

# Houses, shops of Hindus rebuilt at Kornai

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Forty-nine repaired and reconstructed shops and houses of Hindus, damaged and torched by Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men at Kornai village under Sadar upazila on the election day on January 5, were handed over to the owners yesterday.

BGB members reconstructed and repaired the shops and houses on instructions of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Lt Col Fazle Kader, commanding officer of Dinajpur-2

Battalion, handed over the shops and houses to the affected owners at noon.

The BGB official said they started repairing and rebuilding the shops and houses at the village on instructions of the prime minister on January 12 and completed in 28 days.

BGB members will stay along with police at the camp set up at the village to ensure security of the villagers and repair and rebuild the rest of the houses, he added.

The affected villagers

expressed their gratitude to the prime minister and BGB members for rebuilding and repairing their damaged shops and houses. They also demanded punishment to the culprits, who vandalised and set their houses and shops afire.

Susanta Chandra Shil, a salon owner at Kornai Bazar thanked the BGB personnel for repairing his shop. He urged the government to take effective measures to ensure their security.

Around 1,500 to 2000 Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men

attacked the houses and shops of Hindus at Kornai village on January 5 for casting votes, ignoring the polls boycott call of the BNP-led alliance. They vandalised and looted at least 150 houses and 43 shops and set some of them afire.

Three cases were filed with Sadar Police station on the night of January 5, accusing 60 named and over 600 unnamed Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men. Police have so far arrested 54 of the accused.



PHOTO: STAR

Shops and houses of Hindus, damaged and torched by Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men at Kornai village in Sadar upazila of Dinajpur on the election day on January 5, were rebuilt and handed over to the owners yesterday.

# PM hands over aid to slain Zobaidul's wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over Poribar Sanchayapartra (family saving certificate) worth Tk 20 lakh to the family of slain assistant presiding officer Zobaidul Haque on Sunday evening.

Lawmaker from Thakurgaon-1 constituency Ramesh Chandra Sen and Deputy Commissioner of Thakurgaon Mukesh Chandra Biswas told this correspondent over cellphone that Zobaidul's wife Rasheda Begum received the certificate from the prime minister in her office at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka.

Lawmaker Ramesh Chandra Sen, Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Chandra Biswas and officials of the prime minister's office were present.

A group of 100 to 150 Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men, equipped with sharp weapons and sticks, attacked Molani Cheprikura Government Primary School centre in Roypur union under Sadar upazila at around 8:45pm on January 4.

They first hurled crude and petrol bombs at the centre and then swooped on



Zobaidul Haque

the assistant presiding and polling officers and law enforcers.

The attack left assistant presiding officer Zobaidul Haque, 55, also demonstrator at Salondar College in Sadar upazila, and two police constables critically injured.

Another assistant presiding officer, Rezaul Karim, suffered severe burns during the attack.

Being informed, law enforcers rushed to the spot, rescued the injured and took them to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared Zobaidul dead.

Police constable Zahurul Islam filed a murder case with Sadar Police Station the same night, accusing at least 24 named and over 150 unnamed Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men. Police have so far arrested 21 of the accused.

# 50 BNP, Jamaat men arrested

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Police have arrested at least 51 BNP and Jamaat-Shibir activists on various charges in Chuadanga, Jhenidah and Jessore districts.

Police in separate drives arrested 31 activists of the main opposition BNP and its political allies Jamaat-Shibir from different places of three upazilas in Chuadanga district from Sunday night to early yesterday.

The arrestees include 14 from Sadar, 14 from Alamdanga and three from Damurhuda upazilas.

Chuadanga Police Superintendent Rashidul Hasan said, the aforesaid people were arrested on charges of involvement in vandalism and anarchy on various occasions.

In Jhenidah, at least 20 Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men were arrested in Kotchandpur upazila on Saturday night.

Of the arrestees, 15 are BNP activists and the rest belong to Jamaat-Shibir party, reports our correspondent.

BNP president and upazila chairman candidate of Kotchandpur upazila Sirajul Islam said that the ruling party was rounding up the BNP and Jamaat-Shibir activists to hinder their participation in

upazila election.

They are being harassed without any reason, he said.

Officer in-charge (OC) Shahjahan Khan of Kotchandpur police station, however, said, at around 10-30pm on Saturday, police launched a drive and arrested 47 people. After interrogation, 27 were released as they were innocent.

The rest were involved in attack on police, tree felling and roadblock recently, he said.

In Jessore, police arrested a leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir from his house at Nilganj Sahapara in the district town on Saturday afternoon.

The arrestee was identified as Badruzzaman, former president of Jessore City College unit Chhatra Shibir and son of late Kamal Uddin of the village.

Soyeb Uddin Ahmed, sub-inspector of Kotwali police station, said on secret information, a team of police raided the house of Badruzzaman and arrested him when he was holding a clandestine meeting with his party men in the afternoon.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, other Shibir leaders and activists managed to flee the scene.

# Three LGED officials sued for graft

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two cases have been filed against three officials of Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) on charges of misappropriating fund of a project worth Tk 79.7 lakh.

The accused are former executive engineer of LGED of Pabna Md Golam Kibria, now working at the department, Barisal division, Md Masud Rana, ex-account assistant of LGED in the district and Tazunnahar, former sociologist of RERMP project, LGED.

Assistant director of Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) Md Jalal Uddin filed the cases with Pabna police station on Sunday night.

In one case, the plaintiff said the trio misappropriated Tk 28.3 lakh from the saving fund of 'Rural Employment and Road Maintaining Program' (RERMP), meant for ultra poor project, between March 3, 2010 and January 19, 2011.

According to the another case, they also misappropriated Tk 51,40,000 lakh from the Sonali Bank, Zila Board branch, with 32 fraudulent cheques from 2010 to 2012.

In 2008, LGED started the RERMP project in Pabna to maintain the rural road of the district and empower the village women.

The five-year-long project was finished in March last year. At least 730 ultra poor workers of 73 unions were involved in the project who had their deposit in the embezzled project fund.

In primary inquiry by ACC, the matter of misappropriating fund was revealed recently, said an official of the commission.

The ACC will investigate the case under the anti corruption act, said Md Bodrudzoza, sub-inspector of the police station.



PHOTO: STAR

A human chain was formed in Bogra town yesterday, protesting the killing of madrasa boy Abdur Rahman and demanding punishment to the culprits.

# 'Missing' Bogra madrasa kid found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police recovered the body of a 'missing' madrasa boy from an abandoned labours' room of a rice-husking yard in Dupchanchia upazila town on Sunday night.

Son of Nazrul Islam of Kolgram village, Abdur Rahman, 6, was a student of class one at Dupchanchia DS Kindergarten Madrasa, said police.

On January 7, the boy went missing from the rented house of Sardarpara in the town. His father then filed a general diary with Dupchanchia police station



Abdur Rahman

in this regard on January 9.

Locals found Abdur's hanging body in the room and informed the police. The body was sent to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Yesterday morning,

teachers, students and guardians of different educational institutions formed a human chain in the town, demanding exemplary punishment to the killers of Abdur.

They also submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner in this regard.

Deceased's father Nazrul Islam said he cannot explain any reason behind his son's abduction and murder as he had no enmity with others.

Criminals strangled the boy in another location and dumped the body in the area, said Riaz Ahmed, officer in-charge of the

# Extortion rampant at brick kilns in 3 SW districts

Gang kills 2 in Chuadanga: 12 such attacks kill 3, hurt 50 in 20 days

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Extortionists yesterday killed two people who were engaged to resist illegal toll collection from a brick kiln at Charulia village in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district.

Sources said, extortions were rampant at the brick kilns in three southwestern districts -- Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga. Organised gangs, most of them outlaws, often attack the brick kilns in case of failure to realise the demanded extortion, they said.

At least 12 such incidents of attack took place in the three districts in 20 days since January 20 that left 3 people killed and around 50 labourers injured.

Yesterday, the extortionists abducted two people in Charulia under Damurhuda of Chuadanga district and murdered them.

The deceased were identified as Selim Uddin, 35, son of Amir Hossain and Sahub Ali, 37, son of Abdul Jalil of Mahjanpur in Mujibnagar upazila of Meherpur.

Police recovered their slit-throat bodies from a mango orchard at Natudah at about 10:30am.

Sources said an extortionist group killed them as both were employed to resist illegal toll collection and protect two brick kiln owners from local criminal gangs.

Aslam Khan, officer in-charge (OC) of Mujibnagar police station, quoting family members of the deceased, said Selim and Sahub were working at Kajal Brickfield owned by Miskin Ali and Kajal Hossain of Boalmari in Damurhuda.

Kajal Hossain told journalists that they had engaged the two to keep watch on his brick kiln as extortionists were often disturbing them.

Ahsan Habib, OC of Damurhuda police station, said both Selim and Sahub were listed cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) and accused in several cases filed with different police stations in Meherpur and Chuadanga districts.

The OC further said that a number of brickfield owners have 'hired' such people in a similar way to resist the extortionists.

According to different sources, there are around 200 brick kilns in Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga districts. Criminals and members of outlawed party often demand illegal toll from the brick kiln owners and swoop on them if they refuse to pay the amount.

Contacted, Abdul Moteleb, general secretary of Chuadanga Brick Kiln Owners Association said, "Criminal are demanding illegal toll from almost every brick kiln and almost everyday but police can not resist them."

A labourer was killed and another five were bullet-hit when extortionists attacked a brick kiln at Kumari village in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district on January 23.

Before the attack, the gang threatened Musa Mia, owner of the brick kiln, as he refused to pay Tk. 5 lakh.

In another incident, a labourer was injured when extortionists exploded bombs at a brick kiln at Karpasdanga village in Damurhuda upazila of the district on January 21.

Ershadul Bari, OC of Chuadanga Sadar police station said, criminals recently demanded Tk 10 lakh from Sohel Rana, owner of Ekota Brick Kiln at Bhultia in Sadar upazila.

As Sohel Rana refused to pay the toll, the gang picked him up from Dashmaile Bazar

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জিডি-৬৪৫

# 25 AL men sued on charge of Jubo Dal leader killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A case was filed on Thursday in connection with the murder of Jubo Dal leader Sujun in Sarishabari upazila, accusing 25 local Awami League (AL) men.

Sujun Khan, 32, of the village, was a member of convening committee of Bhatara union Jubo Dal.

Father of the deceased Chan Khan filed the case with Sarishabari police station. The accused include Borhan Uddin Badol, general secretary of Bhatara union AL unit.

On Sunday last, after a motorbike procession held as part of campaign of first phase upazila election by local AL leaders and activists at Boushi Bazar in the upazila, a gang bludgeoned the union Jubo Dal leader Sujun Khan in the head and hand, hit him with iron rod and stabbed him with sharp weapons there and later dumped him at Dhabadah village of the upazila, police said quoting the case statement.

Seriously injured Sujun later died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

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- The Controller of Accounts, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation "BSEC BHABAN", 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
- Head of the Accounts Department, National Tubes Ltd., Tongi, Gazipur.

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