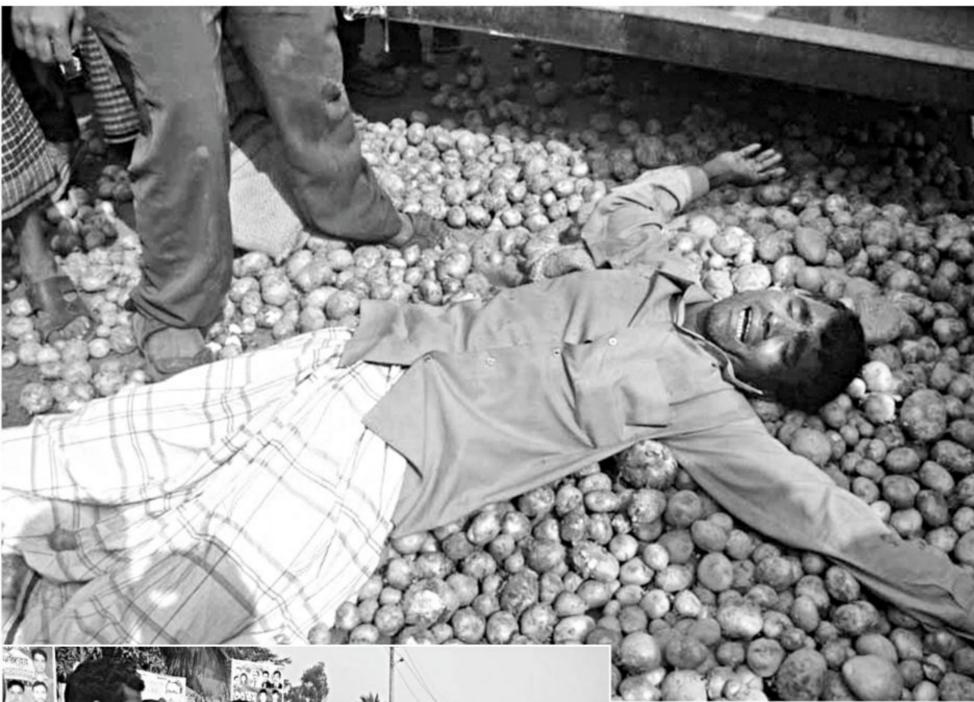


# GROWERS PROTEST LOW PRICES OF POTATO



## Locals ransack fair for obscene dances

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Dinajpur

Villagers ransacked a fair where obscene dances and gambling were going on in Katla area under Birampur upazila of the district on Monday night.

A mobile court led by Birampur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) SM Moniruzzaman Al Masum raided the venue of Altadighi Mela in Katla area on Monday night.

The court fined five organisers of the fair for arranging obscene dances and gambling at the venue.

As the news spread in the area, around 400 people from Bijul, Kanchigari, Bailshira and Biskini villages reached the venue at around 11:00pm and vandalised the canopy, loudspeakers and other equipment installed at the fair.

They also looted some valuable things and corrugated iron sheets (CI sheets) used in boundary wall of the fair.

## Sk Jamal

FROM PAGE 1

Kolkata Mohammedan Sporting Club who won the second semifinal against United Sporting Club 1-0. Although Sheikh Jamal lost their opening game against Kolkata Mohammedan, having conquered Mohun Bagan and East Bengal since, the Dhanmondi outfit will definitely start the final as favourites.

Even though the three foreigners made the difference in terms of goals in yesterday's match, it was a complete team effort from the Dhanmondi giants as they built up the game from the back and through the wings, with skipper Mamunul Islam pulling the strings in the midfield. Joseph Afusi's 4-3-3 formation was put to great use, with lateral movements in the midfield suddenly bursting into pace in the attacking third, to which the Kolkata giants had very few answers.

Having split the East Bengal backline quite a few times in the opening exchanges, Sheikh Jamal found the back of the net in the 23rd minute when Emeka's glancing header on an inch-perfect cross from Wedson went in after brushing the inside of the far post.

Wedson and Sony went close to doubling the lead twice in the next twelve minutes before Sony made it 2-0 by placing the ball with his left foot at the far corner of the net, having darted on to a clever through ball from Emeka.

The home team looked disjointed and posed little threat on goal as their two forwards James Moga and Chidi Edeh were neutralised by the defensive shield of Sheikh Jamal. A desperate East Bengal coach Armando Colaco made two substitutions early in the second half, adding some potency to their attack, but the young defensive shield of Sheikh Jamal stood firm and Sheikh Jamal's second-choice keeper Mazharul Islam Himel was good enough to thwart the distance-strikes from East Bengal.

Having a two-goal cushion with just 25 minutes of regulation time remaining, Afusi took off the injured Emeka and brought on midfielder Ali Amisu, whose first touch was a header which missed the target by a few inches. But it soon became 3-0 as Wedson's powerful shot went into the back of the net after taking a big deflection off defender Raju Gaikwad.

Frustration got the better of the East Bengal players as they made some cynical challenges, with their captain Robert Lalthlamuana fortunate to survive a red card offence before veteran defender Arnob Mondal was sent off in the last minute of stoppage time.

The long whistle in the 99th minute was the signal for the Sheikh Jamal contingent to burst into raptures of joy at having achieved a special place in the country's football history, and that too so clinically.

# Topsoil looting wrecks fertility of cropland

MINTU DESHWARA, back to  
Moulvibazar from Juri

Large-scale collection of the topsoil for making bricks wrecks havoc on the fertility of cultivable land in Joyfornagar area of Juri upazila under the district.

A section of middlemen 'motivate' poor farmers to sell the topsoil of their land to the brickfield owners.

"We sell topsoil as farming does not bring much profit," farmer Rokib Miah said during this correspondent's visit to the area a few days ago.

"We give the farmers Tk

15,000 to collect earth from per 720 square foot of land. Mini trucks carry this soil to brickfields in the area," said excavator driver Ata Khan who was engaged in cutting the topsoil.

Mini truck driver Rojob Ali said they get Tk 2000 to 4000 per day as mini truck fare for carrying soil to a brickfield, depending on distance.

"We buy topsoil for proper prices from villagers who sell it willingly," said Md Mustafizur Rahman Ujjal, owner of M/S Shapla Bricks and Construction.

Abed Ali, a marginal

farmer of Joyfornagar village in Juri upazila, said he sold topsoil due to crying need of money.

Removal of the surface soil six inches deep leads to drastic fall of crop production from there for the next three to four years, said Abdul Jalil, deputy assistant agriculture officer of Juri upazila.

Contacted, Nazim Uddin Sheikh, assistant director of the Directorate of Environment in Kulaura said there is hardly any scope to take action if land owners sell the topsoil willingly.



PHOTO: STAR  
An excavator draws topsoil from a farmland at Joyfornagar in Juri upazila under Moulvibazar district as local brick kiln owners 'motivate' the farmers to sell it, ignoring serious harm to land fertility.



PHOTO: STAR  
Potato growers in Munshiganj district yesterday protested the low prices of the vegetable by throwing their produce into the Dhaleswari River. They also formed a human chain on Mukhtarpur Bridge in Sadar upazila in the morning. Sources said, bumper production in many districts, recent hartals and road blockades and hoarders syndicates caused the situation for which growers across the country counted huge losses this year.



PHOTO: STAR  
The 93-kg Vishnu statue seized in Joypurhat.

## Two Vishnu statues recovered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two precious statues of Lord Vishnu were recovered from Joypurhat and Pabna districts on Monday.

Police seized a 93-kg touchstone made statue of Lord Vishnu from a pond in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat on Monday, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

When a group of villagers were catching fish in the pond they spotted the statue under the water, said Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, officer-in-charge of Panchbibi police station.

The smugglers might have brought it to traffic to a neighbouring country, said police.

In Pabna, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four people along with a statue of Lord Vishnu worth Tk 1 crore at Bothor village in Chatmohar upazila Monday afternoon, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees are Rafikul Islam, 35, Abdur Rashid, 32, GM Paramanik, 60, and Abdur Rahim, 45, of the village, said Rab sources.

The Rab-12 team also seized the black statue weighing 14.396 kilograms

## BNP man expelled for joining upazila parishad election

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Khagrachhari

A local leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was expelled yesterday for submitting nomination paper to contest for the post of chairman of Ramgarh Upazila Parishad in the upcoming election, defying party decision.

The expellee, Belayat Hossan Bhuiyan, was vice-president of Khagrachhari district unit of BNP and elder brother of district BNP President Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan.

The district unit in a press release signed by its President Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan and General Secretary Abu Yousuf Chowdhury said Belayat Hossain Bhuiyan was

expelled from the party on charge of violating party discipline.

BNP has nominated its Ramrath upazila unit General Secretary Sahidul Islam Bhuiyan to contest for the post of chairman of the upazila parishad in the upcoming elections.

On Thursday, Manikchhari upazila BNP vice-president SM Rabiul Islam Faruk was expelled from the party as he is contesting the upcoming upazila parishad elections, defying party decision.

The party also expelled senior vice-president of the upazila unit MK Azad as his wife is contesting for the post of woman-vice chairman of the upazila parishad as rebel candidate.

## 12 women return after jail term in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Benapole, Jessore

At least 12 Bangladeshi women and a child have returned home from India after languishing in jail there for two years for intrusion.

The Indian BSF handed them over to the Bangladesh authorities at Benapole check post on Monday afternoon.

They hail from Narail, Jhenidah and other districts. M Abdullah, commander of Benapole check post of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), said in December 2011, a team of Indian police had arrested them from Alipur in Kolkata of Pashchim Bangla.

They were later sent to Alipur Woman Central Jail where they stayed for two years.

## 200 rescued

FROM PAGE 16

rescued 50 people from Ukhia upazila in Cox's Bazar during a trafficking effort, and arrested two traffickers.

Earlier on January 10, police arrested four middlemen and rescued 60 fortune seekers in Chittagong city while they were being trafficked to Malaysia.

On June 17 last year, police recovered six bodies from the Bay of Bengal after a Malaysia-bound trawler with 30 passengers capsized in the sea.

The rescued Bangladeshi citizens will be handed over to their family members after verifying information regarding their addresses.

The traffickers brought the Bangladeshi and Myanmar nationals to Teknaf from different parts of the country, said Lt Dewan Rafiqul Awal, station commander of Teknaf Coast Guard.

A series of human trafficking events have occurred in the last couple of years through the Bay of Bengal, which indicates the presence of a strong trans-national trafficking ring in the region.

On February 2 this year, Rab members

rescued 50 people from Ukhia upazila in Cox's Bazar during a trafficking effort, and arrested two traffickers.

Earlier on January 10, police arrested four middlemen and rescued 60 fortune seekers in Chittagong city while they were being trafficked to Malaysia.

On June 17 last year, police recovered six bodies from the Bay of Bengal after a Malaysia-bound trawler with 30 passengers capsized in the sea.

## Louhajang river

FROM PAGE 2

He, however, said the construction works had been stalled due to a funds crunch.

Anisur Rahman Miah, Deputy Commissioner of Tangail, said he had advised the municipal authorities to construct walkways on both sides of the river.

The administration had been working on a list of grabbers and structures, he said.

The DC, however, added that the whole process would take six months to complete.

## Man killed by elder brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Rangpur

A man was killed allegedly by his elder brother over a family feud at Ekbarpur village in Pirganj upazila on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Mahbub Hossain, 30, son of Osman Goni of the village.

Police and witness sources said, there was a longstanding enmity between Mahbub and his elder brother Rizu Ahmed, 35.

At one stage of altercation on Monday morning, Rizu hit on the head of Mahbub with a bamboo stick, leaving him critically injured.

Mahbub later succumbed to injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) at night.

Moinul Islam, officer-in-charge of Pirganj police station said, a case was lodged. However, Rizu went into hiding after the incident.

## 40 BNP, JCD and Jamaat activists held in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Jhenidah

Police in a special drive arrested 40 activists of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jamaat-e-Islami from three upazilas early yesterday.

Of the total, 26 were held from Jhenidah Sadar, 10 from Saikupa and four from Kotchandpur.

Additional superintendent of police (ASP) in Jhenidah Mohammad Hasanuzzaman said, the arrestees were wanted in a number of cases filed for attack on policemen, hampering their duties, violence, setting police vehicles and polling centres and other properties on fire and attack on houses.

In Bogra, police arrested two activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, while

pasting anti-government posters in Sayed Ahmed College Station area in Sonatala upazila on Monday night.

The arrestees were identified as Jobayer, 21, and Tajul Islam, 20.

Police said, local Bangladesh Chhatra League men caught the two Shibir activists in the area and later they were arrested by police.

Former Swachhasebok Dal secretary of the district unit was also arrested on charge of stabbing a BNP leader and hurling cocktails on PS compound in Choklokman area.

The arrestee was identified as Shapan Dewan, 27, son of BNP leader Israfil Hossain Dewan of Naruli area in the town. He was expelled by the district unit recently.

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

**PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)**

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks proposals from interested and well qualified organizations in response to the following RFP in the CHT.

**"RFP for Security Services in CHTDF, UNDP Offices in three (3) Districts and upazila offices of Chittagong Hill Tracts"**

All interested organizations are requested to attend a **pre-bid meeting** to be held on **Monday, 17th February, 2014 at 10 am** at Conference Room, Building 2, CHTDF, Rajbari Road, Rangamati. Maximum two (2) participants from each organization are allowed.

The RFP along with the instructions for submission can be downloaded from UNDP website: [http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view\\_notice.cfm?notice\\_id=14341](http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=14341). The deadline for proposal submission is **Tuesday, 25th February, 2014, 04:30 pm** (Local Time)