



PHOTO: STAR

A local Awami League leader is constructing a multi-storied building occupying land of Kalaiya canal at Baufal municipality in Patuakhali district, ignoring orders from the local land office.

# Construction goes on grabbing canal land

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Two local influential men have continued building permanent structures occupying lands of Kalaiya canal in Baufal upazila under the district, defying orders issued by the local land office.

Md Ibrahim Faruque, chairman of Najitpur union parishad under Baufal upazila, also organising secretary of the upazila unit of Awami League, is constructing a multi-storied building on about three decimals of land of the canal, at the east side of Banglabazar Bridge in the municipality, said sources at

upazila land office and locals.

Work of the ground floor of the building, only 200 metres from Baufal upazila land office, has already completed and rooms are being rented as shops.

Work of the first floor is going on and six or seven labourers are working daily there, sources said.

Contacted, Ibrahim Faruque said, "I bought 4.25 decimals of land from some Sanu Sikder who had got it as allocation from the government. I am building the structure on my land comprising both purchased land and my father's property."

Baufal upazila land office

issued a notice (memo No 272) to Ibrahim in last August to stop the construction work there but he has continued it.

Land office sources said they did not give allocation to anybody on the spot.

Another local named Abdur Razzak of Kalaiya Bazar area under the same upazila is constructing a permanent structure covering about three decimals of land of the same canal at the west side of Kalaiya launch terminal. He has completed the ground floor of the building.

Asked about the matter, Razzak claimed that he is

constructing a building on his 'recorded' land that he bought from some Sudhir Chandra Mondol.

Upazila land office sources, on the other hand, said there is no personal land in the canal.

Md Nazmul Hussain Khan, assistant commissioner of land (AC-land) of Baufal upazila, said, "We issued separate notices to the two alleged grabbers but they are continuing the construction works. We have already sent letter to the deputy commissioner for further action against them."

# Blind, physically challenged students pursue their dreams

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU WITH ANDREW EAGLE

At first, Md. Abdul Jalil's story sounds sadly familiar. "Due to family poverty," says the student from Gazipur, "I couldn't pursue studies beyond my Higher School Certificate, completed in 2002." However, with the help of a humanitarian organisation in Pabna, the Manab Kalyan Trust, Jalil has subsequently been able to complete a master's degree in Islamic Studies and is currently preparing for the Bangladesh Civil Service exam.

What makes Jalil's experience more remarkable is that he has been blind since birth.

While the Manab Kalyan Trust has not strayed from its roots in assisting ultra-poor students and orphans, it specialises in helping the physically challenged and most notably, the visually impaired.

The trust is currently assisting 135 students in general and madrasa education, 60 of whom are visually impaired. For them, specialised education is imparted using Braille texts and recorded lectures rather than through the various local educational institutions where other trust recipients study.

The trust's aim is to serve as an educational gateway through which all its recipients can realise their life goals.

Trust chairman, Professor Md. Abul Hossain first established the trust as a self-funded organisation in 1994 while working at Pabna Edward College. Initially, he conducted classes for six ultra-poor students in a rented room in the Singa bypass area.

"Then I met an autistic worker at the college," he says, "who had little by way of support or opportunity. I realised I wanted to do



PHOTO: STAR

Visually impaired honours and masters students read their lessons using Braille texts. Inset, boys without hands practise writing with legs, thanks to the initiative of Manab Kalyan Trust in Pabna that currently assists education of 135 physically challenged people.

something to help physically challenged people prove themselves in society."

For most of the next decade the trust remained small, but since Hossain's retirement in 2002 he has been able to pursue the trust's aims wholeheartedly.

"I completed my HSC from a specialised school in Rajshahi," says blind student Nobab Ali of Kazipur village in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila. "Since arriving at the trust in 2009 I have completed my BA. Now I am studying an MA in political science from Pabna Edward College." Ali has every expectation of pursuing a fruitful and satisfying career.

Visually impaired Md. Moniruzzaman from

Brammanpara in Narsingdi meanwhile, arrived at the trust in 2010 and has since passed his HSC. He is now studying for a degree with similar hopes of achieving a secure income for his future.

Md. Mirazul Islam of Zatrapur village in Pabna's Atgoria upazila is not blind. The fourteen-year-old lost both his hands early in life. "Everybody in my family and in society thinks I have nothing to do," he says, "but I want an academic career and ultimately a good job. I want to show people that a physical barrier is not a barrier at all."

The enthusiastic student has been with the trust for four years and studies in class seven. Writing with his feet, he has already passed

his Primary School Certificate in which he achieved top marks.

Currently the Manab Kalyan Trust engages fifteen teachers and six other staff. It manages all academic expenditure and staff salaries from donors.

"Government support would help us to further develop," says Professor Hossain, adding that government officials have visited on several occasions to observe and express satisfaction.

From across Bangladesh ultra-poor, physically challenged and particularly blind students reach Pabna to study with the Manab Kalyan Trust. What all the students share is the dream of a self-sufficient and rewarding life.

# DEADLY ATTACK ON NOOR'S MOTORCADE IN NILPHAMARI

## 62 BNP-Jamaat men land in jail on surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Nilphamari ordered sending 62 BNP-Jamaat men to jail rejecting bail prayer after they appeared before the court yesterday in the case for attack on the motorcade of Asaduzzaman Noor, the then lawmaker of Nilphamari-2 constituency, on December 14 in 2013.

The attackers on the motorcade of Asaduzzaman Noor, also present lawmaker and minister for cultural affairs, killed four activists of ruling Awami League's front organisation at Ramganj Haat of Tupamari union of Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

The investigation officer of the case, sub inspector Mostafizur Rahman submit-

ted charge sheet in Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on March 15 accusing the 207 people, all involved with the politics of Bangladesh Nationalist party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami and their front organisations.

The 62 people comprise the first batch of the accused that surrendered to court after they were declared fugitive for failing to appear before the court that issued warrant against them.

Meanwhile, the prime accused Abu Helal, also general secretary of district unit of Jamaat-e-Islami, and the number two accused Khairul Anam, president of Sadar upazila unit of the same party, are still fugitive.

On the night of December 12 in 2013, several thousand BNP-Jamaat

activists protesting the execution of war criminal Jamaat's assistant secretary general Abdul Kader Molla attacked the houses of minority Hindu community in several villages of Polashbari and Laxmichap unions in Sadar upazila, mentioned the charge sheet.

They injured a number of people, set fire to their houses and looted properties.

Upon arrival from Dhaka on December 14, Asaduzzaman Noor in a motorcade went to visit the houses of affected people and gave them some assistance for their rehabilitation.

At time of his returning, several thousand BNP and Jamaat activists attacked his motorcade with lethal weapons at Ramganj Haat of

Tupamari union under Sadar upazila.

The attackers killed Md Khorshed Alam, president of Tupamari union unit of Krishak League, local Jubo League activists Forhad Hossen and Lebu and Chhatra League activist Murad Hossen by cutting tendons.

Farhad Hossen and Murad Hossen were siblings.

On the same night, Babul Akhtar, officer in charge (Investigation) of Sadar Police Station, filed a case mentioning names of 14 people and 150 unnamed ones as accused.

Dead bodies of first, second and seventh of the 14 named accused were found beside different roads in Nilphamari and Bogra districts within a few days.

# 4 Shibir men held with petrol bombs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police yesterday arrested four Islami Chhatra Shibir men, including Kushtia town unit president, and recovered six petrol bombs, 10 cocktails and leaflets from their possession.

Biplob Kumar Nath, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kushtia Model Police Station, said law enforcers, acting on a tip-off, raided Sulob press in the town at about 6:30am and arrested Shibir activists Masum Billah and Sahin uddin.

On their statement, police raided the house of Shibir Kushtia town unit president Mustafizur Rahman in Peyaratola area at about 7:30am and arrested him. They recovered six petrol bombs and 10 cocktails from the house.

Police also arrested Kazi Anwar Hossain, manager of the press. They said the press was printing leaflets propagating Shibir's activities.

Police produced the Shibir men in a court that sent them to jail.



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer brings pumpkin from his home stock at Kalmati Char village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila for sale in the local market. The sandy areas in the basin of the Teesta River see good yield of the popular vegetable.

# BSF detains 28 Bangladeshis, returns body of cattle trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday detained 28 Bangladeshi workers in Rasakua bus stand area in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur.

A group of Bangladeshi workers entered India through Betna border in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon in search of jobs at brickfields in India's Punjab state, according to the victims' families.

The tribunal also fined the convict Tk 20,000, in default he is to suffer six-months more in jail.

According to the prosecution, Nur Jaman raped the women on April 27, 2011, promising to marry her.

On February 15, 2012, the woman filed a case with Kalmakanda Police Station against Nur Jaman as he refused to keep his promise.

Police arrested the rapist on the following day. On July 14, 2012, police submitted a charge sheet against Nur Jaman.

After examining the records, Judge Dr Abul Kashem of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal pronounced verdict.

Rahim Uddin, Ekra, Moshir, Azijul Islam, Azharul, Mamun, Abbas, Negra, Kalu, Biplob, Jasim and Saddam. They are from different villages in Haripur upazila.

The BSF informed the BGB that the Bangladeshis had been handed over to Indian police, said Lt Col Jamal Hossain, commanding officer of BGB-2 Battalion in Dinajpur.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reported that BSF returned the body of a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Tuesday evening, 20 days after his killing.

The deceased was Anwar Hossain, 25, son of Sentu Mia of Gaipara village under Shibanj upazila in the district.

Anwar was shot dead by

BSF personnel on the Fatepur border while returning home with cattle on October 7.

BSF took away the body from the spot and handed it over to the Indian police for autopsy.

Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) protested the killing and asked the Indian border guards to return the body.

BSF handed over the body to BGB after a company commander level flag meeting between BGB and BSF held at Fatepur border at around 5:00pm on Tuesday, said Lutfor Rahman, company commander of Wahedpur BGB camp.

Later, BGB handed over the body to family members in presence of police.

# Rapist gets life in Netrakona

UNB, Netrakona

A tribunal here yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for violating a woman in 2011.

The convict is Nur Jaman alias Nur Jamal, 37, son of Abdus Salam of Ramnath village in Kalmakanda upazila of the district.

The tribunal also fined the convict Tk 20,000, in default he is to suffer six-months more in jail.

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# Twins drown in pond

UNB, Gaibandha

Twin brothers drowned in a pond at Gordighi village in Sadar upazila on Wednesday noon.

The deceased were identified as Yasin, 2, and Yakub, 2, sons of Modhu Mia of the village.

Chairman of Ramchandra Union Parishad Rafiqul Islam said the twins slipped into the pond while they were playing on its bank around 12.30pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Massive dumping of untreated garbage from Mymensingh municipality creates nuisance for the people of Char Kalibari village in Sadar upazila. The authorities have continued the act for years, turning deaf ears to the appeal of the sufferers.