

# They collect sugarcane residue from dirty pool

Sell per sack of item for Tk 220 to 250 as substitute for firewood

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Over 150 ultra-poor women are engaged in collecting sugarcane residues from pitch black water of a dirty pool that contains waste materials from Mohimaganj Sugar Mills in the district.

They do the repulsive and unhygienic job to support their families as the material, used as fuel for domestic purpose, earns them some money.

Everyday these women are found collecting floating wastes from the pool containing pitch black liquid where garbage, dirty water, waste molasses and burnt out lube oil from the factory are let flow.

While passers-by moving along the road beside the dirty and stinking pool often cover their nose in disgust these poor women continue searching sugarcane residue there.

After straining out floating wastes from the dirty pool, they collect it in baskets and put on the ground for drying in the sun.

Thus making the sugarcane residue ready for using as fuel in domestic hearth, they sell a sack of the item for Tk 220 to 250 in the local market.



PHOTO: STAR

Hard-pressed, these women collect waste materials, mostly sugarcane residues, from this awfully dirty pond beside Mohimaganj Sugar Mills in Gaibandha district and dry them to sell as fuel for domestic purposes.

It makes good substitute of firewood for domestic purposes.

"We collect sugarcane waste from this dirty pool everyday. We know this is harmful for health, but we have hardly any alternative source of earning," said Jamila Begum of Sreepati

village in Gobindaganj upazila.

Many of the waste material collectors often suffer from fever and intestinal diseases due to working for long in the dirty pool, but they do it only for earning livelihood, said Sajeda Bewa, an elderly woman of

Mohimaganj.

The earning source is a seasonal one as they get enough sugarcane residues only when the mill remains operational for a couple of months during the sugarcane crushing period, said Aklima Khatun of Mohimaganj Bazar.

## 20 sued for killing Natore Jubo League man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A case was filed with Natore Police Station against 20 people yesterday on charge of killing local Jubo League activist Shahin Hossain.

The accused include Sadrul Islam Dambel, vice-president of district unit Swechhasebak Dal and a councillor of Natore municipality.

Victim's sister Shathi Khatun lodged the case, said Abdullah Al Mamun, officer in-charge of the PS.

Police also arrested one Rony Hossain, 15, son of Sadek Hossain of Meerpara area in the district town in connection with the incident.

Shahin's wife said a gang of 4/5 led by local BNP man Nasir called Shahin, 35, shot him near Palpara Mosque in the town on Friday night. Hedied on the spot.

The gang also hacked another Jubo League activist Bakul, 28, leaving him critically injured, she added.

Shariful Islam Ramzan, president of district unit Jubo League, alleged that Dambel and Nasir attacked the duo over establishing supremacy in the area.

### ATTACK ON JOURNO

## Case filed, police probe goes thru' mobile call list

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Injured staff reporter of the daily Samakal ABM Fazlur Rahman yesterday filed a case against anonymous criminals for Saturday's attack on him at the campus of Government Edward College in the district town.

"I was attacked when I went to Government Edward College campus on Saturday after a caller (mobile No 01964249649) told me to go there to gather some information about the institution," he said in the case statement.

"We are trying to get the clue through the cellphone number. We have already identified two suspected attackers and trying to nab them," said Jahangir Hossain Matobbar, superintendent of Pabna police.

Fazlur Rahman, also a reporter of private television channel NTV, is now undergoing treatment at Pabna Medical College Hospital.

"The victim's tendon of the right hand got severed and a bone damaged due to the attack. After surgery we have joined the tendon but it will take over a month to cure the damaged bone," said Dr Riazul Haque Reza, chief surgeon of the orthopaedic department of Pabna Medical College Hospital.

## Housewife tortured for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A housewife was tortured allegedly by her husband for dowry at Mahidia village in Jessore Sadar upazila on Friday night.

Rikta Khatun, 20, daughter of late Mohammad Ali of Hardaputa village under Jhikorgasa upazila, is now undergoing treatment at Jessore Medical College and Hospital.

Family members said Rikta married Hasan Ali of Mahidia village three years ago. After the marriage, Hasan and his family members often tortured her for dowry.

On the night, Hasan went to his father-in-law's home and put pressure on Rikta to bring Tk 50,000 in dowry from her father.

As she refused to do so, he beat up her mercilessly, leaving her injured seriously.

Hearing scream, neighbours rescued the housewife and took her to the hospital in a critical condition.

## The Daily Star - ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Feni Government Pilot High School raise hands to respond to a question during the English language fair held at the school auditorium yesterday.

# Students from 7 more schools participate

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of seven schools in Lalmonirhat, Jessore, Narayanganj, Feni and Chandpur districts yesterday took part in English language fairs held under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Over 200 students from Lalmonirhat Government Girls' High School, Kobi Shaikh Fazlul Karim Girls' High School and Church Ov God High School took part in the fair held Lalmonirhat Government Girls' High School auditorium, reports our correspondent.

Abdur Rafi, an English teacher of the school, inaugurated the fair.

Globally famous movie The Lion King was screened, followed by quizzes on vocabulary, situation-based questions, extempore speeches and role play.

The students of the three high schools took part in joyful interactions and entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.

Later, prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions. An English language club was also formed.

Our Benapole correspondent reported that around 300 students of Sharsha Girls' High School in Sharsha upazila of Jessore district participated in English language fair yesterday.

Mohammad Nuruzaman, headmaster of the school, opened the fair at the school auditorium at around 10:00am.

The headmaster in his inaugural speech said it is matter of pride and plea-



Lion King was screened, followed by quizzes on vocabulary, situation-based questions, extempore speeches and role play.

Eighteen students won different competitions. Prizes were distributed among the winners at the end of the programme.

About 100 students of Chandpur Pura Bazar Girls' High School joined the fair held at the school auditorium yesterday.

Globally renowned movie The Lion King was screened, followed by quizzes on vocabulary, situation-based question-answer, extempore speech and role play.

Students of the school took part in joyful interactions and watched the events based on the movie. They also entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.

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 English language fairs.

# Farmers demonstrate for fair price of boro paddy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Several hundred farmers yesterday blocked Gaibandha-Sunderganj Road at Dariyapur Bazar in the district to press home their demand for fixing boro paddy price at Tk 850 per maund.

They put up sacks of paddy on the road at around 11:00am, halting vehicular movement for an hour. Bangladesh Krishak Samity Gaibandha district unit organised the protest programme.

Addressing a rally at Dariyapur Bazar, the farmers said though the government has fixed procurement rate of per maund of paddy at Tk 720, they have to sell the same at Tk 425 to 440 at village markets.

Many of the marginal farmers have failed to get back the production cost of the boro crop this season, they said.

Apart from the demand, they also urged the government to procure boro paddy



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers halt traffic on Gaibandha-Sundarganj Road in Dariyapur Bazar in Gaibandha district yesterday demanding fair price for boro paddy.

directly from the farmers so that middlemen could not collect the crop at a throw-away price.

Among others, samity's central committee's member Subhash Shaha Roy, district unit Secretary Sadequ Islam and farmers' leaders Abdus Samad and

Ashini Kumar Shil, spoke.

In Natore, Farmers have urged the government to re-fix boro paddy price at Tk 20 per kg, reports our correspondent.

They came up with the demand at a protest rally held in the district town yesterday noon.

They also formed a human chain in front of Natore Press Club to meet the demand.

Organised by Krishak Samity, the speakers at the programme said farmers are incurring huge loss for selling per kg boro at the government-fixed rate.



PHOTO: SYANDAN PATRIKA OF AGARTALA

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) officials shake hands as this elephant, belonging to a circus company in Bangladesh, was handed over back to the owner though the Akhaura border following a flag meeting between BGB and BSF on Saturday. The giant mammal had entered Tripura state of neighbouring India on April 14.



PHOTO: STAR

Two students take part in a 'role play' during the English language fair held at Lalmonirhat Government Girls' High School yesterday.