

# Bid to build brick kiln on agri land sparks protest

## Indigenous people form human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Indigenous people in Madhupur upazila formed a human chain and launched a signature campaign yesterday, demanding removal of an illegal under construction brick kiln from an agricultural land at Idilpur village in the upazila.

At the village mostly inhabited by indigenous people, there is a government primary school, a high school, a madrasa, an orphanage, a cultural centre for local indigenous people, a mission of the Church of Bangladesh, two missionary

schools, five mosques, three churches, and several national and international aid organisations, local leaders said.

The village is also famous for cultivation of different fruits including pineapple and mango.

About three months ago, Rezaul Alam Talukder, a businessman from Dhaka, who claimed to have bought 10 acres of vested property through *baina sutra* (partial payment of the agreed value) at the village and hung a signboard of 'Hena Auto Bricks Limited' there, local sources said.

Later, following a petition from local indigenous people, M Bazlul Karim Chowdhury, the then deputy commissioner (DC) in Tangail, ordered Madhupur upazila administration to stop the illegal brick kiln construction bid in the indigenous peoples' village.

Accordingly, Khan Nazmus Shoyeb, assistant commissioner (Land) in Madhupur, went to the village recently and directed the company authorities to stop the brick kiln construction work, upazila administration sources said.

But ignoring the adminis-

trative order, the bricks company, however, continued their activities and constructed an office structure there.

Demanding immediate removal of the brick industry from the village to save local environment and biodiversity, the indigenous leaders in Madhupur held a press conference at Tangail Press Club and submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through DC Anisur Rahman Miah in Tangail on Monday.

Chairman of Tribal Welfare Association in Madhupur William Dajel, Maria Chiran, former headmistress of Corpus Christy School, Sulekha Mrong, chairman of Achik Michik Society in Madhupur, and Nilip Mrong, executive director of Society for Biodiversity Conservation addressed the conference presided over by Joinshahi Adivasi Unnayan Parishad Chairman Ugene Nokrake.

Rezaul Alam Talukder, chairman of Hena Auto Bricks Limited, said, "We have all valid papers in favour of the project. The brick kiln will be an environment friendly one and create employment opportunity for the locals. A group is instigating the indigenous people to stop the project."

On the other hand, Mohammad Habibullah, upazila nirbahi officer of Madhupur, said the brick kiln will not be allowed at Idilpur village as district and upazila administrations, Directorate of Environment and Fire Service and Civil Defence Department did not give any permission for the purpose.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous people under the banner of Adivasi Cluster Unnayan Forum form a human chain at Madhupur Bus Station in Madhupur upazila of Tangail district yesterday demanding steps to prevent setting up of an illegal brick kiln on farmland at Idilpur village in the upazila. Inset, authorities of the brick field under question hang a signboard claiming ownership of the farmland.



## CHAPAINAWABGANJ BORDER 2 killed, 11 hurt by BSF since Sept 10

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed two Bangladeshi nationals and injured at least eleven others when they were trying to cross the border through different points of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj district since September 10.

The BSF also arrested at least 99 people on charge of illegal intrusion to Indian territory through different borders of Chapainawabganj during the same period, said officials of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

On September 30, BSF tortured to death Bangladeshi cattle trader Abdul Hannan, 25, son of Tozful Mia of Charhasanpur-Ayubbiswasertola near Shingnagar border of Shibganj upazila.

As Hannan was entering Indian territory through Shingnagar border near pillar No 172 to collect cattle, the BSF men took him to their Doulatpur camp in Maldah of Pashchimbanga and beat him up, leaving him seriously injured. Later, BSF men threw him at the Zero Line of Shingnagar border and he died in the afternoon.

Ironically, the incident occurred just a day after BSF Director General UK Bansal had assured Bangladesh authorities of bringing down casualties along the Bangladesh-India border to zero level.

On October 2, BSF stabbed to death cattle trader Enamul Haque, 25, son of Abul Hossain of Shayampur-Sahapara under

Monakasha union, and injured four others when they were returning home along with cattle through the Padma River at Masudpur border of Shibganj upazila at around 3:30am.

Ahmed, 20, of Tarapur-Sahapara village under Monakasha union, was seriously injured as BSF shot him near Masudpur border of the same upazila on September 10 when he along with his companions was entering Indian land.

The BSF men severely beat up cattle trader Mohammad Mukul, 27, of Parchouka village under Monakasha union in Shibganj upazila, at their Doulatpur camp of Maldah, on September 25.

Cattle traders Mohammad Dulal, 24, of Ghughudanga village, and Shafiqul Islam, 22, of Shayampur-Sahapara village, were injured in BSF firing near Masudpur border on September 28.

Setabul Islam, 45, his brother Abu Sayem, 30, and Saidur Rahman, 32, of Unishbighi village under Shahbajpur union, were bullet-hit by BSF on Chakpara border of Shibganj upazila on October 7.

During this correspondent's recent visit to different bordering villages in Monakasha union, villagers said due to a panicky situation created by BSF, farmers are afraid even to cultivate their lands near the border.

BSF brutally tortures and kills cattle traders but does not take action against drug and arms smugglers who are active on both sides of the border at different points, they said.

## Guard arrested in bank robbery case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police yesterday arrested a guard of Islami Bank Jhalakathi branch in connection with the looting of Tk 77 lakh from the branch early Wednesday.

Guard Abdul Barek was taken to Sadar Police Station on Wednesday night for quizzing and shown arrested yesterday.

An unidentified gang, after making unconscious night-time security guard Shamsul Huq, entered the bank in Aratdarpotty area of the town and took away the money.

Shamsul Huq was admitted to Jhalakathi General Hospital and then shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Sarwar Hossain, manager of the bank branch, filed a case with Sadar Police Station on Wednesday night, naming none as accused,

said officer-in-charge Abdul Mannan.

Opening the bank on the second floor of the four-storey building at around 9:00am, the staff saw the closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras had been damaged and the cash stolen from the lockers of different sections in the bank, the manager stated in the case statement.

When the staff started looking for night guard Shamsul Huq, they found him unconscious inside a toilet on the third floor of the building, he further said.

OC Abdul Mannan said police are looking for Mohidul alias Hamidul Islam, a tenant on the third floor of the building, as he has been absconding since the incident.

Police suspected that Mohidul and his accomplices made night guard Shamsu unconscious and looted the money from the branch.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka-Tangail highway saw a 20-kilometre-long tailback from Baoikhola in Basail upazila to Elenga in Kalihati upazila under Tangail district for around seven hours till yesterday noon as a rice-laden truck and an animal carrying truck went out of order and got stranded at Ashekpur in Tangail Sadar upazila and Baoikhola in Basail upazila at 5:00am and 6:45am respectively. The picture was taken from Gharinda bypass near Tangail town at around 8:00am.



PHOTO: STAR

PUJA IN THE AIR: An artiste gives the finishing touches to an image of Goddess Durga in Agoiljhara upazila of Barisal district yesterday, a day before Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindus.

## 100 Jamaat-Shibir men sued for snatching arrestee

### 8 others for assaulting cops

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Over 100 Jamaat-Shibir men have been sued on charge of snatching an arrested Jamaat leader from police custody in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, two Jammaat leaders and six Shibir activists were arrested in a police assault case in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat district the same day.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reported that Sub-Inspector (SI) Abu Hanif and constable Abdur Razzak of Sundarganj Police Station went to Panchananda Dakhil Madrasa in Teesta basin area Wednesday afternoon and arrested Maulana Abed Ali, local Jamaat leader and superintendent of the madrasa, in connection with a case filed on September 30 this year.

When the cops along with the arrestee were returning to the police station, over a hundred Jammaat-Shibir men, including female leaders and activists of both parties, swooped on the policemen at Dhumaitari village and took away Maulana Abed Ali, police said.

Later, SI Abu Hanif filed a case with the police station, accusing more than 100 Jamaat-Shibir men of the area of obstructing police in performing their duties.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Monjur Rahman of Sundarganj Police Station said a case was filed against 500 local leaders and activists of BNP-led 18-party alliance following a clash with cops at the upazila headquarters on September 30.

Panchananda Dakhil Madrasa Superintendent Maulana Abed Ali is one of the accused in the case, the

## Two held for rape, spreading video

A CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Police on Monday night and Wednesday arrested two people on charge of raping a college girl and spreading video clips of the incident through mobile phones.

The arrestees are Ayub Hossain, 32, of Rasulpur village, and Rafiqul Islam, 30, of Kashempur village in Sathkira Sadar upazila.

At around 5:00pm on September 2, the victim, an examinee from a polytechnic institute, was going to a kitchen market at Kadamtola Bazar in Sathkira town when local youths Ayub Hossain, 32, Ariful Islam, 22, and Sabuj, 20, waylaid her and took her to a nearby room where Ayub Hossain resides, according to the victim.

There they raped her and videoed the scene on their cell phones. They also took her father's cell phone number.

The victim's father said that on October 4, one of the criminals demanded Tk 1 lakh from him and threatened to spread the video clips of the incident in case of refusal to give the money. They asked him to hand

over the money near Kadamtola Bridge.

The girl along with Sub-inspector Anima Rani of Sadar police station went to the spot wearing veil, but the criminals were not found there.

On October 14, the victim filed a complaint mentioning the names of Ayub, Ariful and Sabuj and police recorded the complaint as a case the next day.

The same night police arrested Ayub from his house, seized a computer from the house of another accused Sabuj and recovered the video clips.

Later on Wednesday, police arrested trader Rafiqul Islam from Kashempur village and seized from his possession a computer that also contained the obscene video clips.

The victim's mother said a local Jubo League leader is threatening them to withdraw the case and pressurising the family to marry off the girl with Ariful, one of the rapists.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in a statement yesterday demanded early steps to ensure punishment of the criminals and safety of the victim and her family members.

### Australian Property Investment MELBOURNE

**Townshend Homes Group**  
+88 01 744 613 459  
jwinks@townshend.com.au

**EXHIBITIONS**  
Dhaka  
WESTIN HOTEL  
SATURDAY/SUNDAY  
October 20th & 21st  
11am-6pm

✓ Australian Freehold titled property  
✓ Migration pathway assistance  
✓ Business Investment Opportunities  
✓ World-class education for your children

CALL FOR PERSONALISED ADVICE FROM A LEADING AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION LAWYER OR REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AT sales@townshend.com.au

## MASTERS

### in Electrical & Electronic Engineering

www.aiub.edu

**Major Fields: Power Engineering, Electronics and Communications**

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- 4-year B.Sc. Engg. in EE/ EEE/ ETE/ ECE or allied field with good academic records
- Completed application form

**Admission open for Spring 2012-2013**

**Admission Information**  
Admission Office/ Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
House 83/B, Road 4,  
Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka 1213.  
Phone: 8811749, 9894229, 9897387 (Extension: 100 or 200)

**AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH**  
WHERE LEADERS ARE CREATED