

# A nearly forgotten chapter of Language Movement

*Pabna people observed hartal for Bangla on February 29 in 1948*

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR  
TOPIU, Pabna

It was on February 29 in 1948 when the people of Pabna observed hartal for upholding the dignity of our mother language, four years before the historic Language Movement of February 1952.

"The Language Movement of February 21 in 1952 is the source of our national pride. It is now recognised as the International Mother Language Day. But the seeds of the historic incident were planted in early 1948 when the people of Pabna played a vital role," said Ranesh Maitra, Language Movement veteran of the day.

On February 23 in 1948, Direndranath Dutta, a Bengali member of the then Pakistan parliament, moved for a resolution in the assembly for recognising Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan, but then prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan with the support of a large majority of the Muslim League members denounced the proposal.

Protesting the conspiracy against our mother language Bangla, a meeting was held at the residence of Dewan Lutfar Rahman, then secretary of Muslim League's Pabna unit.

At a meeting held at Pabna Town Hall premises chaired by Lutfar Rahman

on February 27 in 1948, 'Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad, Pabna' was formed.

Headed by Lutfar Rahman, the Sangram Parishad comprised late Aminul Islam Badsha and Mahabubur Rahman Khan as joint convenors.

They called hartal on February 29 in 1948.

This was the first ever hartal called for upholding the dignity of the mother language across the country, according to the Language Movement veterans.

To foil the movement, the district administration imposed Section 144 in Pabna on February 29 but the protesters brought out a procession from Pabna

Edward College, chanting slogan 'Rashtrabhasha Bangla Chai, Ta Na Hole CharaNai'.

Police charged batons and caught 40 people including Aminul Islam Badsha from the procession. The arrestees got bail and were released in the evening.

Later, police arrested Mahabubur Rahman,

Aminul Islam Badsha and Lutfar Rahman from their residence at night, said local language veterans.

The role of those who took part in the early stages of language movement in 1948 should be recognised to keep the important part of the history alive among the new generation, Ranesh Maitra said.



The old building of Pabna Town Hall where a meeting was held on February 27 in 1948 as preparation to launch a movement to press for the demand of giving Bangla the status as a state language of the then Pakistan. Inset, Ranesh Maitra, a leading veteran of the movement.



PHOTO: STAR

## Farmer killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Mymensingh

A farmer was killed over land dispute at Chechua Bazar area in Muktagachha upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Akkel Ali, 70, son of late Yeasin Munshi of Ramakana in the upazila.

Quoting Akkel's family members and locals, sub-inspector Saidul Islam of Muktagachha Police Station, who visited the spot, said there had been a longstanding dispute between Akkel Ali and his nephew Rafiqul Islam Noori over 145-decimal of land at Chechua Bazar area.

Noori forcibly grabbed the land owned by Akkel some eight years ago.

Several local arbitrations were held to resolve the dispute but Noori allegedly did not respond. The matter is also pending with the court, said police.

Akkel and his men took position in the land on Saturday afternoon as Noori sold a portion of the land to one Abu Bakar Siddique of the area recently, said sources.

As Noori could not hand over the land to Abu Bakar due the presence of Akkel and his men, he along with his men attacked Akkel with sharp weapons around 2:30am, injuring him critically, police said quoting Siddiqur Rahman, another nephew of the victim who was at the spot during the incident.

Akkel was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries around 2:00pm yesterday.

## SNIPPETS

### 6 hurt in gas cylinder blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least six workers of a factory suffered burns in a gas cylinder explosion in Sadar upazila of Habiganj district yesterday morning. The injured are Abdul Motaleb, 25, Rabiul Islam, 22, Alamgir Hossain, 26, Nasim Miah, 27, Sumon Miah, 28, and Shipon Miah, 30, workers of the bicycle factory of Pran Group in Alipur area under the upazila. They were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital. The gas cylinder blasted inside the factory around 9:30am, said police.

### Six Jamaat-Shibir men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police arrested six activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir in Mehendiganj upazila of the district yesterday. The arrestees are Siddiqur Rahman, president of Ullania union unit of Jamaat, Farhad Hossain, president of the union unit of Shibir, its activists Ilias Hossain, Abu Jafor, Rubel Hossain, and Saiful Islam. They were arrested on charge of planning subversive activities, said police.

### 483 Yaba tablets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a youth with 483 Yaba tablets at Madhobpur village in Bauful upazila of the district on Saturday. The arrestee is Md Liton, 31, son of Fakhor Uddin of Adabaria village in the upazila. Md Fazlur Rahman, acting company commander of Rab-8, said on secret information, the elite force raided the area and arrested Liton with the Yaba worth about Tk 1.44 lakh.

### Clinic owner fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A mobile court fined owner of Rubi Clinic Tk 30,000 for running the clinic in unhygienic condition and not having environment certificate in Bagachhra area under Sharsha upazila of Jessore district yesterday, said court sources. Magistrate Abdus Salam led the court.

### 12 houses gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least 12 houses were gutted in a fire at Sarkarpara village in Sadar upazila of the district on Saturday. Locals said the fire originated from an earthen oven of a kitchen of one Shahinur's house around 4:30pm and soon engulfed the adjacent houses. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts.

### 2 drug peddlers arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two alleged drug peddlers with 400 grams of heroin in Shibirer haat area under Sadar upazila of the district on Saturday night. The arrestees are Sadekul Islam, 35, son of Ainal Haque of Sundarpur village, and Mohammad Jahangir, 27, son of Jahidul Islam of Bhaggobanpur in the upazila.



The people of Sawdagar community of Baimhati village in Mirzapur upazila under Tangail district form a human chain in front of Tangail Press Club yesterday demanding steps to save them from alleged false cases filed by a Norway expatriate couple. The cases were filed with an intention to occupy their lands, said the agitators.

PHOTO: STAR

## Commuters under risk as 14-km road in awful state

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Jhalakathi

People of 15 villages under Jhalakathi Sadar upazila are suffering badly as the 14-km-long Shekerhat-Guaton road is in very bad shape due to lack of renovation for years.

Thousands of people of Dhansiri, Bharuhat, Rajpasha, Mirzapur Gabkhan, Shekerhat, Guaton, Amrajhuri villages are facing difficulties as they have no alternative ways.

Plying of motorised vehicular have been risky

due to the potholes caused by the lack of repair work for the last seven years, locals said.

There are often accidents, especially at night, as people find it difficult to see the risky potholes.

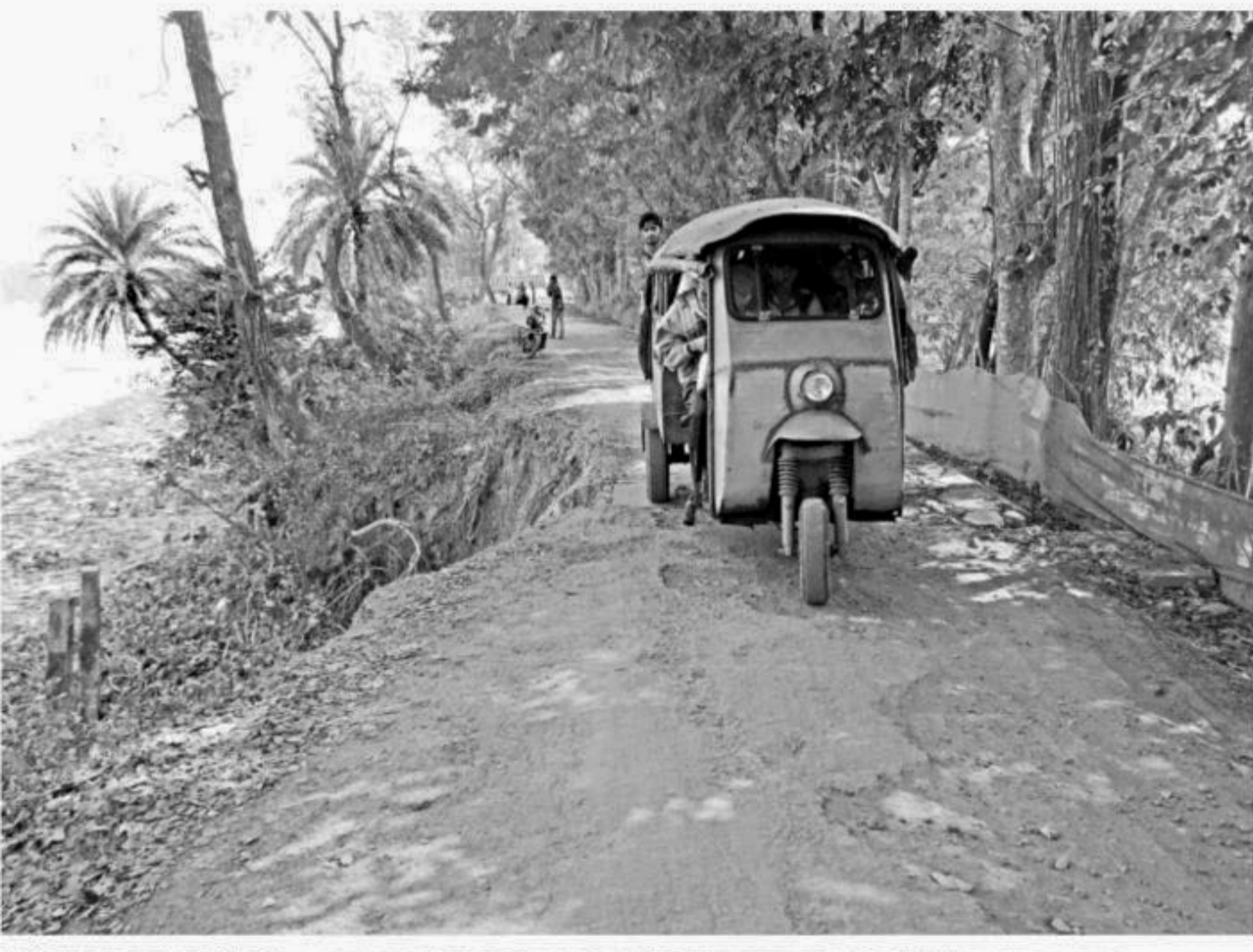
Besides, several culverts and bridges on the road can hardly be used by the vehicles as the approach road is rough and becomes narrower at different places due to erosion by the Gabkhan Canal.

"It took three months to recover from my injuries,

when the front wheel of my motorcycle fell into a huge pothole," said Meherin Hasan, a teacher of a local madrasa.

"We have asked the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to repair the road," he added.

Engineer Mohammad Arifuddaula of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) said they have already submitted a proposal and asked their higher authorities to take immediate steps in this regard.



The recently taken pictures show the awful condition of Shekerhat-Guaton road in Jhalakathi Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

## Newlywed girl strangled, husband, in-laws detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Mymensingh

A newly married girl was strangled allegedly by her husband and in-laws on Alia Madrasa road of Mymensingh town early yesterday.

The victim, Minara Begum Nipa, 20, daughter of Dulal Uddin of the town's Charpara area, was a diploma engineer from Mymensingh Polytechnic Institute.

Quoting family sources, Md Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said, following romantic affair, Nipa got married with Mohidul Islam Shakib, 22, an electric worker and son of Akkas Ali of Alia Madrasa area, five months ago.

Though Nipa's family accepted the marriage, Shakib's family did not



Minara Begum Nipa

accept Nipa, resulting in a serious family dispute since their marriage.

"There was an altercation between Nipa and her in-laws at around 1:30am. At one stage, Shakib and his parents allegedly strangled Nipa," the OC quoted family members as saying.

Later, Nipa's husband and in-laws took her to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital

(MMCH) where the doctors declared her dead. There was injury marks around the neck of the victim, the OC said.

Police sent the body to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

Police detained Nipa's husband Shakib, his father Akkas Ali and mother Mahmuda Begum from the hospital.

They were taken to the Kotwali Police Station for interrogation.

Victim's father lodged a murder case with Kotwali Police Station in the afternoon, accusing the three detainees, police said.

Protesting the killing, local people put a up barricade in Charpara area for half an hour at around 11:00am.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

## Housewife killed for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Kushtia

A housewife was tortured to death allegedly by her in-laws for dowry at Harunkandi village in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Marium Khatun, 23, wife of Shanti Malitha of the village.

Jan Mohammad, father of the victim, said Marium married Shanti five years ago.

After their marriage, Shanti and his parents often tortured Marium for Tk 50,000 dowry, he alleged.

Shanti's parents killed Marium following an altercation over the issue and fled the scene with her four-year-old son.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed in this connection, said Atiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Alamdanga Police Station.

## 2 girls saved from child marriage

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two schoolgirls were saved from underage marriage in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon districts on Friday.

Informed that marriage of an eighth grader was arranged at Binodnagar village in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur on Friday night, UNO Bazlur Rashid who led a mobile court rushed to the spot and stopped the marriage reports our correspondent.

He sentenced Kamruzzaman, 23, son of Emdadul Haque of Parbatipur upazila, to seven days' imprisonment.

In Thakurgaon, an SSC examinee was saved from marriage following timely intervention of the local administration and Thakurgaon district unit of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad at Kazibosti village in Sadar upazila, reports our correspondent.

Suchorita Dev, general secretary of the district unit's Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, said SSC examinee

Sharmin Akhter, 16, daughter of Mizanur Rahman of the village, was set to be married with Abu Salam, 30, son of Md Nasim of the same village, at night.

Informed by the parishad, a mobile court, led by UNO Ashraful Islam, rushed to the spot and stopped the marriage.

## Six stalkers jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Lalmoinhat

A mobile court led by UNO Shafiqul Islam on Saturday sentenced six people to six months' jail for stalking a schoolgirl near the Teesta Road Bridge at Teesta village in Sadar upazila.

They are Minarul Islam, 23, of Kacharipara village, Dulal Hossain, 30, Alam Mia, 24, Ashraful Alam, 24, Rashedul Islam, 24, and Habibur Rahman, 22, of Balapra village in the upazila.

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