bamna police station, said on secret information, they raided the brickfield at Chalabhang village in Bamna upazila and rescued the 26 from captivity.

A rescued labourer filed a case with the PS accusing 11 people, including Manzurul Ahsan Monju and Kamrul Hasan Babul, both owners of the brick kiln.

Another victim Golam Hossain Gazi said, Rafiqul Islam of Bondhonkathee village under Kaliganj upazila, a labour leader at

the brickfield, hired them from different villages on the basis of six months contact on October 1, 2011.

"At first the authorities paid us regularly", he said, adding that the owners refused to pay them from February 29 this year as Rafiqul fled the brick kiln after receiving their all wages in advance".

Following the incident, the musclemen of the owners locked them forcibly in the room.

"We were given little food and forced to work round the clock, said Golam.



PHOTO: STAR

Police rescued 26 labourers including three women, who had been forced to work hard under captivity for weeks, from CBC Brickfield in Bamna upazila under Barguna district yesterday.

## AL leader among two stabbed to death in Bogra

UNB, Bogra

Two people, including a local Awami League leader, were stabbed to death and another was injured in stabbing by criminals at Kazipara bus stand in Kahaalu upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased were identified as M Khorshed Ali Sarker, 22, president of AL Birkedar union unit, and Mansur Mallik, 50, an employee of Khorshed's shop.

Police said when Khorshed along with his two employees Mansur and Bablu Pramanik were returning home on a motorbike, a gang intercepted them on Bogra-Naogaon Road. They stabbed the trio

indiscriminately, leaving them critically injured.

They were rushed to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where Khorshed and Mansur succumbed to their injuries.

Bablu was sent to Dhaka for better treatment as his condition deteriorated.

Police arrested four people-- Shaheed, 58, Hiru, 55, Tapas, 22 and UP member Mogor Ali, 40 --in this connection.

Khorshed's son Syeed said his father was killed following previous enmity with another faction of Awami League over forming the managing committee of Kazipara High School.

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Please send your complete resume to [human.resource@ericsson.com](mailto:human.resource@ericsson.com) by **March 29, 2012**. Please clearly mention the name of the position you are applying for on the subject line. Only short listed candidates will be called for an interview.

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