

3 teachers for 19 students in erosion-hit pry school!

Appeal for shifting it to suitable place goes unheeded

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

Shinghanagar Government Primary School at Shinghanagar village in Sujanagar upazila under the district is struggling for existence as only 19 students are presently enrolled there while most of the school land earlier went into the Padma riverbed.

Three teachers are now serving the school established in 1930.

"In last several years, the Padma devoured 33 decimals of land of the school as well as most of the areas of Shinghanagar village. Nineteen children, mostly from other villages, are reading in six classes from pre-primary to fifth grade in the school. Most of the students do not attend classes regularly," said Md

Abu Sayeed, headmaster of the school.

"There are four other government primary schools -- Kondoppur, Shamnagar, Harirampur and Bhatpara primary schools within around half a kilometre from Shinghanagar Government Primary School and so, we have asked the officials of primary education department to shift the school to

Kadoa village in Satbaria union where there is huge pressure of students," said Md Abul Hossain, chairman of Satbaria union parishad in Sujanagar upazila.

"As per rule, there should be at least 150 students to run a primary government school. Steps would be taken according to the rule," said Md Khalilur Rahman, district primary education officer.



PHOTO: STAR

Sitting in a single room, all the three teachers of Shinghanagar Government Primary School at Shinghanagar village in Sujanagar upazila under Pabna district impart lessons to a handful of students belonging to six classes from pre-primary to fifth grade. Inset, the makeshift schoolhouse on the bank of the Padma remains very close to being devoured by the mighty river that eroded most of the village in last few years.



BSF detains 5 Bangladeshis for crossing border illegally

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmohirhat

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) arrested five Bangladeshis after they entered the Indian territory illegally through Burirhat border in Kaliganj upazila of the district yesterday.

The arrestees are Al-Amin Sheikh, 25, son of Abdul Jalil, Palash Chandra Roy, 19, son of Subhas Chandra Roy of Nawdabash village in Hatibandha upazila, Sumon Chandra Roy, 18, son of Dharendra Nath Roy, Anil Chandra Roy, 35, son of late Premananda Roy of Latabar, and Santosh Kumar Roy, 28, son of Manoranjan Roy of Gangagachh village in Kaliganj upazila.

A BSF team arrested the five in the morning on charge of crossing the border without valid documents, said Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sources.

Mahir Uddin, 45, a day labourer of Burirhat, said "A good number of workers of the bordering villages often go to India illegally in search of jobs in brick kilns and construction sites in New Delhi."

In the afternoon, BGB sent a letter to its Indian counterpart to return the five Bangladeshis.

Housewife stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

A young housewife, who was stabbed by a youth in Gowainghat upazila on Sunday, succumbed to her injuries at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

The deceased, Sakera Begum, 22, wife of Ayub Ali, was a resident of Lamasatain village in the upazila.

Police quoted victim's family members as saying that Kamal Uddin, 26, son Jamal Uddin of the village gave a marriage proposal to Sakera's family nearly two years back, which her family refused.

Later, Kamal went to Saudi Arab as a worker. He returned home a month ago and came to know that Sakera's family married her off to Ayub, a madrasa teacher from the same village.

In despair, Kamal stabbed Sakera with a sharp weapon while she was going to have a bath in a pond adjacent to their house on Sunday noon, said Abdul Hai, officer in-charge of Gwainghat Police Station.

Critically injured Sakera was rushed to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries around 4:00am.

Taiyabur Rahman, victim's brother, filed a murder case with the police station yesterday morning, accusing Kamal, who went into hiding soon after the incident.

Indian drugs seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmohirhat

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in separate drives seized phensidyl, wine, hemp, spices, bicycles and motorbikes worth about Tk nine lakh from different areas in the district in the last two days.

None was arrested in this connection, said a BGB official.



PHOTO: STAR

Children take part in a painting competition organised by Tangail district Shishu Academy yesterday, marking the birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The birthday of the Father of the Nation, March 17 is also observed as the National Children's Day.

CASE FOR ATTACK ON NOOR'S CONVOY

Charges pressed against 207 BNP-Jamaat men

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Nilphamari

Police on Sunday pressed charges against 207 BNP-Jamaat men in the case for attacking the convoy of lawmaker and incumbent Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor in Sadar upazila on December 14, 2013.

Sub-Inspector Mostafizar Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.

Abu Helal, general secretary of Jamaat district unit, and Khairul Anam, president of Sadar upazila unit of the party, are among the charge-sheeted accused.

Jamaat activists attacked the houses of Hindu families at several villages in Polashbari and Laxmichap unions of Sadar upazila on the night of December 12, 2013, protesting the execution of Jamaat assistant secretary general Kader Molla.

The Jamaat men injured over 100 Hindus, torched around 200 houses and looted valuables.

On December 14, Asaduzzaman Noor visited the villages, talked to the affected people and gave them some assistance for their rehabilitation.

While Noor along with his party men was returning to the district town at around 4:00pm, several

thousand Jamaat and BNP activists swooped on them at Ramganj Haat under Tupamari union of the upazila, leaving four activists of Krishak League, Chhatra League and Jubo League dead and many injured.

Officer-in-charge (investigation) Babul Akhter of Sadar Police Station filed a case at night, accusing 14 named and 150 unnamed BNP-Jamaat men. After investigation, the IO brought charges against 43 more people.

Of the identified accused, the bodies of three were found beside different roads in Nilphamari and Bogra districts in the first two weeks of the incident.

Kid murdered 3 days into abduction in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jhenidah

A madrasa student was murdered three days into his abduction in Kotchandpur upazila of Jhenidah district.

He was identified as Miraj Ali, 12, son of Mohar Ali of Bhomradanga village in the upazila.

Locals spotted Miraj's body at a cropland at the village around 9:00am yesterday and informed the

police, said Shahidul Islam Shahin, officer in-charge of the police station.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Mohar Ali said his son Miraj, a class III student of Bujruk Gorgori Darul Ulum Madrasa in Chuadanga, came home about five days ago. He attended a Waz mehfil (religious function)

at Bhomradanga Madrasa ground on Saturday afternoon and did not return home until 11:00pm.

At midnight, an unknown person phoned Atiqur Rahman, Imam of the village mosque, and demanded Tk 1 lakh ransom for Miraj's release. Being informed, Miraj's father Mohar, Mohar Ali lodged a general diary (GD) with Kotchandpur Police Station on Sunday.



PHOTO: STAR

The approach road on both the sides of the bridge over the Bangalee River has caved in, making road communication from Saghata and Fulchhari to Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha district highly risky.

SNIPPETS

11 houses gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

At least 11 houses were gutted in fire incidents in Senbagh and Subornachar upazilas yesterday. A fire gutted at least eight houses at Keshorpar village in Senbagh upazila. The fire originated from an electric short circuit at a house at around 1:30pm and soon engulfed the adjoining houses. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the flames after one hour of frantic effort. The loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 25 lakh, said Sakhawat Ullah, an official of Sonaimuri Fire Service Station. In Subornachar, at least three houses were gutted in a fire at Charbata village upazila, said locals. The house owners claimed that the damage caused by the fire could go up to Tk 5 lakh.

BNP leader held

UNB, Rajshahi

Detectives in a drive arrested a district BNP leader in Horgram Bazar area of the town on Sunday on sabotage charges. The arrestee is advocate Tofazzal Hossain Topu, 50, vice president of Rajshahi district unit of BNP. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and arrested Topu.

Jatka seized

UNB, Munshiganj

Members of Bangladesh Coastguard seized 240kgs of jatka (hilsa fry less than 10 inches long) from the Meghna River in Gazaria upazila on Sunday. Coastguard official Hasanur Rahman said they conducted a drive in the river and seized the fish from a passenger trawler. None was arrested in this connection.

Girl found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmohirhat

An unidentified girl was found dead at a tobacco field in Putimari area in Sadar upazila yesterday. Police said criminals might have strangled the girl, aged about 18-years, after rape on Sunday night and dumped the body there. Contacted, Mahfuzur Rahman, officer in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said they are trying to identify the body and arrest the culprits involved.

Teenage boy commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A 15-year-old boy allegedly committed suicide by taking insecticides at Binodtongi village in Madarganj upazila on Sunday night. The deceased is Mohammad Minhaj, son of Moslem Sheikh of the village. Victim's family members said Minhaj had been suffering from severe stomach pain for long as his poor family was unable to provide his treatment expenses. Family members said he had unbearable pain and due to which he committed suicide at around 8:00pm. Minhaj was rushed to Madarganj Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead around 11:00pm, said Abdul Awal, officer in-charge of Madarganj Police Station.

Child marriage bid foiled in Jamalpur

Two boys fined for stalking schoolgirl in Habiganj

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A bid for child marriage was foiled in Jamalpur district yesterday while two teenage boys were fined for stalking a schoolgirl in Habiganj the day before.

In Jamalpur, a student of Class VI was saved from underage marriage following timely intervention of Madarganj upazila administration in the district yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Locals said the 12-year-old student of Koylakandi Adarsha High School in Charpakerdah union under Madarganj upazila was set to be married with one Babu, 27, son of late Abdus Samad of Teghoria village in the afternoon.

On information, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Kamruzzaman rushed to the spot and stopped the marriage.

Away in Habiganj, a mobile court fined two teenage boys Tk 10,000 for stalking a schoolgirl in Madhabpur upazila of the district on Sunday, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

In default, they are to suffer two months in jail, said court sources.

The stalkers are Rubel Miah, 17, son of Safiqur Rahman, and Sagor Chandra Das, 16, son of Ranjon Das of Fatepur village.

The two often teased the Class VII student on her way to school, said the victim's family.

On information, police arrested Rubel and Sagor in Manikpur area of the upazila on Sunday afternoon.

The arrestees were later produced before the court that punished them.

Robber killed in 'gunfight' with cops in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Faridpur

An alleged robber was killed in a 'gunfight' with police in Alfadanga upazila of the district early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Muktar Sheikh, 30, son of Akram Sheikh of Konagram village under Bana union of the upazila.

Receiving information that a gang was taking preparation to commit a robbery at Joydevpur village in the upazila, a police team raided the village at around 3:00am.

Sensing the presence of the police team, the gang opened fire, prompting the

law enforcers to retaliate.

Muktar sustained bullet wounds during the clash and died instantly while the rest managed to flee, said Jamil Hassan, superintendent of police (SP) in Faridpur.

The body was sent to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

After conducting post-mortem examination on Muktar's body in the afternoon, police handed over the body to Sultan Sheikh, a relative of Muktar, Sub-inspector Hasimuzzaman of Alfadanga Police Station said.

VACANCY NOTICE



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the position of **Field Coordinator** at SB3 Level under Service Contract modality with "Increasing adaptive capacities to enhance resilience of the South-West Communities (Waterlogging)". Project duration is up to 30 October 2015.

Field Coordinator (SB3, Service Contract)

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/jobs/>. Applications should be received no later than **30 March 2015**.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.