

# Early winter brings woe to poor people in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Early arrival of winter in the northern district this year adds to the sufferings of poor people, especially those living in the char (landmass emerged from riverbed) areas.

Despite bearing the brunt of mercury fall during the night and morning, the low income people are waiting for help from the government or non-government organisations as they cannot afford warm cloths from the market.

Local people said usually they face cold weather late November or early December but this year

winter arrived before the mid-November.

"I struggle to maintain my five-member family with my daily income of Tk 130 to 150 and so, I don't have any money to purchase warm clothes," said Mansur Ali, 48, a day labourer at Kalmati char village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Rasheda Bewa, 65, of Char Boalmari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar said she has to beg for living but now she cannot go out in the morning due to severe cold for the last several days.

"For want of warm cloth, I tremble in cold during the night and morning," she

added.

"Poor people, especially the aged ones and children, are badly suffering due to cold. Many people from char areas in my union come to my home and office for warm cloths but I can't do anything for them," said Mofazzal Hossain Mofa, chairman of Rajpur union parishad.

Mohammad Hossain, district relief and rehabilitation officer in Lalmonirhat, said he will send demand letter seeking allocation of warm cloths to the ministry concerned soon to mitigate the sufferings of distressed people.

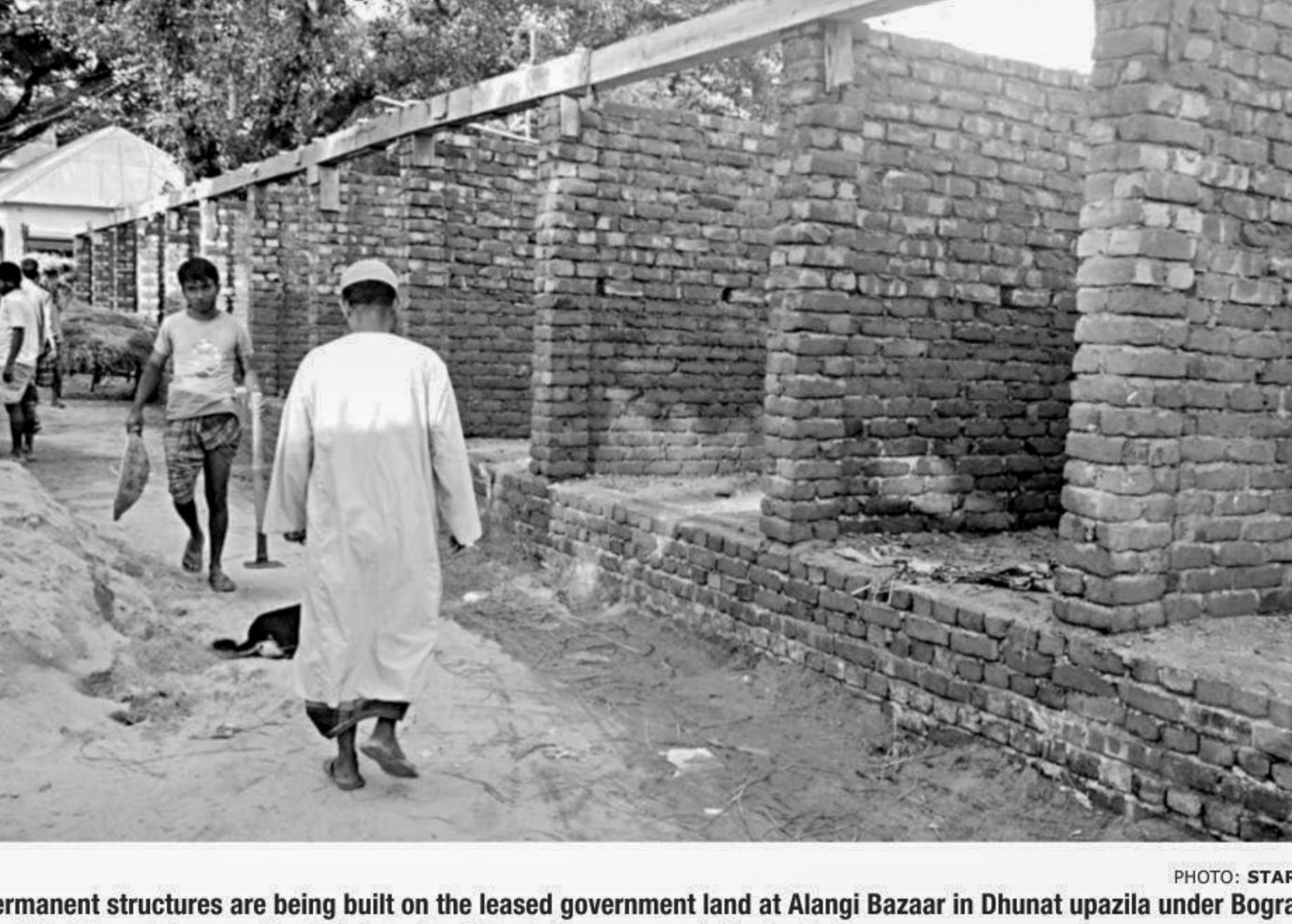


PHOTO: STAR

Permanent structures are being built on the leased government land at Alangi Bazaar in Dhunat upazila under Bogra district although the upazila administration did not give any permission for the purpose.

## Two housewives killed over dowry in Laxmipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Two housewives were murdered allegedly by their husbands and in-laws for dowry in Ramgati upazila of Laxmipur district on Monday night.

The deceased were identified as Aleya Begum, 30, wife of Mohammad Russel, 37, of Char Laxmi village, and Rima Akhter, 28, wife of Mohammad Sumon, 35, of Gabtoli village in the upazila.

Police quoted Aleya's father Siddik Ahmed as saying that Russel and his family members often tor-

tured his daughter for dowry.

Following an altercation over the issue on Monday night, Russel and his mother and sister beat up Aleya mercilessly, leaving her dead on the spot. They later hung the body from the ceiling of her room to pass it off as a suicide.

Siddik filed a case with Ramgati Police Station on Tuesday.

Officer-in-Charge Iqbal Hossain said they arrested Russel's mother Rokeya Begum and sister Shilpi, 28.

Russel went into hiding soon after filing of the case, the OC added.

Rima's father Alamgir

Hossain said Sumon and his family members had been torturing Rima for dowry since their marriage.

He alleged that Sumon and his family members killed Rima on Monday night over the issue and later hung her body from the ceiling of her room to pass it off as a suicide.

Alamgir filed a case with the police station concerned, accusing Sumon and his parents. No one was arrested as of yesterday.

Local Sirajul Islam took the lease of the Alangi Bazar area from the district administration and a

number of traders continued business there by erecting temporary structures for long, local traders said.

But in early November, men of MA Tarek Helal, chairman of Alangi union parishad, and leaser Sirajul Islam demolished the temporary structures of the traders and started erecting around 50 brick-built shops there, the affected traders

said.

Work for 30 of the shops has been completed and their possession already sold, for Tk 70-90 thousand each, they said.

Contacted, UP chairman MA Tarek Helal refuted the allegation against him and added that they have been erecting the structures in the bazar area upon permis-

sion of the authority concerned.

Hafizur Rahman, Dhunat upazila nirbahi officer, said, "They were given permission to build temporary structures.

Legal action will be taken against the people responsible if they are found to have violated the order by making permanent structures in the market place."

## One killed, three hurt as villagers clash in Shibganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A man was killed and three others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over a trivial matter at Dakatpara village in Shibganj upazila of the district on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Mansur Ali, 50, son of late Firoj Ali of the village.

Moinul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shibganj Police Station, said Humayun Kabir, alias Tutul, of Dakatpara village found his goat dead in a maize field belonging to Mansur Ali on Monday. Tutul suspected that Mansur killed the goat.

On Tuesday night, Tutul called an arbitration meeting where Mansur denied the allegation brought against him. At one stage, supporters of the two, equipped with bamboo sticks and sharp weapons, locked in a clash, leaving Mansur and three others--Ataur Rahman, Anisur Rahman and Tozammel Haque--injured.

Mansur succumbed to his injuries on way to Shibganj Upazila Health Complex at around 9:00pm. The injured were admitted to the hospital.

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

## 72 BNP-Jamaat men held in 4 districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

At least 72 BNP and Jamaat-Shibir men were arrested during special drives by law enforcers in Chittagong, Pirojpur, Jhenidah, and Chapainawabganj on Tuesday night and early yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Chittagong, police arrested 20 leaders and activists of BNP, Jamaat and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir on Tuesday night.

The arrestees include Ali Akbar, 50, president of Bolirhat unit of Jamaat, Imam Hossain, 42, president of Kalmia Bazar unit of the party, and Chowdhury Shaheen, former general secretary of Jatiyatabdiji Chhatra Dal Chittagong city unit.

Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Bakalia Police Station, said that

they arrested Akbar and Hossain in connection with the cases for carrying out subversive activities in Bolirhat and Kalmia Bazar areas.

Detectives arrested former Chhatra Dal leader Shaheen from Bibirhat area of the city in connection with sabotage acts, said A B M Foyzul Islam, assistant commissioner of DB.

Five more Jamaat-Shibir men were arrested from the offices of Jamaat-Shibir at Dewan Bazar and Chandanpura areas of the city on Tuesday night, said Nazmul Hasan, additional deputy commissioner of DB.

Law enforcers arrested 33 BNP-Jamaat men from seven upazilas of Pirojpur, nine BNP-Jamaat men from five upazilas of Jhenidah and 10 BNP-Jamaat men from Chapainawabganj on Tuesday night and early yesterday.

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