

# New jail at Pirojpur sees only 30pc work in 14 yrs

## Century-old jailhouse struggles to cope with increasing number of prisoners

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Only 30 percent of the work for construction of the new complex of Pirojpur district jail has been completed in 14 years while the inmates as well as the jail staff are badly suffering due to accommodation problem at the old jailhouse.

In 2000 Pirojpur Public Works Department (PWD) started the construction work on 9.5 acres of land beside Pirojpur-Nazirpur Road at Alamkathi village under Pirojpur municipality but the work

remained suspended from 2002 to 2012 due to fund crisis, PWD sources said.

The construction work resumed with a budget of Tk 35 crore 50.20 lakh in the fiscal year 2011-2012.

Later the budget increased to Tk 41 crore 93.83 lakh but only Tk 7 crore 81.50 lakh has so far been released for the work.

The new jail with the capacity for 300 convicted and under trial people include two three-storey barracks for convicted males, two three-storey barracks

for under trial males, one two-storey barracks for convicted women, and one three-storey barrack for children.

Besides, there will be one two-storey office cum residential building, one two-storey medical centre, two three-storey cell buildings, a one-storey 'work shed' and four three-storey residential buildings for officers and staff of the jail complex.

"The existing jail built in 1918 on 1.12 acres of land has capacity for 177 prisoners but we have to

accommodate more than twice inmates here. Besides, officers and staff of the jail are suffering from accommodation problem," said AG Mahmud, jailer of Pirojpur jail.

"Earlier the construction work of the new buildings of Pirojpur jail remained incomplete due to fund crisis. Now the work is expected to be completed within June 2018 as the higher authorities are committed regarding the matter," said Ishak Babul, sub divisional engineer of Pirojpur PWD office.



PHOTO: STAR

The under construction Pirojpur district jail complex lies mostly incomplete long 14 years after start of the work due to fund shortage while the old jailhouse remains crammed with inmates.

## Jasim Polli Mela begins tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A fortnight-long Jasim Polli Mela, a village fair to pay homage to eminent folk poet Jasim Uddin, is scheduled to begin at Govindapur village in the town yesterday, marking the 112th birth anniversary of the poet.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu will inaugurate the fair, where Overseas Employment and Expatriate Welfare Minister Engineer Khondokar Mosharrif Hossain will present as the chief guest.

Renowned artistes and other cultural groups from different districts will perform at the Jasim Mancha every afternoon.

## 45 tonnes of smuggled coal seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police arrested four people and seized 45 tonnes of smuggled coal from their possession on Paikertola border in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj district yesterday morning.

The arrestees are Anwar Hosain, 23, Umakanta Sarkar, 50, Jalal Miah, 25, and Sohel Miah of different villages in the upazila.

On secret information, a police team raided a boat in the River Chalti at 7:30am and arrested the four along with the coal worth Tk 10 lakh, said Md Sahid Ullah, officer-in-charge of Tahirpur Police Station.

## Poultry farm gutted in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A poultry farm was gutted in a devastating fire incident in Ghanirampur village under Targanj upazila in Rangpur district on Wednesday night.

Police and fire service sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at 'Munni Poultry Farm' around 3:30am and rapidly engulfed the whole farm.

On information, a fire fighting team from Saidpur fire service station rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with the help of the villagers after an hour's frantic efforts.

By this time at least 3,000 chicks, two sheds and other valuables burnt to ashes.

Emdadul Haque, owner of the farm, claimed that miscreants set fire to his farm over previous enmity.

Several villagers said there was a longstanding enmity between Emdadul Haque and a group of villagers over establishing the farm at the village.

Emdadul Haque claimed that the extent of loss from the fire could go up to Tk 4 lakh.

Md Mosabberul Haque, officer-in-charge of Targanj Police Station said a case was lodged in this connection.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Mymensingh Nursing College stage a sit-in blocking the entrance of the institute building as they continued demonstration for the second day yesterday demanding removal of the principal and a housekeeper and cancellation of the transfer order against their fellow students.

## Man commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A man allegedly committed suicide at Bhatiapara village in Bakshiganj upazila early yesterday. The deceased is Sadek Ali, 32, son of Shahed Ali of the village. He was father of two children. Police said Sadek took his life by hanging himself from a tree near their house in the area as he could not bear his stomach pain further. Family sources said Sadek had been suffering from stomach pain for long.

## Youth held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police arrested a youth along with a 9mm pistol and a magazine on Wednesday. Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Barisal Bandar Police Station, said on secret information, a police team raided the area at night and arrested Faizul Islam, 26, along with the firearm and magazine.

## Sramik Dal leader hacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Criminals hacked a local Sramik Dal leader in front of Sholoshahar power office of the district town on Wednesday night. The injured is Abdus Salam Baten, 62, president of district unit of Sramik Dal. A gang of 8/10 attacked Baten with sharp weapons, leaving him injured while he was returning to home at Sheikhpura from Old Bus Terminal around 10:00pm, said Gazi Nuruzzaman Babul, president of Pirojpur district unit of BNP. He was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital. Babul blamed the ruling Awami League men for the attack.

## Fire at poultry farm

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A fire broke out at a poultry farm at Ghanirampur village under Targanj upazila on Wednesday. Police and fire service sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at 'Munni Poultry Farm' and soon engulfed the entire farm. However, Emdadul Haque, owner of the farm, said criminals set fire to his farm over previous enmity. On information, a fire fighting unit from Saidpur fire service station rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with the help of locals. The affected farm owner claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 4 lakh. A case was filed in this connection, said Md Mosabberul Haque, officer-in-charge of Targanj Police Station.

## Two buses torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Maminiganj

Two passenger buses of SP Golden Line and Jatriseba Paribahan were set on fire in Paturia Ghat area of the town yesterday. However, none got hurt in the incidents. Abdul Khaleque, sub-inspector of Paturia Police Outpost, said criminals torched the Golden Line's bus parked at the bus stand around 4:00am. The SI could not give any details about another fire incident.

## Eight shops gutted

UNB, Barguna

At least eight shops were gutted when a fire broke out in Bakalipotti area in Sadar upazila of the district on Wednesday night. Locals said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop owned by one Wasim around 7:30pm and soon engulfed seven other adjacent shops. On information, a fire fighting unit from Barguna Fire Service Station, rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after frantic efforts of nearly an hour. The shop owner's, however, claimed that the extent of loss from the fire could go up to Tk 20 lakh.



PHOTO: STAR

This ferryboat belonging to the Roads and Highways Department is heading towards ruination as it remains in utter neglect on the bank of the Dharla River in Kurigram municipality area for years.

## CLASH OVER LAND DISPUTE

# Woman killed, 16 injured in two districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A woman was killed and at least 16 people were injured in separate clashes over land related disputes in Bogra and Gaibandha districts yesterday.

A woman was killed and at least five others were injured when two groups of villagers locked in a clash over the ownership of a piece of land in Taltola area in Gabtoli upazila of the district yesterday, reports our Bogra correspondent.

The deceased is Bilkis Begum, 36, daughter of Tofazzal Hossain, a resident of the area.

Police quoted witnesses as saying that, there had been a long standing rivalry between one Tofazzal Hossain and Tony Mia of the village, over the ownership of 31 bighas of farmland.

Around 11:00 am,

Tony's men went to the spot in a bid to harvest paddy from the disputed land. Hearing the news, supporters of Tofazzal rushed to the spot and tried to prevent Tony's men from reaping paddy which triggered a clash between the two groups that left six people, including Bilkis, injured.

The injured were rushed to Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, where Bilkis succumbed to her injuries in the afternoon.

Contacted, Reaz Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Gabtoli Police Station, said they have already arrested three people in connection with the murder.

Away in Gaibandha, at least 11 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of villagers over the ownership of a disputed land at Balapara

village in Sundarganj upazila of the district yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Of the injured, Motiur Rahman, 45, Jahurul Haque, 55, Moslem Ali, 30, Momin Mia, 25, Royal Mia, 22, Rafiqul Islam, 33, Farhad Mia, 41, and Farida Begum, 37, were admitted to Sundarganj Upazila Health Complex.

Sources said, there had been a long-standing rivalry between one Motiur Rahman and his neighbour Jahurul Haque of the village, over the ownership of a disputed land.

The two had an altercation when they sat at a meeting to settle the issue yesterday morning.

At one stage, supporters of both the groups equipped with sharp weapons attacked each other, leaving 11 people injured.

## 4 outlaws, murder accused held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police in separate drives arrested four alleged outlaws and an accused in a murder case in Ataikula upazila of the district on Wednesday.

The arrestees are Rafikul Islam, 32, regional leader of outlawed Nakshal Bahini and a resident of Choto Mongolgram village, his cohorts Akram Hossain, 30, of Shargram village, Monju Hossain, 30, Rasulpur village, Manik Hossain, 28, of Bonogram village and Helal Uddin, 40, accused in four

AL leaders murder case of Modhupur village in the upazila.

On secret information, a police team raided Modhupur village around 6:00pm and arrested Helal Uddin, said Md Faizul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ataikula Police Station.

In another drive, the law enforcers arrested the four outlaws along with a shutter gun and 13 bullets at Shorgram village.

The four are accused in several cases. Of them, Rafikul is accused in several murder cases, said the OC.

## Youth kills himself

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A youth committed suicide allegedly over a love affair at Horibari village in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Samrat, 18, son of Nazrul Islam of the village.

Police said Samrat had a

love affair with a girl of the same village for four years but the girl got married a few days ago.

Failing to bear the mental shock, Samrat took his life by hanging himself from a tree in front of their house, said Mujibur Rahman Majumder, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

## 'Robber' killed in gunfight with rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An alleged robber was killed and five others were injured as two gangs locked in a fierce gunfight in Chakaria upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Jahidul Islam, 25, son of Nur Mohammad of Shawdagarpara in Chiringa union.

Probhath Chandra Dhar, officer-in-charge of Chakaria Police Station, said the members of two robber gangs, one led by Jahidul and Manjur Alam and another by Ataulah, traded bullets over taking control of a shrimp enclosure in Charandwip-91 Acre area

under the upazila around 4:00am.

As police reached the spot, the robbers opened fire on the law enforcers. In retaliation, police fired 32 bullets.

At one stage, the robbers fled the scene. Later, police recovered Jahidul's body from the spot.

Five other robbers, who sustained bullet injuries, were also arrested from the spot. They are Sirajul Islam, Ataulah, Osman Gani, Kafil Uddin and Abdus Salam.

Salam was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition, said the OC.

Police seized a foreign made rifle, two pistols and seven machetes from the



PHOTO: STAR

Land grabbers make plots to occupy this open marshy land at Maruyadaha in Chaporhati union of Sundarganj upazila under Gaibandha district while the authorities concerned are turning a blind eye to the matter.