

Primary schools collecting admission fees illegally

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

Although there is no official provision for taking any fee for admission to government and non-government primary schools, most of the schools in the district are charging Tk 60 to 70 for the purpose.

The institutions are also taking Tk 40 to 70 as 're-admission fees' from the students promoted to next classes, although salary of the teachers and other staff of such schools are paid from the government exchequer.

"I gave Tk 140 for admission of my two kids to class one of this school," a guardian named Rahima Begum told this correspondent

during his visit to Bhoakhali Government Primary School in Narail Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

Abul Bashar, headmaster of the school, said, "We take Tk 10 for an admission form and Tk 60 for each student's admission. The money collected in this way is spent for paying salary to the employees like *ayas*."

Kamal Hossain, an Easy Bike driver, and a resident of Kurigram village under Narail Sadar upazila, said he had to pay Tk 60 for his daughter's admission to class one of Shib Shankor Government Primary School in the same upazila.

"I could not have my son admitted to Shib Shankor

Government Primary School as I failed to pay Tk 60 for the purpose," said Monju, a garden worker living at a slum in Narail municipality area.

Shamima Sultana, headmaster of the school, however, denied the allegations of taking any money for the admission.

Replying to a query, she said, "We the teachers and a guardians' committee arrange the salary of a few school employees who are not on the government payroll."

Another guardian requesting anonymity said he had to pay Tk 40 for his son's admission to class V in Auria Government Primary School this week.

Most other government and non-government schools of the district are also taking money illegally for admission.

Meanwhile, a good number of kindergartens and private schools in the district are taking 500 to 600 taka for admission as there is no official instruction to them regarding the fees for admission and tuition.

Contacted, District Primary Education Officer Tobibur Rahman said, "There is no provision for taking any money for the admission to government and non-government primary schools. We will take necessary action if any school is found guilty in this regard."

Series of robberies: 5 held in Gopalganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Robbers looted cash, gold ornaments and mobile sets from five business establishments, including three jewellery shops, at Bhangarhat Bazar in Kotalipara upazila on Saturday night.

The law enforcers arrested five people in this connection.

The shops are Suprio Alangker Bhandar of Anil Podder, Sarat Alagkar Bhandar of Ranjan Halder, Shilpi Jewelers of Ameo Bairagi, a grocery shop of Kamal Madhu and accessories sales' shop of Kamrul Sheikh.

The victims said, a gang of 18/20 swooped on the bazar and tied the security guard.

The robbers then entered the shops by breaking open the locks and looted the valuables worth Tk 50 lakh and fled the scene, said the affected shop owners.

Bimol Krishna Biswas, chairman of Kotalipara upazila parishad, said earlier another robbery was committed at the residence of one Manmatha Ojha of Latenga village.

But, the law enforcers did not take any action in this regard, alleged the chairman. Police inaction then created panic among the businessmen at the bazar, he said.

Contacted, Md Tota Mia, officer in-charge at Kotalipara police station, said they arrested five suspected robbers and were investigating the robbery.



PHOTO: STAR
Locals and rights activists under the banner of Bikkhubdho Faridpurbasi (aggrieved people of Faridpur) bring out a procession in Faridpur town yesterday demanding punishment to the criminals who raped and killed schoolgirl Zakia Akhter Chanpa on December 13.

RAPE, MURDER OF CHANPA IN FARIDPUR 'Autopsy report false, bring culprits to book'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Protesters under the banner of Bikkhubdho Faridpurbasi (aggrieved people of Faridpur) yesterday formed a human chain in front of the local press club, demanding exemplary punishment to the culprits who killed schoolgirl Zakia Akhter Chanpa after rape on the night of December 13 last year.

They rejected the autopsy report that claimed that Chanpa committed suicide. The protesters termed the report false and also demanded punishment to the forensic expert, who prepared the report.

Zakia Akhter Chanpa, 15, a class nine student of Pordia Girls' High School in Kanaipur union under Sadar upazila, went missing from a wedding ceremony at her relative's house near their residence at Kashemabad village in the same union on the night of December 13.

The following morning, her body was found hanging from a tree at the village. Police recovered the body and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Chanpa's elder brother Hasibul Islam, also a student of Jaganath University in Dhaka, filed a rape and murder case with Faridpur Kotwali Police Station the same day, accusing their neighbour Salam Matabbar, his wife Parvin Akhtar, their

son Babu matabbar, relative Shamim Mondol and villagers Abul Kha and Hashem Kha, Soon after filing of the case, police arrested Abul Kha and Hashem Kha while the rest four are still at large.



Zakia Akhter Chanpa

In the case statement, the complainant stated that Salam and his accomplices used to tease Chanpa on her way to and from the school and they were involved in the rape and murder of her. Parvin Akhter was an abettor of the culprits, he said in the statement.

The autopsy report, submitted by forensic Doctor Anjan Kumar Das to the Judicial Magistrate's Court a week ago, said no signs of rape and murder were found on the Chanpa's body. She committed suicide, the report revealed.

In the inquest report, Sub-Inspector Kamruzzaman of the police station mentioned that signs of rape were found on the Chanpa's body.

As the complainant submitted a petition to the court, terming the report false,

Judicial Magistrate Abdullah Al Masud issued an order, asking the concerned persons to exhume the body for fresh post-mortem examination.

As per the order, Chanpa's body was exhumed on Saturday in the presence of Executive Magistrate Shahidul Islam. The body was later sent to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for further autopsy.

Yesterday, the protesters also took out a procession in the town and then submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner, demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the accused. They also demanded punishment to forensic expert Doctor Anjan Kumar Das for allegedly submitting a false autopsy report to the court.

S M Nurunnabi, member of the central advisory committee of Awami League, advocate Modarres Ali, secretary of Faridpur district BNP, freedom fighter Abul Fayed Shahnewaz, President of Faridpur Press Club Kobirul Islam Siddique, Swechhchasebok League leader Shawkat Ali Zahid, Secretary of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad Faridpur unit Khadiza Begum Moni, and advocate Shipra Goswami, coordinator of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (Blast) Faridpur unit also joined the human chain and the procession.



PHOTO: STAR

Poachers have continued trapping, hunting and selling winter migratory birds, posing threat to the graceful creatures of nature. The photo was taken from in front of Char Commissioner Primary School in Kazirchar union under Muladi upazila of Patuakhalhi district on Wednesday.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Arms, ammo seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Border Guard Bangladesh-BGB recovered a foreign made pistol, a magazine and seven bullets from a frontier village in Shibganj upazila early yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, a BGB team of Shinganagar BOP found them in a bag left in an abandoned condition at around 2:00am at Shinganagar village.

Fire kills old man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A cold-hit old man met a sad death while he was keeping himself warm by lighting a fire at his hut at Roypara village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning. Debendro Nath Barmon, 84, of the village was severely burnt when his wife Dhoneshwari Bala went out for work in the early morning. Injured Debendro died at Sadar Hospital.

5 hurt in AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least five AL activists were injured as the two rival groups of the ruling party clashed in Gobinda area of the district town yesterday. Police and the locals said that the clash followed a longstanding rivalry between the supporters of Md. Rony of Embankment Road and Abdul Jobbar of Gobinda village over establishing hold in the area. Both groups used sharp weapons and firearms. During the half an hour long clash, at least five from the both groups were injured. Of them, Sohag, 20, Rocky, 22, and Abdul Jobbar, 22, were admitted to Pabna Medical College Hospital.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Md Abdur Razzaque, food minister, and Sayem Ahmed, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL), pray along with others during the foundation laying ceremony of Sholakuri College building in Modhupur upazila of Tangail district on Saturday. The DBBL authorities have donated Tk 70 lakh to the authorities of the college meant for the education to less privileged students, especially those belonging to the indigenous community.

Rangpur university teachers go on indefinite strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Teachers of the newly established Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) went on an indefinite strike yesterday, demanding resignation of the vice chancellor.

They also observed a seven-hour long sit-in from 6:00am in front of the VC's office, alleging irregularities in appointment of teachers and staffs.

Under the banner of 'Sochetan Shikkhok Samaj', they announced the strike a couple of days ago.

Dr. Hafizur Rahman Selim, president of the Samaj, threatened to continue the strike until the

demand was met.

Meanwhile, the students also boycotted classes, demanding immediate steps to open all the dormitories.

They also demand a permanent hospital on the campus, opening a library and more buses for transportation of students.

Under the banner of 'General Students', they observed a sit-in in front of the VC's office in favour of their demands.

They also demanded immediate resignation of the VC.

Contact, VC Muhammad Abdul Jalil Miah refused to say anything over the issue.

The VC failed to enter his

office yesterday due to the sit-in in front of his room, said university sources.

Away in Bogra, teachers of Polytechnic Institute in the district town observed work abstention for second day yesterday to press home their eight-point demand regarding service rules, reports a correspondent.

Sahazada Md Saju, a senior teacher of the institute, said they would go for a tougher programme if their demand was not met within January 26.

Teachers of other Polytechnic Institutes across the country observed the work abstention to meet the same demands.

Woman murdered for dowry, another severely tortured

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry in Lalmonirhat on Saturday while another was severely tortured for the same reason in Patuakhali four days ago.

A housewife was strangled allegedly by her husband for dowry at Talukbani village in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat on Saturday night, reports our correspondent.

Police arrested Kashem Ali, 30, husband of the deceased and son of late Abul Hossain of the area, in this connection.

The deceased was identified as Rumi Begum, 22, daughter of Azizul Haque of the village.

Quoting family members, Amiruzzaman, officer in-

charge at Kaliganj police station, said Kashem often tortured Rumi for Tk 50,000 after three years of their marriage.

On the fateful night, Kashem strangled his wife following an altercation over the issue.

A murder case was filed with the PS against Kashem, said the OC.

Away in Patuakhali, a woman, who was tortured allegedly by her husband for dowry on January 2, is fighting for life at Patuakhali General Hospital, reports our correspondent.

The victim was identified as Ifsia Sultana Sima, 26, daughter of Azhar Sikder of Satani village in Dumki upazila.

Victim's elder sister Shewli Begum said Sima married Abbas Uddin

Nannu, son of Azhar Uddin Master of Hartokibaria village in Sadar upazila 10 years ago.

After marriage, Nannu often tortured Sima for refusal to bring money from her parents demanded by him.

On Wednesday, Nannu beat up Sima mercilessly, leaving her seriously injured following an altercation over the issue. On information, police rescued the victim from the spot and sent her to the hospital.

Contacted, the husband refuted the allegation.

Moloy Krishna Da, sub-inspector at Patuakhali police station, said punitive measures would be taken against those responsible for the offence after investigating the matter.



PHOTO: STAR

GYPSY LIFE: This convoy of over a hundred boats serve as dwelling of a fishermen community, locally called Manta, who have to bear the brunt of the ongoing biting cold sweeping the country. The photo was taken from Tentulia River in Baufal upazila under Patuakhali district a couple of days ago.