



**Stones kept by a contractor occupy a large portion of the field of Pashpatila Government Primary School in Kotchandpur upazila under Jhenidah district, badly disturbing co-curricular and extra-curricular activities of the young learners.**

# Stones, logs of contractor occupy school field

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Heaps of stones and logs have kept occupying most of the field in front of Pashpatila Government Primary School for long, much to the disturbance of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities of the children.

Now 207 students are enrolled with the school that was established in 1923 on 86 decimals of land.

"Piling of stones and logs on the school ground by a local contractor hampers the movement of the students and teachers and disturbs smooth running of

the school. We cannot even hold school assembly and arrange singing of the National Anthem regularly," said Radha Rani Bhattacharya, headmistress of the school.

"Our request to remove the items from the school ground has fallen on the deaf ears," she said.

Rocky Hossain, a student of Cass V, said their assembly is not held regularly and they cannot play on the school ground as stones and logs occupy it.

BBA student Arafat Hossain, also a resident of Pashpatila village, said

earlier they took exercise and played football and cricket in the school field but it cannot be done due to keeping of stones and logs there.

Gazi Saiful Islam, Kotchandpur upazila education officer, said, "It is not acceptable that a contractor would create a situation that hampers any co-curricular activity. I will look into the matter and take step in this regard."

The contractor concerned, Hiru Mia could not be contacted despite several attempts as his mobile was switched off.

## Two 'robbers' killed in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Two alleged robbers were killed in Badarganj and Sadar upazilas of the district yesterday and the day before.

The deceased are Gausul Azam, 25, son of Akmol Hossain of Choukiderpara village in Badarganj upazila and Robiul Islam Robi, 28, son of Abdur Rashid of Basantapur-Baniapara village of the same upazila.

Police said a gang swooped on the house of one local trader Haji Akmol in College Road area of the city and took away two motorbikes early yesterday.

At 6:00am, locals found the body of Gausul along with a looted motorbike, damaged badly, on Rangpur-Badarganj road at Chengmari village in Badarganj and informed the police who sent it to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Gausul died in a road accident when he was fleeing the scene with it, said police.

Gausul was accused in 18 mugging and robbery cases.

In another incident, a suspected robber was killed and three others were injured in a mob beating in Matiapara area under Sadar upazila Wednesday.

A gang of 8/10 waylaid one Monir Hossain and Prodip Kumar in Chandanpat area of the city when they were returning home by a motorbike at 6:00am.

When the robbers were trying to escape from the scene with the motorbike Monir and Prodip captured Robi.

Hearing the hue and cry, villagers rushed to the spot and gave Robi a good beating, leaving him dead on the spot.

## 3 cops among 10 injured in gunfight with criminals

UNB, Laxmipur

Ten people, including three policemen, were injured in a gunfight with criminals at Chandraganj village in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Mizan Shafiu Rahman, superintendent of police, Laxmipur, said being tipped off that a gang, led by listed criminal Solaimanuddin Jisan, was preparing to commit a robbery, police raided Duttapara area of the village on Wednesday midnight.

Sensing the presence of police, the criminals opened fire on the law enforcers who also retaliated by firing back, triggering a gunfight.

The gunfight continued till early hours in the morning, leaving three policemen injured.

Later, police conducted drives at several other places and arrested six people including the mother of Jisan.

Jisan has several cases filed against him with Sadar and other police stations of the district for murder, robbery and extortion, said police.

# 8 years over, much-needed bridge on Surma yet to be complete

IQBAL SIDDIQUI, Sylhet

Construction of the 402-metre-long bridge over the River Surma in Sunamganj district town could not be completed even after eight years.

The project, taken up in fiscal year 2005-2006 at a cost of Tk 23 crore, was scheduled to be completed in three years. On completion of 50 per cent work, the project was dropped mysteriously from the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in 2012.

Officials could not say the reason but locals alleged

that the project was dropped for political reasons.

As locals raised the demand for completion of bridge construction works, the then additional chief engineer of Roads & Highways Department of Sylhet zone drew the attention of the higher authority and stressed the need for finishing the completion of the much-desired bridge.

Accordingly, the authorities concerned redesigned the project worth Tk 67 crore with a target to completing the construction work by June 2013, officials

said. But the construction of the bridge and its approach roads again slowed down due to delay in fund placement and contractors' apathy.

However, the R & H Executive Engineer Md Anwarul Amin said the construction work is almost complete and hopefully, it will be ready for traffic by June 2015.

The middle span of the bridge (steel truss) is being imported from China. It is scheduled to reach in November-December this year, he added.

Asked about the delay,

Iftekhar Kabir, additional chief engineer of R&H, Sylhet zone, said the project remained suspended for years. However, we are now trying our best to complete the works by March 2015, he added.

Four upazilas of Sunamganj - Biswambharpur, Tahirpur, Madhyannagar and Jamalganj-have no direct road link with the district headquarters. This bridge will create direct road link between the district town and the upazilas.



PHOTO: STAR

**Though eight years have gone, construction of this much-needed bridge on the River Surma in Sunamganj town still remains incomplete. However, the authorities concerned said the bridge will be ready for traffic by June next year.**

## End Rab's impunity

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and prosecutions in respect of alleged illegal killings by the Rab forces.

The EP will closely monitor the proceedings in the Narayanganj seven-murder case in which three Rab officers have been arrested and now await trial proceedings.

On Wednesday, the members of the EP had a debate on a joint motion for the resolution.

The resolution expressed concern at the enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings of opposition activists.

The EP called on the government to immediately release anyone subjected to an enforced disappearance, unless they can be charged with a recognisable criminal offence.

It said the government should establish an independent body to investigate such cases, and set up an effective and fully independent human rights commission.

Expressing worries at the proposed NGO law, the EP said the government should continue consultations with independent groups on the draft law's contents and to make sure that, if eventually adopted, it complies with international standards and civil rights conventions to which Bangladesh has committed itself.

It urged the Bangladesh authorities to revoke the new media policy and abide by their obligations to allow free speech and expression.

The government should recognise and respect freedom of the press and media and allow human rights groups to play an important role in strengthening accountability and documenting human rights abuses, said the EP.

Concerned at recurring cases of ethnic and religiously motivated violence, it urged the Bangladesh government to offer better protection and guarantees to minorities such as Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and Biharis.

On a positive note, the EP commended the government for the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which has resulted in significant real-life improvements for millions of its citizens.

It acknowledged that the improvements were made under difficult domestic circumstances, including constant threat of violent attacks by radical groups such as the BNP-affiliated Jamaat-e-Islami party.

The EP strongly condemned violent attacks by opposition groups against both civilian and government targets, and called on opposition groups to engage only in peaceful protests.

It emphasised the importance of an independent, impartial and accessible judicial system to enhance respect for the rule of law and the fundamental rights of the people.

Calling for reforms in the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), the EP said it was more important than ever to build confidence in the judiciary, security and human rights institution, given the increased threats in the region from terrorist organisations such as al-Qaeda.

Reiterating its call for the abolition of death penalty, the resolution welcomed the Supreme Court verdict to commute Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee's death sentence, handed down by the ICT, to life imprisonment.

The resolution was jointly moved by six political groups in the EP. They are: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, European United Left-Nordic Green Left, Group of the Greens-European Free Alliance and Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### Bombs seized in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive seized 23 crude bombs from a jute field at Lalpur village in Sadar upazila on Wednesday. Tipped off, a team of Rab-5 raided the area around 9.00am and recovered the bombs, contained in four bags, in an abandoned condition from the jute field, said Major Qamruzzaman Pavel, camp commander of the Rab-5. None was arrested in this connection. Qamruzzaman said criminals might have kept the bombs in the area for carrying out subversive activities after the verdict in Jamaat leader nayeb-e-ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee case.

### Idols vandalised in Madaripur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

criminals vandalised seven idols at a temple ahead of Durga Puja Khilgram area of Kalkini upazila early yesterday. Police detained a 'mentally challenged' youth Iqbal in connection with the incident that took place at the residence of one Shymlal Boydyia in Uttar Khilgram. Bishnupada Boydyia, son of temple committee president Bishanath Boydyia, said the work of idol making was almost complete ahead of the Puja.



PHOTO: STAR

**Forest officials arrested five poachers from different areas of Chalan Beel in Singra upazila under Natore district and recovered 128 live egrets from their possession on Wednesday. Later, a mobile court jailed them.**

### 8 women held on border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)men on Wednesday night arrested eight Bangladeshi women from Putkhali frontier under Benapole port police station. Tipped off, the BGB men of 23 Border Guard Battalion rounded up the eight women at around 8:00 pm, said Matuir Rahman, sub inspector of Benapole port police station. Alauddin, in-charge, 23 Putkhali BGB camp said, the eight went to India separately for better earnings with the help middlemen.

### Body found in river

UNB, Kushtia

Police recovered floating body of a man from the Gorai river near Renwick dam area of the town yesterday morning. The deceased could not be identified immediately. Abdul Khalek, officer-in-charge of Kushtia Model Police Station, said locals spotted the body of the man in the area and informed them.

## Criminals kill trader in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Criminals strangled a trader of Burighat Bazar in Naniachar upazila of the district on Wednesday night.

The deceased, Babul Dey, 50, was also the president of Burighat Temple Committee. He hailed from Rangunia upazila of Chittagong.

Locals said a gang of criminals came to the bazar at around 9:00pm and picked up Babul Dey, Uttam Talukder and Mridul Dey from there.

The gang took the three to a jungle in Amtoli area, about one kilometre away from the bazar, and released Uttam and Mridul at midnight.

Being informed by Uttam and Mridul, army personnel of Naniachar Zone launched a drive and recovered Babul's body from a jungle in Monkholamukh area of the upazila at around 9:00am yesterday, said police.

Rangamati Puja Uddhayan

Parisad brought out a procession and held a rally in Rangamati town yesterday, protesting the killing of Babul Dey.

The protesters gave a 24-hour ultimatum to local administration to arrest the killers. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme in the district.

# Man hands over drug addict son to police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A helpless father was compelled to hand over his drug addict son to police at Salaipur village in Sadullapur upazila on Wednesday.

Police arrested Asaduzzaman Alif, 25, after filing of the case by his father Zaharul Islam.

Police later produced the accused before a mobile court, conducted by Ahsan Habib, UNO of Sadullapur upazila and the court sen-

tenced the youth to six months imprisonment in the evening.

Father of the drug addict youth said that his son started taking drugs a few years ago and subsequently the situation went beyond control. He often beat up the members of his house demanding money while sell out domestic articles to buy drug.

Despite all measures, the situation became intolerable and the family members decided to hand him over to police, he further said.

# Youth stabbed dead by younger brother

UNB, Sylhet

A young man was stabbed to death allegedly by his younger brother at Deul village in Beanibazar upazila on Wednesday evening.

The deceased was identified as Harunur Rashid, 28, son of late Abdur Razzaque of the village.

Locals said, Harun had an altercation with his younger brother Mamun over planting trees in their yard

in the evening.

Following the altercation, Mamun attacked Harun with a sharp weapon and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him severely injured around 6:30pm.

Harun was rushed to the local upazila health complex where he was declared dead by the doctors.

Meanwhile, locals detained Mamun while fleeing and handed him over to police.

# Dhaka-Delhi JCC meet tomorrow

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he told a pre-departure press conference at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday morning.

Asked whether he will raise the issue of transfer of funds for terrorist outfits, the foreign minister said "This is an internal matter of India and let them handle it," adding that "Bangladesh government will do whatever is necessary."

The foreign minister is leading a 26-member delegation, including seven secretaries of different ministries and high officials of National Board of Revenue, Railways and other departments. These officials will also hold separate meetings with their Indian counterparts.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will lead the Indian side to the meeting to be held at the Hyderabad House.

"Never before has such a big delegation of secretaries travelled with a Bangladesh foreign minister to any country since independence and it

clearly indicates the importance given to bilateral relations by both India and Bangladesh," a senior official at the foreign ministry told The Daily Star.

Diplomatic sources said the JCC meeting will identify thrust areas of bilateral cooperation and give directions for further growth of India-Bangladesh relationship, apart from reviewing the progress of the ties in various sectors.

Asked whether Bangladesh will seek "specific time frame" from India to resolve the pending Teesta water sharing deal and ratification of the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), the foreign minister said "These are a continuous process and it's not possible to give any specific time frame."

He, however, said a wide range of issues like security, border management, power and energy, trade development, connectivity, water resources, people to people contact and cultural exchange and cooperation in science and technology will

come up for discussion at the meeting.

The Bangladesh side will also focus on balanced sharing of common rivers, arranging next Joint Rivers Commission meeting, removal of barriers to boost exports and enhancing regional and sub-regional cooperation under the Bimstec, Saarc and BCIM-EC.

He said Dhaka would handover the list of items facing obstacle to enter the Indian market due to certification related problems.

"I hope the JCC meeting will be very fruitful and greatly help improve the ties," Ali added.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be signed with India to build ties between Bangladesh and Nalanda University of India.

Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque, Director General (South Asia) Tareq Md Ariful Islam and Director General (External Publicity) Noor-E Helal Saifur Rahman were present at the press briefing.