

MAHASEN BATTERED INSTITUTIONS

Classes under open sky till there is no rain

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Academic activities of the schools, colleges and madrasas that were damaged during the onslaught of cyclone Mahasen on May 16 are greatly hampered during the ongoing rainy season as the institutions have remained without any repair.

In Patuakhali district, 208 educational institutions (primary and high schools, madrasas and colleges) were fully damaged and 352 others partly damaged by Mahasen, said sources at the district administration.

The fully damaged institutions include 97 in Kalapara upazila, 56 in Rangabali, 52 in Galachipa, two in Dashmina and one in Dumki upazila under Patuakhali district.

Visiting Naubhanga Alim Madrasa in Nilganj union under Kalapara upazila a couple of days ago, this correspondent found students attending their classes under the open sky as the lone tin-shed house of the institution was ravaged by the cyclone.

"We arrange classes on the sunny days but it cannot be done when it starts raining. Authorities should take immediate step to repair the institution as the rains have already set in," said Ziaul Islam Habib, principal of the madrasa.

Similar scene was found at Nabipur Government Primary School in the same union as two tin-shed houses of the school were fully damaged by the cyclone. Benches, chairs and tables were also found broken there.

Sathi Akhter, a student of Class V, said, "We have to attend classes under the open sky. Classes break and our books and khatas wet when rain comes."



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Naobhanga Alim Madrasa, above, and Anjapara Community Primary School in Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district have to attend classes under the open sky since houses of the two institutions were destroyed by cyclone Mahasen on May 16.

"We conducted classes only four days during the last two weeks as it rained most of the days. Authorities concerned did not take any step although we sent several letters demanding immediate repair of the institution," Md Ruhul Amin, headmaster of the school.



Ruhul Amin, monitoring officer of Patuakhali Primary Education Office, and Sukumer Chandra Halder, district education officer, said they have already sent the lists of the damaged educational institutions under their jurisdictions to the higher authorities concerned but

they yet to get any response.

Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner Amitavo Sarker said, "We are waiting for getting allocation from the higher authorities concerned for distribution on an emergency basis to rebuild the damaged educational institutions."

RECRUITMENT EXAMINATION IN DINAJPUR

Invigilators 'kind' to ten, rude to 28 others!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Invigilators at a room of Dinajpur Government College, which served as a centre for the recruitment examination of Family Planning Directorate, allegedly gave question papers with answer marks to 10 candidates during the examination on Friday.

When a few candidates protested the matter, invigilators asked them to 'answer quietly or quit the room', alleged the candidates requesting anonymity.

As many as 5,456 candidates from Dinajpur district sat for the test held at six centres including Dinajpur Government College for recruitment to different posts under four categories,

official sources said.

The MCQ test started at 10:00am and ended at 11:00am.

Two teachers of Dinajpur Government College were invigilators of room No 207 of Science Building of the college.

There were 38 candidates at the room, college sources said.

But the two teachers allegedly marked the right answers on 10 question papers and served them to the same number of candidates ten minutes after start of the examination, said several candidates seeking anonymity.

When contacted, Shahidul Islam, one of two invigilators under question, denied the allegation, say-

ing, "Nothing happened like that. The examination was fair and free from any influence."

The other invigilator, Md Rashedul Islam could not be contacted for his comment.

Mokarram Hossain, principal of Dinajpur Government College, also brushed aside the allegation.

He declined to tell the names of the two teachers who worked as invigilators of room No 207 but this correspondent later managed to get the names from other sources of the college.

Contacted, Didarul Islam, deputy director of the Dinajpur office of Family Planning Directorate, said he is yet to get any complaint of such incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Manoswita Women's College at Slouljalia in Kathalia upazila of Jhalakathi district are now delighted as they have got a new tin shed structure. The institution was damaged by a storm on April 16 this year. As The Daily Star ran a story captioned "Classes under open sky as storm blows down college" on April 22, some donors, including the local lawmaker, extended their helping hands to build the structure.

Bodies found in truck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bodies of two youths were recovered from a mini-truck in the bus stand area of Dupchanchia municipality at around 5:30am yesterday.

Police said a mini-truck was lying abandoned for sometime at the spot. When some locals searched the mini-truck out of curiosity, they spotted two bodies and a critically injured and senseless person inside it.

The deceased were later identified as Delshad Dipu, 23, son of Anarul Islam of Shali Gopalpur village in Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur district and Azad Mia, 24, son of late Ajimuddin of Kanda village in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat district.

The injured was Shah Alam, 20, son of Shajahan Ali of Shali Gopalpur village under Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur district. He was rushed to hospital for treatment.

The condition of the truck's body says that it fell met an accident, said police.

Jubo League leader still missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A Jubo League leader of Shajahanpur upazila, who went missing on Thursday, remained untraced as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Police and his family sources said Al Amin, 30, general secretary of Jubo League Majhira union unit, came out of his residence at the upazila headquarters at around 3:00pm. He went missing on way to Bogra town, they added.

Amin's cellphones (01726315951 and 01813030692) still remain switched off, his elder brother Lutfar Rahman said yesterday.

Family lodged a general diary (GD-1004) with Shahjahanpur Police Station on Thursday night.



PHOTO: STAR

People belonging to the local unit of ruling Awami League have continued extending this market that was illegally constructed on a leased railway land beside Boral bridge station in Bhangura upazila under Pabna district.

Grabbers build market on railway land illegally

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Men allegedly belonging to the ruling Awami League (AL) constructed a market on a leased agricultural land of Bangladesh Railway (BR) beside Boral Bridge station in Bhangura upazila under the district.

The BR on May 8 issued a notice to remove the illegal construction within 30 days but the grabbers are yet to comply with, official sources said.

"The occupiers filled up the agricultural land of the railway and built a commercial market there illegally. When they started the construction in December last year, we made an official inquiry and asked them to stop the work but they continued it. The son of a local lawmaker backed the grabbers," said Md Shariful Islam, a surveyor of the estate department of BR.

Asked about the matter, Md Golam Hasnayan Russel, son of the lawmaker, said, "I have provided bricks from my brick kiln for the market construction as they sought my assistance. I am not involved with the land occupation."

Md Fazlul Haque, a resident of Chowbaria village near the station, took lease of 10 decimal lands beside Boral Bridge station as per a 'license for agriculture land' on November 8 in 2009 on condition of paying Tk 388 as yearly revenue, official sources said.

But with the help of local AL leaders, grabbers constructed a market illegally on the railway's agricultural land in violation of BR Act, said Md Nurul Islam, stationmaster of Bhangura.

Lessee Md Fazlul Haque said, "The land is leased in my name but the market has been built on 9,000 square feet land here with the partnership of some 30 other local traders, all belonging to the Awami

League."

"It was a low land when the lease was taken in 2009. We have already spent over Tk 50 lakh to use the abandoned land for commercial purpose. Now the land has turned valuable and our rivals started conspiracy," said Md Saidul Islam, organising secretary of Bhangura upazila unit of AL, also one of the partners of the market.

"We have paid Tk 72 thousand as compensation to the railway authorities for changing status of the land," he added.

Kiron Chandra Roy, divisional estate officer of Railway in Pakshey, said, "There is no scope to change the status of a railway land. The accused used agricultural land for commercial purpose, violating BR Act. As they ignored the May 8 notice for removing the illegal construction within 30 days, we will conduct eviction drive any moment."

SNIPPETS

BNP factions clash in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

At least four people were injured as two BNP factions clashed in Dhunat municipality area yesterday morning. The clash took place between the activists of upazila BNP led by Touhidul Alam Mamun and municipality BNP led by Alimuddin Harun at a party gathering in Kolapatti area. During the clash, Harun group supporter Osman Gani and Mamun group supporters Rajib, Shahadat and Mannan sustained injuries. Witnesses said that the incident took place over a trivial matter. Contacted, Harun said Mamun's men vandalised an auto-rickshaw which triggered the clash. However Mamun refuted the allegation and blamed Harun supporters for attack on his activists.

11 live bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-6) personnel recovered locally made bombs in Natun bazaar area in Kaliganj upazila on Friday night. Rab camp commander Hamidul Haque said, acting on a tip off, at around 10-00 pm on Friday, a contingent of the law enforcers raided a locked clothe store at the bazaar. The bombs were kept there to commit criminal activities, said police.

Housewife murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A housewife was beaten to death at Sarcarpara village in Boda upazila in Panchagarh on Thursday evening. The victim was identified as Asia Khatun, 45, wife of Haidar Ali of the same village. Sub-Inspector of Boda PS Din Mohammad told this correspondent over cell phone that a local gang numbering 10/12, led by Amir Hossain of the same village, went to the woman's house at about 7:00pm and beat her mercilessly with sticks, leaving her dead on the spot. Her husband Haidar Ali and Amir Hossain's group had a previous enmity over a piece of disputed land, police said. Amir Hossain was arrested at night after Haidar Ali filed a murder case.

Strike at tea estates

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Workers of two tea estates-Sindurkhan and Rajghat-in Srimongal upazila of the district observed an eight hour strike yesterday, protesting the murder of one of their colleagues on Friday night. The deceased, Ovimoan, 46, was a worker of Sindurkhan Tea Estate. Police picked up 22 people from the area yesterday, suspecting their involvement in the killing. Police said the body of Ovimoan, who went missing on Thursday, was found at the tea garden at around 9:00pm. Tea workers of the two gardens began an indefinite strike at around 10:00am yesterday, protesting the murder of Ovimoan and demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers. The workers postponed the strike at 6:00pm at the request of Rajghat Union Parishad Chairman Bijoy Benarjee.

Girl set afire by stalkers dies

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A teenage girl, who was set on fire by three alleged stalkers in Fulgazi upazila on June 16, succumbed to her burn injuries at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Aklima Akter, 15, a class eight student at a local madrasa at Uttar Daulatpur village.

Md Asadur Rahman, elder brother of the girl, filed a case with Fulgazi police station accusing Md Sumon, 20, Md Kamal Uddin, 23, and Shanta Shaha, 20, of the area.

The trio used to tease the girl on her way to madrasa, said Md Solaiman Chowdhury, officer in-charge of the PS.

On the midnight of June 16, a gang allegedly led by Sumon set Aklima on fire by pouring kerosene near her house when she disclosed the names of the stalkers to a madrasa teacher.

Aklima was admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital with 90 percent burn injuries and later shifted to DMCH as her condition deteriorated.

Two people were held for interrogation as the accused went into hiding, said police.

Teenage domestic help 'commits suicide', minor beaten up

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A teenage domestic help at a contractor's house at Khatapra Majhar village under Saptibari union in Aditmari upazila allegedly committed suicide on Friday night.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy but they could not confirm the reason behind the incident.

They said Momena Akhter, 13, who was working at contractor Golap Hossain's house for last five years, hailed from Nageshwari upazila in Kurigram district.

The girl might have been compelled to commit suicide due to something wrong at her master's house, locals said.

In Jamalpur, an 11-year-old girl who was serving as domestic help at a residence in Dhaka, is fighting for life at a local hospital as she was allegedly tortured at her employer's residence for

three days from June 17.

Victim Marjina is daughter of Abdul Mutaleb, a farm labourer of Daudpur village in Melandah upazila of the district, reports our correspondent.

Her family members said that the girl was sent to the residence of fruit trader Nasir Uddin at Teigaon in Dhaka to serve as a domestic help eight months ago.

Housewife Sheuli Begum beat her up severely on charge of taking biscuits without any permission and so did Nasir on return to house on June 17.

On June 20 morning, the girl was sent back alone by a Dewanganj-bound train from Teigaon station.

"The girl is now seriously sick as she was badly tortured on the most parts of her body including head. There are several injury marks and a big swelling in the victim's body", said Dr. Narayan Chandra Dey at Jamalpur General Hospital.