

School becomes plaything as rivals vie for control

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Construction of a new building for a century-old primary school in Dumki upazila under the district is hanging in the balance due to dispute among two groups of locals over site selection.

Three months ago, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) finalised tender process for building a cyclone shelter-cum-school to accommodate Rajganj-Chandukhali Government Primary School that faces erosion of Paira River.

But the authorities could

not issue work order for the Tk 56 lakh work due to dispute among villagers, said Md Fuad Hasan, upazila engineer for LGED.

With the help of locals, farmer Tufan Mollah set up Rajganj-Chandukhali Primary School on 0.41 acres of land donated by him at Rajganj village in Pangashia union of Dumki upazila, and later the school, the lone one in the village, became nationalised, school sources said.

To save from erosion, the school had to be shifted eight times and Tufan Mollah's heirs including Basok Mollah, Osman

Mollah and Alauddin Mollah gave lands for the purpose. Lastly the schoolhouse was set up on the land donated by Alauddin Mollah in 1988.

The school again required shifting due to erosion by the Paira River, and in March this year, Fazlul Haque Akon, Majed Akon, Abdul Hadi Akon, Abdur Rob Akon -- all relatives of Alauddin Mollah, donated 0.33 acres of land at Rajganj village, about 1.5 km inside the flood control embankment.

Dumki upazila parishad Chairman Harun-or-Rashid Howlader, and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md

Asaduzzaman, and other officials concerned approved the new site and LGED called tender to build a cyclone shelter-cum-school building there.

But a group of locals led by Abdur Rashid Gazi, chairman of the school managing committee, wanted to build the schoolhouse at nearby Dakkhin Pangashia village.

"We set up the school on our land but now a gang led by Rashid Gazi want to shift it to another village. They often threaten us over the matter. On November 10, they attacked my son Sohel when he was returning home. The gang also filed a false case against Sohel and our family members," Alauddin said.

Rashid Gazi refuted the allegations and said, "I have no personal interest in the matter. I want to set up the school building at a safer place."

Asked by Upazila Education Officer Mollah Bakhtiar Uddin, local union parishad Chairman Gazi Nazrum Islam arranged *shalish* (local arbitration) among villagers but the two groups failed to reach a consensus on the issue.

Dumki UNO Sabbir Ahmad said, "I have formed a six-member local committee to settle the matter. If the committee fail to reach a solution, we will take lawful action against those who would create obstacle to the construction work."



PHOTO: STAR

The house of Rajganj-Chandukhali Government Primary School in Dumki upazila under Patuakhali district remains highly vulnerable to erosion by the Piara River while tug of war between two groups of locals centring site selection stands in the way to construction of a new building for the century-old school, also the lone one in Rajganj village.

Help get Shaon back, parents appeal to PM

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Parents of abducted college student Azizul Haque Shaon have again sought prime minister's intervention to get back their son.

On November 26, they made an appeal in a petition to the prime minister through her protocol officer at the PMO in this regard.

Son of Aktaruzzaman Poltu of Sherpur upazila town in the district, Shaon, 17, a student of Cambrian College Dhaka, was abducted from Kuril Biswa Road on November 2. His father lodged a general diary (GD) with Badda Police Station the following day.

"I also informed the top officials of the police department about the matter and sought their help. But police could not rescue my son even after one month of his abduction," Aktaruzzaman said.

Talking to some newsmen in the district town on Friday, Aktaruzzaman again sought prime minister's intervention to get back his son.



Meanwhile, police arrested an accused in an abduction case from Koro Gokul village in Kahaloo upazila yesterday.

The arrestee is Zafar Ali, 48, son of Reaz Uddin of the village.

According to the case statement Shahjahan Ali of the village and his cohorts picked up a madrasa girl while she was returning home at the same village from Ananta Bazar on November 11. As they tried to take her away in a microbus, she managed to flee and took shelter at a teacher's house in the area.

Rab arrests Sundarbans robber

Recovers arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday captured a Sundarbans forest robber at Itabaria in Sharankhola upazila.

The arrestee was identified as Shamshu Sheikh, 45, of 'Julhash Bahini', and son of Akub Ali Sheikh of Arzun Bahar village in the upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-6 raided Talbaria canal area at about 11:00 in the morning and captured Shamshu while chasing a gang of forest robbers.

However, his accomplices managed to flee the scene along with a trawler.

Following a confessional statement by Shamshu, the elite force later recovered two foreign made guns and 20 bullets by digging earth in the Sundarbans.

The arrestee was later handed over to local police and a case was filed against six people.

Shamshu had long been engaged in looting fishing nets and fishes from trawlers of fishermen and realising ransom from the families after abducting them, said police and Rab officials.

ATTACK ON BGB VEHICLE

Jamaat man held in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police arrested a Jamaat-e-Islami activist from Club Super Market in the district town yesterday on charge of vandalising a BGB vehicle.

The arrestee was identified as Kamal Uddin, 45, of Chandlai area in the town.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Nurunnabi of Sadar police station said, a team arrested Kamal Uddin from his shop - Tamanna Electronics at Club Super Market yesterday noon.

Earlier, BGB and police filed two separate cases against 188 Jamaat and Shibir men on charge of vandalising a BGB vehicle and injuring its driver sepoy Amzad Hossain in Mohananda Bus Stand area of the town on Wednesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, police arrested three Jamaat leaders and activist on Friday night on different charges in Shibganj and Nachole upazila.

The arrestees are Monirul Islam, nayebe ameer of

Resume classes, demand IU students

Procession, human chain on campus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

General students of Islamic University (IU) yesterday took out a procession and formed a human chain on the campus, demanding immediate resumption of classes and examinations.

After parading different faculties, around 200 students under the banner of "IU Sachetan Sikhhati Samaj" joined the human chain programme in front of the Shaheed Minar.

Addressing a rally at the venue, students of different departments urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to end the three-month-long deadlock at the university.

The Islamic University Teachers Association (IUTA) yesterday again besieged the administration building demanding removal of the vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and treasurer for their alleged involvement in irregularities in the recruitment of 132 teachers and officials on September 7.

Led by IUTA President Yakub Ali, the agitating teachers put the administrative building under siege for two hours from 10:30am.

They demanded immediate appointment of honest and competent persons as new vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and treasurer, removing the present ones.



Vulture taken to Ramsagar shelter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Forest officials in the district brought a nearly extinct species of vulture, caught by a local from Akcha village of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Thursday afternoon, to Ramsagar Jatiya Udyan in Dinajpur district on Friday evening.

"Receiving information from local reporters, I with three staff went to the house of Robiul Islam at Akcha village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila at about 5:30pm and rescued the vulture," said Nizam Ullah, range officer of forest department in Thakurgaon.

"Dr Izar Ahmed Khan, veterinary surgeon of livestock department in Thakurgaon, has given treatment to the vulture. Following instruction from Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ali Kabir, the bird was brought to Ramsagar Jatiya Udyan, a wildlife sanctuary maintained by the Dinajpur Divisional Forest Office," he said.

"The 2.75-foot-long and 2.5-foot-high

bird weighs about 20kg. We will free it after its full recovery," said DFO Ali Kabir.

"The vulture looked very weak when I caught it from a tree at Akcha village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Thursday afternoon. I brought it to my house and many people came to see it. I tried to sell it but did not as a customer offered only Tk 300," Robiul Islam, 26, said during this correspondent's visit to the village on Friday evening.

"It is a nearly extinct species of vulture. They mainly eat flesh of dead animals. Now they face food crisis as people usually dump dead animals under the ground. The captured vulture became weak apparently due to lack of food. I have treated it and suggested feeding flesh for its quick recovery," said veterinary surgeon Dr Izar Ahmed Khan.

The birds are also facing habitat problem as people often fell down big trees where vultures like to nest, he said.

Month of Victory



PHOTO: STAR

The newly built Central Shaheed Minar at Shaheed Sarani in Cox's Bazar is awaiting formal inauguration any day this week.

Cox's Bazar to have new Shaheed Minar soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

People of the district are going to have their much-awaited Central Shaheed Minar in the town this month.

Work on the memorial has been going on round the clock at Shaheed Sarani with an aim to finish its construction by Monday, officials concerned said.

The Shaheed Minar is expected to be formally inaugurated the next day on December 11, they said.

A Shaheed Minar was temporarily built on a 30-decimal land at Shaheed Sarani in 1992 and since looked after by the local municipal authorities.

Last year, LGED secretary Abu Alam Shahid Khan, while visiting the town on an

official purpose, noticed the poor condition of the Shaheed Minar. He asked local administration to prepare a project proposal along with a design of the Shaheed Minar immediately and send it to the ministry.

Following necessary approval, the work on a new Shaheed Minar at a cost of Tk 40 lakh began in May this year.

Designed as the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka, two construction companies are now giving finishing touches to the memorial.

Political and cultural leaders in the district yesterday expressed their gratitude to the authorities concerned for fulfilling the much-awaited demand of the locals.

Acting Mayor Raj Bihari Das sought help from all for proper maintenance of the memorial.



PHOTO: STAR

An excavator removing brickbats from a brick kiln at Sujabad area in Shajahanpur upazila of Bogra yesterday. The Department of Environment (DoE) with the help of local administration, police and Rab knocked down the illegal brick kiln earlier on the day.

Brick kiln built defying law in Bogra bulldozed

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday demolished an illegal brick kiln in Sujabad area under Shajahanpur upazila of the district yesterday.

As per directive of the director (enforcement) of DoE, Executive Magistrate Shamsul Alam and Assistant Director of DOE Md Hafizur Rahman launched the drive with the help of police and Rab members.

Without taking prior permission from the department concerned, one Rashedul Islam of the area established the brickfield on

around 10 acres of land near Fotki Bridge beside Dhaka-Bogra highway last year, DoE and local sources said.

Though the Department of Environment (DoE) had earlier issued a notice to Rashedul, asking him to remove the brick kiln from there, he turned a deaf ear to it.

The department summoned Rashedul last month and fined him Tk.7 lakh for ignoring the order. It (DoE) also asked him to stop his illegal activities or face lawful action.

As Rashedul again defied the order, the department

with the help of law enforcers and local administration knocked down the brick kiln in the morning.

Local farmers alleged that they rented their land to Rashedul for a period of time, but he did not give them money regularly.

This correspondent could not contact brick kiln owner Rashedul as his cellphone remained off.

Contacted, Director (enforcement) of DoE Monir Chowdhury said no one is above the law. Drive against illegal brickfield will continue and lawbreakers will face the music, he added.

BCL factions clash at BRUR, 5 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least five Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men were injured in a factional clash over sharing money gained from illegal admission at Begum Rokeya University (BRUR) here yesterday.

Police and locals said, a few BCL leaders of the university unit recently managed admission of some students in first year honours courses under the academic session 2012-13 in exchange for money.

The rival factions locked in an altercation over the

issue at Park intersection area beside the university on Friday night.

As a sequel to the incident, activists of Hadiuzzaman group took position on the campus yesterday morning. At this, the men of Shishir group entered the campus with a procession.

At one stage, a chase and counter chase took place between the rival groups, leaving at least five from both sides injured.

"The clash took place following a dispute over sharing of Tk 12,000 earned through illegal admission trade", said the OC of BRUR police camp.