

# Labour welfare centre hardly benefits stakeholders

The set-up at Saidpur runs without doctor for seven years; training scanty; no recreational facilities

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Services of government-run 'Sram Kalyan Kendra' (labour welfare centre) in Saidpur upazila under the district remain virtually elusive to the beneficiaries for years.

Unlike other years, the centre under the Ministry of Labour and Employment has not arranged any programme marking the May Day today due to 'fund constraints'.

Now labourers and workers seldom come to the centre, said sources.

Set up in 1980-1981 fiscal year in a two-storied building at Bangalipur under Saidpur municipality, the centre is meant for providing different training programmes, medical treatment, cultural and indoor games facilities, reading facilities in library, etc, for

the working class people in the area.

In Saidpur, there are around 20 thousand workers engaged in Saidpur Railway Workshop, BSCIC Industrial Estate, private owned small engineering factories, transport sector and other trades.

Visiting the centre on Thursday noon, it was found that seven officers and employees were engaged in gossip in a relaxed mood but no labourer was present there.

The medical centre, auditorium, reading room, indoor games and cultural room etc were covered with dust, showing that those were unused for long.

Recreational items including the 24-inch TV, musical instruments like harmonium, flutes, tabala etc are out of order and indoor games

tools are broken and unusable.

"There has been no medical officer or physician at the centre since 2008 and so, poor labourers and workers are deprived of free medical services," said Shahinur Islam, labour welfare organiser of the government's labour directorate.

As per rule, three week-long awareness building training programmes have to be arranged in a fiscal year but only one such programme, that too with allegedly inadequate arrangements, has been held so far during the current fiscal year that ends in June.

Shahinur could not show any workers' attendance register at the centre. He could not even provide any official statistics about the number of workers engaged in different trades in the area.

Mahbub Rashid, secretary of Saidpur unit of rickshaw-pullers' union, said most of his colleagues do not know about the existence of such a centre, and those who know do not feel interested to visit there as there is no free treatment and recreational facilities.

Akhtar Hossain Badal, president of district unit of motor drivers and workers' union, said the centre remains open from 9:00am to 4:00pm when most of the workers are too busy to go there.

Abul Bashar, assistant director of labour directorate in Rangpur, said process is on to appoint a doctor at Saidpur 'Sram kalyan kendro'.

He claimed that programmes other than medical facilities are being run regularly at the centre.



PHOTO: STAR

Sram Kalyan Kendra in Saidpur municipality under Nilphamari district no longer attracts the target people as the government-run centre, meant for providing medical, training and recreational facilities for the working class people, can hardly arrange the services.

## 3 housewives, physically challenged girl raped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Three housewives and a physically challenged girl were raped in Kalapara and Dashmina upazilas of the district on Tuesday and the day before.

Police and family sources said a gang of seven stormed a house at Natunpara village in Kalapara upazila at around 3:00am on Tuesday and looted cash and gold ornaments.

At one stage, the criminals tied the house owner up with his wife's saree and violated her.

The gang later attacked a nearby house and raped a 22-year-old housewife.

On information, police went to the village yesterday morning and sent the duo to Patuakhali General Hospital for medical tests.

A case was filed with Kalapara Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge Md Azizur Rahman.

In Dashmina upazila, a 14-year-old physically challenged girl of Gochani village was raped on Tuesday night.

Locals caught the alleged rapist named Faysal, 20, of the village and handed him over to police. The victim filed a case with Dashmina Police Station yesterday.

On Monday night, a housewife, 30, was raped allegedly by a youth at Hazir Hat village in the upazila.

Family members alleged that Md Rubel, 25, of the village, entered the house of the victim in absence of her husband and raped her.

Punitive action will be taken against the persons involved after investigation, said OC Sahabuddin of the police station.

## Poultry farming changes life of a vendor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Once he sold hens door to door, but now he is owner of the largest poultry farm, covering six acres of land, in Baufal upazila under the district. He also grows vegetables and breeds fish.

Saidul Islam Mahmud, alias Ripon Hossain, of Daspara village under Baufal upazila, passed the HSC examination in 1998 but did not continue his education because of poverty. He started selling hens door to door, and set up a small poultry farm on a piece of his father's land in 2000 with only Tk 8,000. Initially, the hens

died because of disease, but he did not lose patience.

He started breeding layer and broiler varieties, and set up a fish farm in leased ponds. With the profit, he bought one acre of land and leased five acres. Now he produces over 50 lakh fingerlings per year. He also grows seasonal vegetables on the sides of the ponds.

Earlier, he used to sell poultry and fish in hats and bazaars in the upazila, but now traders from different places come to his farms.

"At one time I didn't know what to do to survive,

so I started selling hens door to door after buying them from others. I found it was a profitable business and decided to set up a poultry farm," said Ripon Hossain.

"Finally I could fulfill my dream as there is a big demand for poultry, vegetables and fish in locals markets. I have net income of several lakh taka every year," he said.

Md Mahbub Alam, Baufal upazila agriculture extension officer, said Ripon has become a successful farmer and seeing his success many youths have started poultry farming.



PHOTO: STAR

Ripon at his poultry farm at Daspara village in Baufal upazila under Patuakhali district.

## 2 schoolgirls saved from child marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A schoolgirl was saved from underage marriage following timely intervention of local administration in Borolekha upazila of the district on Wednesday.

Sixth grader Setu Akhter Seema, 12, daughter of Nur Uddin of Uttar Chowmuhoni area in the upazila, was set to be married with Bachchan Miah, 33, of Baroi village, at around 9:00pm, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer Syed Muhammad Aminur Rahman.

Being informed, a police team, led by the UNO, rushed to the spot and stopped the marriage.

Meanwhile, a mobile court foiled a child marriage bid in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj district the same day.

Rubi Begum, 11, daughter of Chunu Mia of Pani Umदा village, and a Class V student of Pani Umदा Government Primary School, was set to be married with Milad Miah, 26, son of Moshor Miah of Sadar upazila in Moulvibazar, said the court sources.

On information, the mobile court, led by Assistant Commissioner (Land) Anwar Hossain, rushed to the spot at around 10:00pm and stopped the marriage.

## Four cops closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Four policemen were closed to Rajbari District Police Lines yesterday for their alleged negligence in duties.

They are sub-inspector Firoj Ahmed, constables Masufur Rahman, Habibur Rahman and Chand Mia of Goalundo Ghat Police Station, said district police administration sources.

A team, led by the SI, was patrolling in Goalundo ghat area on Wednesday night.

At that time, Superintendent of Police Zihadul Kabir went to visit the area and found the four conducting their duties without their firearms.

Replying to a query, they said the arms were at the police station.

The four were closed to the district police lines yesterday, said the SP.



PHOTO: STAR

A large tree gets uprooted in Shamshearnagar godown area of Kamalganj Moulvibazar district during the nor'wester that lashed several unions of Kamalganj and adjacent Kulaura upazila Wednesday night.

## Storm damages over 100 houses in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 10 people were injured and over 100 houses damaged as a nor'wester lashed several unions under two upazilas of Moulvibazar district early yesterday and on Wednesday night.

The affected unions are Shamshearnagar and Patanushar in Kamalganj upazila and Joychandi, Kulaura Sadar and

Sharifpur unions in Kulaura upazila.

Accompanied by heavy rain, the storm damaged boro paddy and other crops, and uprooted trees and electric poles in different villages under the unions.

Power supply in the storm-hit areas was restored after employees of Palli Bidyut Samity reinstalled the uprooted electric polls yesterday noon.

After visiting the affected areas yesterday, Kamalganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Jahidul Islam Mia said at least seven people were injured and over 50 houses damaged during the storm.

Contacted, Kalapara UNO Kamrul Hussain said the storm lashed through several villages in three unions and left at least 50 houses damaged and three villagers injured.

## 8 get life in 2 murder cases in Pabna, Netrakona

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Eight people were awarded life sentence in two murder cases in Pabna and Netrakona districts yesterday and the day before.

A Pabna court yesterday sentenced three people to life imprisonment for killing a youth in Ishwardi upazila in 2007, reports our correspondent.

The convicts are Md Sujon Islam, 30, Md Rinku, 35, and Md Masum Ali, 30, of Lokoshed village in the upazila.

According to the prosecution, the three abducted Md Nasim, 20, son of Abul Kashem of the village on December 11 in 2007 and later killed him.

The victim's father filed a case, accusing five people.

After examining witnesses and evidence, Special Judge Abul Hossain found the three guilty and pronounced the verdict.

Away in Netrakona, a court on Wednesday sentenced five people to life imprisonment and three others to one year in jail for killing a man over a land dispute in Purbo Dhala upazila in 2005.

The lifers are Abdul Hamid, 40, Ujjal Miah, 23, Helal Miah, 40, Rabbani, 45, and Rehana Begum alias Rina, 47. The court

fined them Tk 10,000 each. In default, they are to suffer one year more in jail.

The convicts, who were awarded one year's jail, are Rokhana Begum, 28, wife of Abul Hamid, Rashida Begum, 30, wife of Helal Miah, and Nadia Begum, 30, daughter of Abul Hossain.

The court also fined them Tk 1,000 each, in default, they are to suffer another one month in prison. All the convicts hail from Pabai village in the upazila.

According to the prosecution, there was longstanding conflict between Abdul Aziz of Pabai village and the eight over the ownership of the land in the area.

As a sequel to the conflict, the convicts went to the disputed land to take its possession on February 4, 2005.

As Aziz tried to prevent them, they beat him up mercilessly, leaving him critically injured.

Aziz succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital the following day.

The victim's wife Jahanara filed a murder case against eight people. After investigation, police pressed charges against them on September 26 the same year.

After examining records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdul Hamid pronounced the verdict.



## Institute of Business Administration (IBA)

### MBA Admission Test

54<sup>th</sup> Batch, Full time (Session 2014-2015)

MBA Admission Test (2014-2015) of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka will be held on Friday, May 29, 2015 at 10 am.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must have at least a Bachelor Degree in any field of study. The minimum qualifying point is seven (07) for all applicants. The points are calculated as follows:

#### SSC and HSC or Equivalent

SSC GPA/Div	HSC GPA/Div	O-level GPA*	A-level GPA*	Points Earned
>= 4.0/1st	>= 4.0/1st	>= 3.0	>= 2.5	3
>= 3.0/2nd	>= 3.0/2nd	>= 2.5	>= 2.0	2

Candidates with third division in SSC and HSC or GPA with less than 2.5 in O level and less than 2.0 in A level examinations will not be eligible for application. Applicants who have taken O-Level examination must pass at least five (05) subjects (including mathematics) with a minimum of grade D in each of the subjects.

Applicants who have taken the A-Level examination must pass at least two (02) subjects with a minimum of grade D in each of these subjects.

\* Letter grades of O-Level and A-Level subjects are converted into grade points as follows: A = 4, B = 3, C = 2 and D = 1. Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated by averaging the grade points of the best five grades for O-level and the best two grades for A-Level.

#### Bachelors and Masters Program

Certificate/Degree	GPA/Division/Class	
	>=3.5/1st	>=3.0/2nd
Bachelor (Pass)	4	3
Bachelor (Hons./4 yr.)	5	4
Masters	1	1

For all other foreign certificates/degree, equivalence is determined by the Equivalence Committee of IBA. Without such equivalence, the applicants are not allowed to sit for the written test of MBA Admission.

#### SELECTION PROCEDURE

The test has two components: Written Assessment and Interview. The written assessment component evaluates applicants' aptitude in Language, Mathematics, and Analytical ability. An applicant must obtain a minimum qualifying score in each of the above areas to pass the written test and appear for the interview.

An applicant with foreign nationality with minimum 75 percentile in GMAT may be exempted from the written assessment. However, they will be required to appear for an interview.

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application must be submitted online by May 24, 2015.

For detailed application procedure, visit the website at [www.iba-du.edu](http://www.iba-du.edu) or <http://iba.teletalk.com.bd>. Application fee is Tk. 800/- (including service charge).

For further information contact the MBA Program Office (Room # 218, 1st floor, IBA) or call at 01764119001 or 01764119002 between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm any day except Friday.

Mobile phone, calculator or any other electronic device is not allowed in the Examination Hall.

#### Director

Institute of Business Administration  
University of Dhaka, Dhaka - 1000