

# Minor children employed as brick kiln labourers!

Owners lure hundreds of poor kids into the risky job for low wages in Jhalakathi

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

Most of the brick kilns in Jhalakathi district are using children in the risky work for low wages, in gross violation of law.

Children as small as five or six years' old are engaged in brick manufacturing and carrying work as demand for such workers increase in the dry season that sees full operation of the brick kilns, said workers.

Visiting around 40 brick fields in different areas of the district recently, this correspondent found children working in almost all of the kilns.

Most of the brick kilns are

operating illegally, without any permission from the authorities concerned, sources said.

"I get Tk 20 for carrying one hundred bricks from the field to the furnace. A child usually earns Tk 60 to 150 a day working here while an adult worker gets Tk 450 to 600 for the same amount of work," said eight-year-old Sajal, who works at a small brick kiln at Balaybari of Rajapur.

Owners of brick kilns even torture children if they want to leave the workplace, said Sujon, a child worker at a brick kiln at Rajapur.

Parents of these children of school going age send them to brick kilns for add-

ing to family income, said several child workers.

"The children often receive minor injuries when they work in the brick fields but we are not worried about it. We are only worried about major injuries that might cause death to any child," said a brick owner seeking anonymity.

"The children are sternly instructed to hide or flee the place if they see any unknown person. Brick kiln owners also intimidate these children by saying that they would be handed over to police if they disobey the employers," said Saiful, a brick manufacturer.

"Engaging children in the

risky work at brick kilns is illegal and gross violation of children's rights," said Akkas Shikder, a lawyer of Jhalakathi.

"Working in such an unhygienic and risky environment often causes respiratory and skin diseases and other problems to children. It leaves long term negative effect on their body and mind," said Md Nazrul Islam, civil surgeon of Jhalakathi.

The brick kiln owners are violating children's rights by engaging them in the risky and inhuman works, said Roushanara Begum, deputy manager of Jhalakathi office of Save the Children.



PHOTO: STAR

**TOO PAINFUL TO SEE:** These tiny tots, supposed to be spending time at school during the daytime, are employed as cheap labourers at an unlicensed brick kiln at Balaybari in Rajapur upazila under Jhalakathi district. Hundreds of children in the district are engaged in similar work as their parents are too poor and the brick kiln owners do not want to miss the opportunity to exploit them.

# Two killed in nor'wester

20 hurt, 500 houses damaged, 5,000 birds also killed as the seasonal storm hits Kushtia, Jhenidah

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Nor'wester lashed Kushtia and Jhenidah districts yesterday, leaving two people killed and 20 others injured.

The deceased are Nisarunnesa, 55, of Baghdanga village, and Rahela Khatun, 65, of Afzalpur in Kushtia Sadar upazila, reports our correspondent.

Locals said the two died when the sheds of their

houses collapsed on them during the storm that lashed Baghdanga and Afzalpur villages at around 3:30am.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Belal Hossain visited the areas in the morning.

A number of houses in the areas were also damaged by the storm, said the DC.

Away in Jhenidah, a storm hit over 50 villages in Shailakupa upazila of the district early yesterday, leaving at least 20 people

injured and damaging around 500 houses.

Of the injured, 11 were admitted to the upazila health complex while the rest given first aid, reports our correspondent.

The affected villages include Mirzapur, Diknagar, Kacherkool, Sarutia, Hakimpur and Monohorpur.

At least 5000 birds of different species also died during the storm that lasted

for about 30 minutes from 4:00am, said locals.

Golam Mostofa, a farmer of Monohorpur village, said "The storm destroyed banana and paddy on my two and three bighas of land at midnight."

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sandip Kumar Sarkar said the storm swept though the areas, leaving at least 5,000 birds dead and damaging around 500 homesteads.



PHOTO: STAR

**A large number of birds lie dead at Moukori village in Shailakupa upazila under Jhenidah district as a nor'wester lashed the area yesterday.**

# Jubo Dal man murdered, another hacked

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A local Jubo Dal leader was shot dead allegedly by his intra-party rival over previous enmity in Laxmipur Sadar upazila on Sunday night, reports our Noakhali correspondent.

The deceased is Md Saddam Hossain, 25, vice president of Hamsadai union unit of Jubo Dal, and son of Amanat Ullah of Bhuyan Bari in the upazila.

A witness, Sohel, younger brother of the victim, said a gang of 10/12, led by Md Farid, president of the unit, opened fire on Saddam, leaving him dead on the spot when he was gossiping at a tea stall near Bijoynagar Konabari Saw Mill around 9:00pm.

After the incident, police detained Dulal Chowkider, a member of Farid Bahini, for interrogation.

Police and family sources said Saddam and Farid were in conflict over occupying a house of a Hindu family.

The body was sent to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Md Iqbal Hossain, OC of Laxmipur Sadar Police Station.

Away in Pirojpur, a Jubo Dal leader was hacked in Mathbaria upazila of the district on Sunday night, reports our correspondent.

The injured is Tofazzel Hossain Bepari, 43, convener of Dhanishafa union unit of Jubo Dal, and a resident of Dhanishafa village. Locals said Tofazzel, a betel nut trader, went to Balur Math Bazar from nearby Jhawtala Bazar in the upazila after receiving a phone call in the evening when a gang attacked him with sharp weapons.

Critically injured Tofazzel was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital, said Md Nasiruddin Mallik, OC of Mathbaria PS.



PHOTO: STAR

**Students of Pabna Edward College demonstrate on the campus yesterday demanding immediate cancellation of the decision to increase fees for the honours third year final examinations.**

PABNA EDWARD COLLEGE

# Students protest exam fee hike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Students of Pabna Edward College blocked the Ishwardi-Pabna highway for half an hour yesterday, protesting fee hike of honours third year final examinations.

The third year students of the college later staged a sit-in in front of the office of the

principal around 10:30am.

They also brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus, demanding immediate cancellation of the increased fee.

At the rally, the agitating students claimed that the authorities increased the examination fee by Tk 1,500 to Tk 2,000 in different departments this year.

The demonstrators also threatened to go for a tougher agitation if their demand was not met immediately.

Contacted, Prof Shamsul Huda, principal of the college, said the college authorities are not responsible for the fee hike as the National University authorities increased the fee.



PHOTO: STAR

**Journalists form a human chain in front of Baufal Press Club in Patuakhali district yesterday protesting torture on Prothom Alo journalist ABM Mizanur Rahman under police custody.**

# Body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Body of a young man was found in Rajapur upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased, Isa Hawladar, 32, son of Mojnu Hawladar, was a resident of Charakhali village in the upazila.

Local people found Isa, a fish trader, lying in an unconscious state from beside Jhalakathi-Bhandaria road early yesterday and took him to Rajapur Upazila Health Complex, where the on-duty doctor declared him dead, said Masuduzzaman, OC of Rajapur Police Station, adding that body was sent to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited is a second generation private commercial Islami bank is looking for experienced professionals to join the following positions at Card Division of the bank:

Sl.No.	Wing Name	Designation	Experience	Education	Job Description
01	Credit Card Operation	FVP-SPO	Minimum 10-12 Years of banking experience in reputed Commercial Bank(s)	Masters in any discipline from a reputed university with good academic record.	• Coordinate, supervise and monitor the overall tasks of Credit Card Operation
02	Credit Card Operation	Officer - SEO	Minimum 2-6 Years of banking experience in reputed Commercial Bank(s)	Masters in any discipline from a reputed university with good academic record.	• All sorts of data capturing for Credit Card issuance • Activation, re-activation & deactivation of cards and other maintenance job. • Answering queries of the customer • EOD processing • Downloading Master Card files and e-service reports from MasterCard Online • Roster Duty(24/7)
03	Accounts	FVP-SPO	Minimum 10-12 Years of banking experience in reputed Commercial Bank(s)	Masters in any discipline from a reputed university with good academic record. Preferably from business background.	• Coordinate, supervise and monitor the overall tasks of Credit Card Accounts wing. • Develop a complete credit card accounting system
04	Accounts	Officer - PO	Minimum 2-8 Years of banking experience in reputed Commercial Bank(s)	Masters in any discipline from a reputed university with good academic record. Preferably from business background.	• Accounting related works of MasterCard • Bangladesh Bank CL & CIB reporting • Various type of accounts reconciliation and reporting
05	Customer Service	Officer-PO	Minimum 2-8 Years of banking experience in reputed Commercial Bank(s)	Masters in any discipline from a reputed university with good academic record.	• Dealing with customers and attend the phone calls • Card, PIN and Statement delivery to branches and customers • Dealing with courier services • Roster Duty (24/7)
06	ATM Wing / ADC Operation	Officer-SEO	Minimum 2-6 Years of banking / Vendor experience in reputed Commercial Bank(s)	Candidates should have minimum B.Sc. degree in Computer Science/ Computer Engineering / Computer Science and Engineering/ EEE	• Daily ATM Transaction Monitoring • ATM Switch System Monitoring and maintenance • Responsible for ATM deployment • Provide ATMs First level maintenance support • Monitoring Cash position of all ATMs • Attend the phone calls for ATM related issues • Monitoring ATM booth CCTV functionality, security guard attendants, Air condition and other equipments functionality • Roster Duty (24/7)
07	Dispute and Chargeback	Officer-SEO	Minimum 2-6 Years of banking experience in reputed Commercial Bank(s)	Masters in any discipline from a reputed university with good academic record.	• Process Chargeback • Process and response for copy request, pre arbitration, case filling • Fraud investigation
08	Credit / Investment	SEO-PO	Minimum 3-8 Years of banking experience in reputed Commercial Bank(s)	Masters in any discipline from a reputed university with good academic record.	• Assess the Customer application • Calculation of DBR • Checking all the mandatory documents and verification
09	Marketing / Sales	SEO-SPO	Minimum 3-10 Years of banking experience in reputed Commercial Bank(s)	Masters in any discipline from a reputed university with good academic record.	• Leading, managing and motivating a sales team to implement a sales strategy • Highly driven with enthusiasm to meet high sales targets and to cope under demanding pressure
10	Recovery / Collections	SEO-PO	Minimum 2-8 Years of banking / Vendor experience in reputed Commercial Bank(s)	Masters in any discipline from a reputed university with good academic record. Preferably from business background.	• The main function is to follow up with customers for the release of payments • The person Should have good communication, Personality skills and Good Accounts knowledge • Good experience in coordinating with customers and ensuring that all documents for ensuring payment on timely basis have reached customer

**Application Procedure:** Interested and eligible candidates are requested to send their CV with a recent photograph and the last obtained certificates, transcripts/mark sheets to Head of Human Resource Division, Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited, Head Office, 7th Floor, 36 Dilkusha, C/A, Dhaka in a sealed envelope mentioning the post applied for on the top of the envelope alternatively candidates can also apply online through [www.al-arafahbank.com](http://www.al-arafahbank.com) on or before April 23, 2015

**Eligible candidate can apply for only one post as mentioned above, if apply for more than one post application will be cancelled without assigning any reason. (Only short listed candidates will be called for interview)**

**Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited**  
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