

# Woes of sharecroppers

*They irrigate the crop fields bearing almost all costs but get half of the produce*

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A large number of sharecroppers in the district lead hard-pressed life as they have to give half of the produces to the landowners and bear most of the cultivation costs, especially irrigation.

As per agreement, 50 percent of the crop produced by a sharecropper has to be handed over to the landowner. Besides, sharecroppers have to bear almost all the costs to produce crops, especially paddy.

In some cases, the owner shares half of the cost of seeds and fertilisers but the responsibility of irrigating the land always remains with the sharecropper.

"We the sharecroppers can keep only a small portion of our produce after paying the shares of the landowners and meeting the demands of the irrigation service providers. Often we have to do other jobs to meet family requirements, including food," said Ashraf Ali of Kakina village of Kaliganj upazila.

"I produced 53 maunds of boro paddy from three bighas of land that I rented from a landowner in the village. After harvesting it last week, I gave half of the amount to the land owner," said Nishi Kanta Ray, 55, at Durakuti village in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

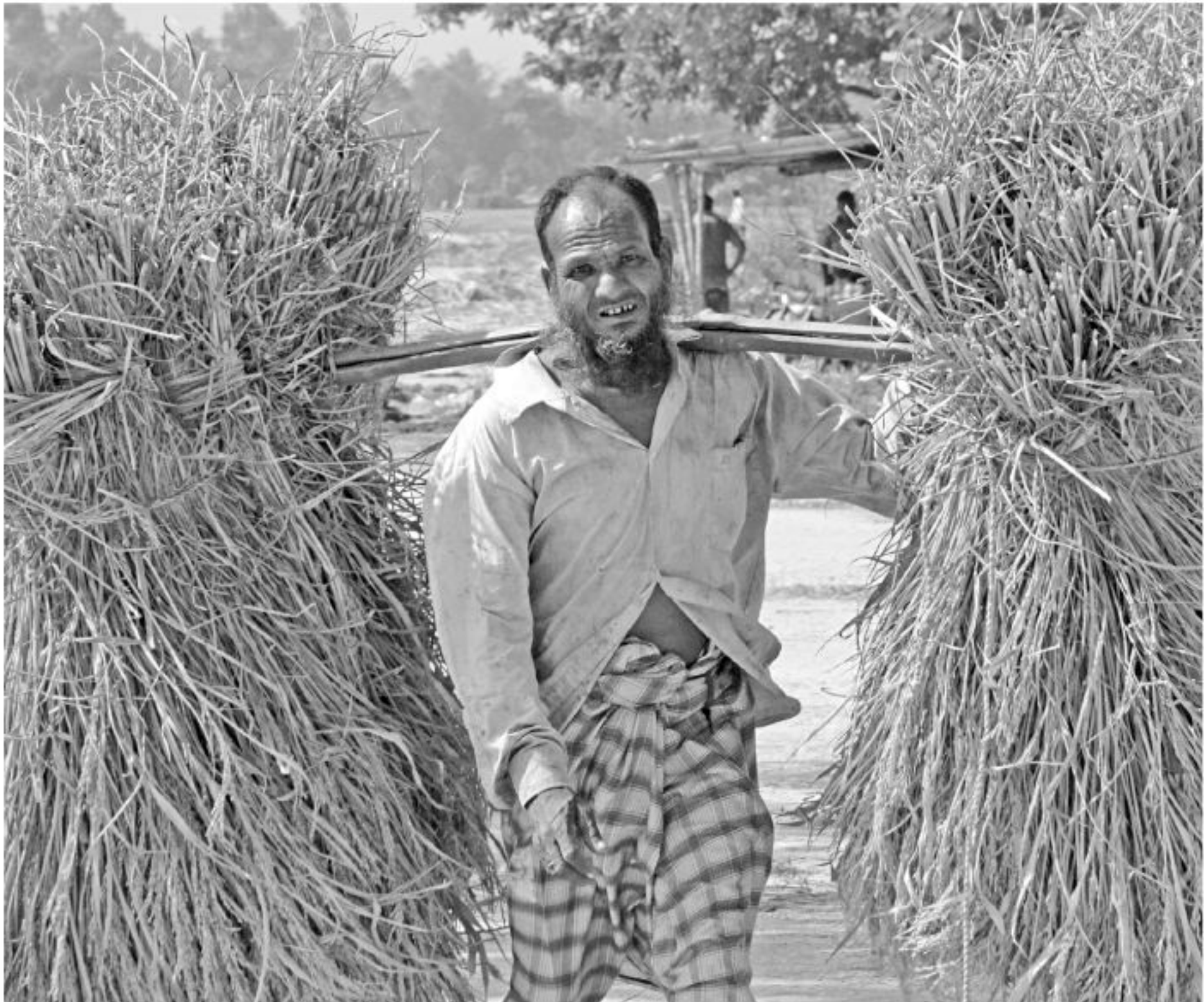


PHOTO: STAR

**Sharecropper Ahmed Ali of Haratal village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. He is frustrated as he has to give half of the harvested boro paddy to the landowner.**

"I as well as three other members of my family work hard on rented farmlands to save the cost of employing labourers," he added.

"The amount of crop that remains after paying the share of landowner seems too insufficient as I have to spend a good amount of money to hire the shallow machines for irrigation and

buy inputs and other materials including pesticides," said Ahmed Ali, 55, a sharecropper at Harati village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

With hardly any scope to get bank loans, sharecroppers are often compelled to borrow from moneylenders at exorbitant interest rates and it eventually adds to their woes, said Rajoni

Chandra Barmon, 60, of Mogholhat village in the same upazila.

At least 20,000 marginal and landless farmers work as sharecroppers to produce different crops, especially paddy, in the district, said Abdul Mazid, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in Lalmonirhat.

## BNP, allies call hartal in Rangpur tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Main opposition BNP and its associate bodies have called an eight-hour hartal in Rangpur district for tomorrow, demanding release of their seven leaders.

Md. Mozaffar Hossain, convener of district unit BNP, announced the hartal at a press briefing at the district party office at Grand Hotel intersection in the city yesterday noon.

Earlier, police arrested the seven leaders along with a cocktail on May 19 midnight, day before a hartal enforced by Jubo Dal, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Swachhhabesok Dal in the division, demanding unconditional release of Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, joint secretary general of BNP and Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, president of Jubo Dal central committee.

Roich Ahmed, president of Jubo Dal Rangpur district unit and assistant general secretary of its central committee, Mahfuz-un-Nabi Don, vice-president of JCD central committee, Anisur Rahman Laku, general secretary of Jubo Dal Rangpur district unit and assistant organising secretary of its central committee, Zahir Alam Nayan, president of JCD Rangpur district unit, are among the arrestees.

## Land grabbers force out family of day labourer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Land grabbers took away a piece of land of a day labourer at Rajnagar village in Baufal upazila on Wednesday.

Claiming the ownership of the land, a group led by Alauddin Shikder, 40, Russel, 20, and Shahid, 28, vandalised the house of day labourer Sattar Matabbar on the land and forced him and his family members to leave the area.

Locals said Alauddin and his accomplices ille-

gally occupied 0.59 acres of land belonging to Sattar Matabbar on Wednesday morning and then erected a structure on it (land).

Sattar, who along with his family took shelter at a slum in the district town on Wednesday, filed a complaint with the superintendent of police (SP) the following day. He also lodged a case with the Speedy Trial Tribunal of Patuakhali the same day, accusing Alauddin and eight others.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Sattar said he bought the land

from a villager on January 11, 1966 and had been living in a tin-shed house on the land since 1995.

"Recently, Alauddin, Russel and Shahid claimed the ownership of the land and asked me to leave it," he said.

On receiving the complaint, the SP asked the officer in-charge of Baufal police station to take necessary action after proper investigation.

Contacted, Alauddin said they are the real owners of the land. But he refused to show any document in this regard.



PHOTO: STAR

**With a deep sense of despair, day labourer Sattar Matabbar along with his family members sits in front of a slum in Patuakhali town. A gang grabbed his homestead at Rajnagar village in Baufal upazila of the district on Wednesday.**

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### Boro procurement drive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Boro procurement drive, led by the district food department, has begun in Pirganj upazila amid much enthusiasm to the millers and farmers. Motaharul Haque Bablu, president of upazila unit Awami League, inaugurated the procurement drive yesterday. The government has set a target to purchase more than 5,000 metric tones of rice from 168 millers and 700 metric tones of rice from the farmers directly during the current boro season under Pirganj and Bhendabari warehouses. Per kilogram of rice will be bought at Tk 29 while paddy at Tk 18.5, said officials at the department.

### 15 hurt in AL factional clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League at Durakuti village in Sadar upazila yesterday. Police said, there was a longstanding conflict between two local AL rival groups—one led by Mamun Islam and another by Sumon Khan—over establishing supremacy at a cattle marker in the area. The clash took place at 6:30pm when Sumon group, who went there to take control of the market, were resisted by the men of Mamun. Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert further trouble.

### Fake examinees jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A mobile court sentenced two fake examinees to jail on different terms on Friday. The two were giving proxy at a recruitment test for the posts of forth class employees of Thakurgaon Deputy Commissioner office. The convicts are Robiul Alam, son of Rahim Uddin of Baracourt village in Baliadangi upazila and also lecturer of zoology department at Samiruddin Smriti College in Baliadangi upazila headquarters and Sabuj Ali, son of Dilabar Hossain of Beurjhari village under the same upazila of the district. DC office sources said replacing photographs of Manjum Ali, son of Nizamuddin of Jafartoli village and Enamul Haque, son of Kolimuddin of Borra village under Baliadangi upazila, Robiul and Sabuj went to take part in the recruitment test at Collectorate High School Centre in the town.

### Murder in Thanchi

A CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A headman (chief of an area) beat his brother-in-law dead at Karbari Para under Thanchi upazila yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Satui Prue Marma, 33. Officer in-charge (OC) of Thanchi police station said, Kashaiprue Marma, headman of the area killed his brother-in-law following a family feud.



PHOTO: STAR

**BGB personnel seize three cages containing around 500 munia birds from Bajitpur border under Meherpur district on Friday. Acting on a tip-off, the BGB personnel raided the area at noon and seized the birds left by the smugglers, sensing the presence of the border guards. The birds were freed later.**

## Settlers enforce hartal in three hill districts today

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Bangalee settlers have called a daylong hartal in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts for today, demanding cancellation of CHT Land Commission Act amendment proposal passed by the cabinet on May 27.

In Rangamati, Parbattya Somo Odhikar Andolan (SOA) and Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Oikya Parishad (PBCOP) called the shutdown in the hill districts to realise the demand, reports our correspondent.

Earlier, a road and waterway blockade was observed in the areas on Thursday on the same ground, said the leaders of SOA and PBCOP.

Meanwhile, Parbattya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad (PBCP) in Khagrachhari also called the dawn to dusk hartal in the hill districts for today to realise the same demand, says a press release signed by the leaders of the district PBCP.

Terming the amendment one-sided, Abdul Majid, convener of the unit, said only the ethnic people will be benefited through the

amendment, depriving the Bangalees, reports our correspondent.

Earlier on Thursday, a road and waterway blockade was observed at the call of the leaders of the unit in the districts to realise the demand.

In Bandarban, the district unit PBCP yesterday called the daylong shutdown in the three hill districts for today, protesting the amendment, reports our correspondent.

The leaders of the district unit came up with the announcement at a press conference in the town.

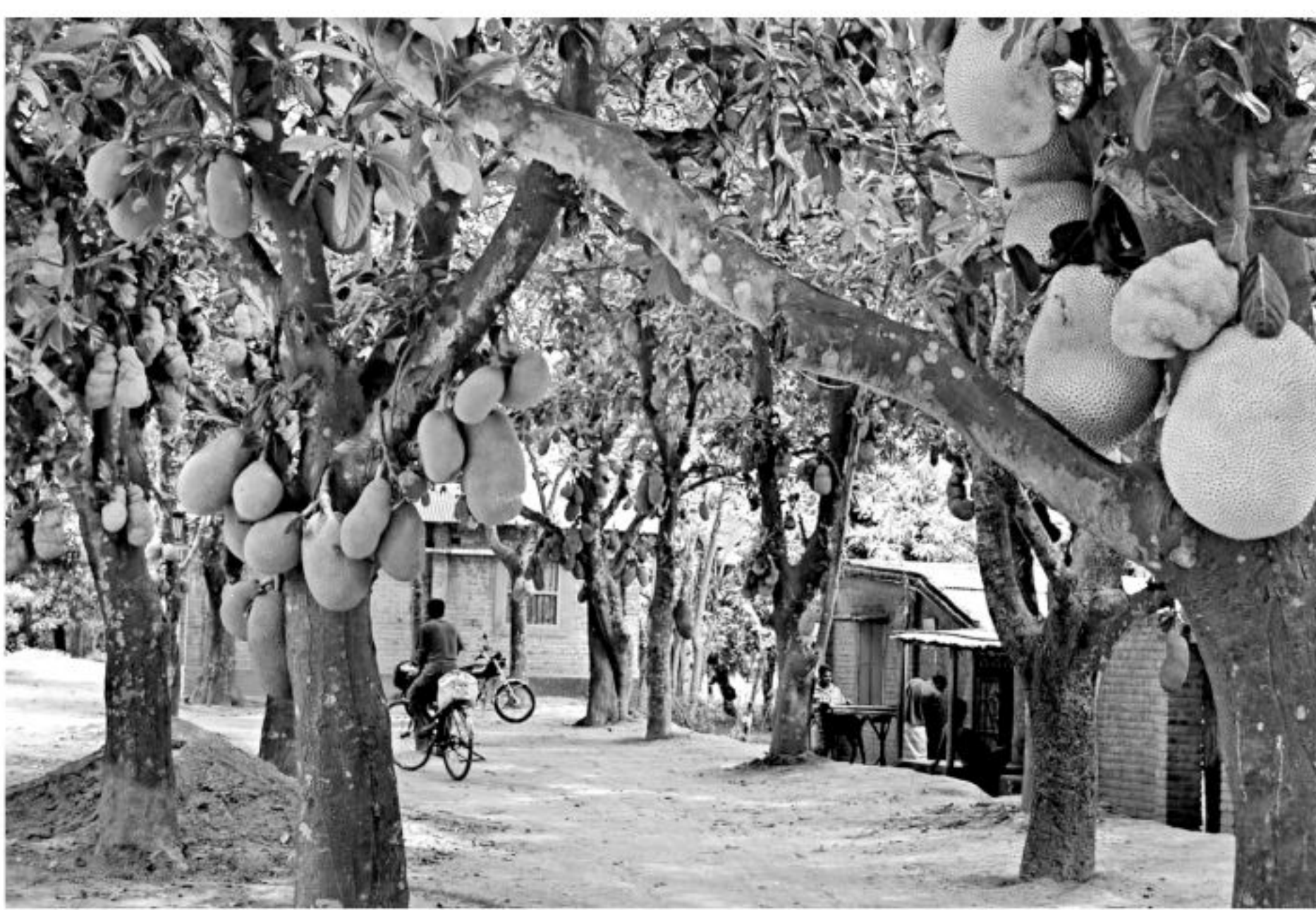


PHOTO: STAR

**Jackfruit trees at an orchard in Shyamnagar area of Rajshahi city yield profusely the nutritious and most popular summer fruit.**

## Two housewives murdered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two housewives were murdered, one of them for dowry, in Jessore and Panchagarh districts on Friday.

A housewife was murdered allegedly by her husband for dowry in Jhikorgachha upazila of Jessore district, reports our Benapole correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Halima Khatun, 25, a master's final year student at Jessore MM College and wife of Akimul of Nayra village in the upazila.

Police said, Halima, daughter of Liakat Ali of Putkhali village in Benapole, was married off to Akimul eight months ago.

Liakat Ali alleged that Akimul had been putting pressure on their family to pay him Tk15 lakh he (Akimul) had demanded earlier as dowry.

Later Liakat give Akimul Tk2 lakh as dowry. But as he failed to give the rest of the money Akimul strangled his daughter, he said.

Being informed, police recovered the body. Akimul went into hiding after the killing.

In Panchagarh, a mother of two children was found dead in a bamboo cluster at Sikarpur Chochpara village under Boda upazila on Friday, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Anufa, 35, wife of Dhajiruddin of the same village.

Police and locals said, after taking meal at about 11:00pm on Thursday Anufa went to bed with her husband and children in their room.

Finding their mother absent in the room at about 6:00am, the children awakened their father.

At one stage of searching, Anufa was found dead in a bamboo cluster near their house.

Police detained husband Dhajiruddin for interrogation in connection with the murder.

Officer in-charge of Boda police station Md. Asrafal Islam told this correspondent that the housewife was murdered after torture as several injury marks were found in her neck, face and other parts of the body.

Elder brother of the deceased Md. Solaiman Ali filed a case with the PS.

## Jamaat leaders arrested

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Bogra district Detective Branch (DB) police arrested the president of Jamaat's labour wing Shromik Kallayan Federation Bogra district unit in Colony area of the town yesterday afternoon.

The arrestee is Abdul Matin, 45, son of Abdur Rahman of Phuldighi area of the town and assistant professor of Jora Madrasa under Shajahanpur upazila of the district, reports our correspondent.

Police said Matin was arrested by DB police on charge of masterminding Bogra violence on March 03, 2013 by spreading the tale of the false image of Sayedee in the moon.

In Sherpur upazila, police arrested Jamaat unit secretary Dabibur Rahman, 48, son of Hafizar Rahman of Hamchayapur area at noon.

Following his arrest Jamaat-Shibir men brought out a procession and blasted several cocktails in Sherpur town and vandalised at least 20 vehicles on Saturday afternoon.

In Narail, police arrested Hobokhalin union Jamaat ameer in Mithapur Bazaar area under Naldi union of Lohagara upazila yesterday noon, reports our correspondent.

The arrestee is Motiar Rahman, 50, is son of Shafi Mollah of the village.

Sardar Rokibul Islam, police superintendent, said Motiar Rahman was arrested on charge of planning subversive acts.

Police also arrested the office secretary of Islami Chattra Shibir in the district on Friday on charge of attacking the law-enforcers in November last year.

A case was filed against 200 including Mirazul Islam, 22, on November 6, police said.

In Chapainawabganj, police arrested the nayebe-ameer of district unit of Jamaat-e-Islami from his house at Jalmachhmani in the upazila yesterday evening, reports our correspondent.

The arrestee is Keramat Ali, incumbent chairman of Shibganj upazila parishad. Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shibganj police station said, police arrested him in connection with cases for attacking on police men and subversive activities.

## BGB, BSF discuss steps to reduce border crimes

Two picked up by BSF

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A coordination meeting between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Border Security Force (BSF) of India was held in Dinajpur yesterday.

The meeting started at Ramsagar rest house in Sadar upazila at around 11:30am and continued until 4:30pm, reports our correspondent.

Col Md Shahidul Alam, sector commander of BGB Dinajpur Sector, and Yashwant Singh, deputy inspector general (DIG) of BSF Raiganj Sector, led their respective sides at the meeting.

After the meeting, Col Shahidul Alam told newsmen that they discussed joint border survey and the measures to stop smuggling, human trafficking, killing on the border and abduction.

Meanwhile, Indian Border guards picked up two Bangladeshis from Comilla and Chuadanga borders yesterday and the day before.

In Comilla, Members of

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi from Narayanpur border in Brahmanpara upazila yesterday morning, according to UNB.

Nayeb Subedar Mohiuddin of BGB Shashidal border post said BSF personnel picked up the man named Milon from near pillar No 2058 at around 7:15am as he unknowingly crossed the pillar.

Our Kushtia correspondent reported that the Indian border guards picked up a Bangladeshi cattle trader from the border in Jibonanagar upazila of Chuadanga district on Friday evening.

The cattle trader is Abu Bakar alias Bakka, 22, son of Omedul Islam of Harihanagar village in the upazila.

A BSF team of Putkhali camp in Murshidabad district caught Bakar as he entered Indian territory through Medinipur border point at around 7:30pm.

BGB and BSF will hold a flag meeting on this issue at Medinipur border point today, a BGB official said.

## Shibir calls hartal in 3 districts today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

The district units of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, have called a half-day hartal in Noakhali, Feni and Laxmipur districts for today.

The shutdown, from 6:00am to 12:00pm, has been called to protest the arrest of Fakhruddin Manik, former central president, Atiqul Islam, office secretary and Mahsinul Kabir, international affairs secretary of Shibir. The hartal announcement was made yesterday morning by the presidents of the district units of Shibir.

Earlier, police arrested 28 BNP, Jamaat and Shibir men from different areas of the district in overnight raids till yesterday noon.

The arrestees include Jamaat leaders Gholam Kuddus, lecturer of Bhulua Degree College, also Imam

of a local mosque.

Shudharam police, on a tip-off, arrested four female activists of Shibir from a house at police line road yesterday afternoon while holding a secret meeting.

Mir Zahidul Islam, officer in-charge (OC) of Sudharam police station, said the detained four were taken to the police station for quizzing.

Police arrested them on charge of planning subversive acts, the OC said.

In Rangpur, police arrested seven Shibir activists from Grand Hotel Intersection area in the city yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees were identified as Moniruzzaman, 19, Robiul Islam, 22, Monjurul Islam, 18, Habibur Rahman, 26, Obaydul Haque, 21, Mahmudul Hasan, 23, and Fazlul Haque, 18.