



One of the rooms of Sona Masjid Parjatan Motel, torched by Jamaat-Shibir men on February 28 in 2013.

DAMAGED BY JAMAAT-SHIBIR IN 2013

Sona Masjid Parjatan Motel in state of disrepair

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

The authority is yet to start repair work of Sona Masjid Parjatan Motel in Shibganj upazila under Chapainawabganj, three years after men of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir badly damaged the motel.

Built by Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation beside the historic Sona Masjid, also near Sona Masjid land port, spending Tk 5 crore, the motel was scheduled to be inaugurated on March 15 in 2013

but it has not been functional due to lack of repair after the vandalism.

Consequently, tourists and businessmen coming to the area are facing residential problem and the government is deprived of huge revenue.

Soon after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee to death for crimes against humanity during the Liberation War, several hundred local supporters of Jamaat-Shibir stormed the motel on February 28

in 2013, locals and employees of the Parjatan motel said.

The attackers torched and destroyed furniture and other valuables of different rooms, kitchen, and power generator room.

The attackers chased M Tawhidul Islam, assistant engineer, Motiar Rahman, manager, and Manjur Rahman, an assistant of the motel's construction firm, on the roof of the building and beat up Motiar and Manjur.

Scared, Tawhidul jumped from the roof and died on the spot, said locals.

The Jamaat-Shibir men, who came from neighbouring villages, also attacked the nearby Solar Power Plant at Piripur.

Khairul Islam, contractor of the motel building, said the authority informed the ministry concerned for sanction of fund for repairing the motel but to no effect so far.

Jahidul Islam, deputy commissioner of Chapainawabganj, said he has sent a letter to the chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation for repairing the motel immediately.

Teacher suspended on sexual harassment charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The headmaster of Udakhali Government Primary School in Fulchhari upazila of the district has been suspended on charge of sexually harassing a girl student of Class V.

The deputy director of the Primary Education Directorate, Rangpur Division, issued the suspension order against headmaster Aynal Huq yesterday through email message to the Fulchhari upazila education officer. He took the action as per a report sent to him by the district education officer.

According to the allegation, the headmaster kissed the girl in front of other students in the classroom on February 25.

The victim's father informed the president of the school's managing committee and sought action against the headmaster.

As the school authorities did not take any initiative, angry locals and guardians kept the school locked on February 27, demanding removal and punishment of the headmaster.

Being informed, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and upazila education

officer visited the school the same day and assured the agitating people that they would take steps against the headmaster.

The upazila education officer sent a report to the district primary education officer, who sent it to the deputy director of the Primary Education Directorate, Rangpur Division.

The UNO formed a three-member investigation committee yesterday with Jahedur Rahman, assistant upazila education officer, as convener. They will report within three days after investigation into the incident.

Creative method still ineffective

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The officials and even the education minister on many occasions attributed the overall improvement of education, especially the gradual increase in the pass rates in SSC exams, to the creative method of teaching.

However, the report reveals that teachers of 1,105 out of the institutions surveyed bought question papers from teachers' associations, defying the government order not to purchase question papers.

The government introduced the much-talked-about "creative question method" to discourage the age-old tradition of learning by heart.

At present, the modern method is being followed to teach all subjects except Bangla 2nd, English 1st and 2nd and mathematics.

"In order to make creative question method successful, collecting question papers from outside should be prohibited completely," DSHE said in the report.

Apart from the fact that many teachers are yet to adapt to the method, some teachers tend to be restricted to the orthodox method of teaching and learning process, an official of DSHE said.

"They seek help from guidebooks and notes to prepare questions, which is also a barrier [to the implementation of the method]," added the official who

wished not to be named.

Teachers need vast knowledge about the subjects to go well with the modern teaching method but they are reluctant to work hard, he said.

"To prepare questions in creative method, teachers need to be creative first and give classroom lessons creatively and interactively so that students can use their cognitive thinking," noted educationist Prof Siddiqui Rahman told The Daily Star.

The number of such creative teachers in Bangladesh is limited, he added.

Prof Siddiqui, a former teacher of the Institute of Education and Research of Dhaka University, found some weaknesses of the training in the method.

The duration of training sessions arranged so far is insignificant and the way teachers have been trained does not help them much in acquiring efficiency, he said.

"Creativity does not have any limit, but in Bangladesh we have given a structure to it. What we are following is partial creative."

To have the system fully implemented, Siddiqui suggested recruiting efficient people in teaching profession and providing them with adequate training and proper facilities.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid

acknowledged the practice of schools' buying question papers.

The practice existed even before the creative method was introduced, he said by phone, adding that the ministry was taking steps to stop it.

More training sessions will be organised to help teachers, Nahid said.

Many teachers said they found it difficult to prepare questions for lack of reference books and relevant literature.

"The schools do not provide us with any reference book. It is not possible to set questions efficiently after only one training session," said a teacher of Khulna Zila School, seeking anonymity.

He added that the district and upazila education officers did not have any mechanism in place to monitor whether teachers were applying the method.

A teacher from Mymensingh said schools bought questions to cut cost.

The cost of composing questions on computers and printing them is higher than buying question papers. Therefore, many schools in rural areas buy them, he said.

The objective of introducing the method will be achieved only if teachers prepare question papers on their own, according to the report.

"Necessary steps should be taken so that teachers of every school set questions in creative method," DSHE said suggesting more training of teachers.

Physicians

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conducted within two weeks as the medical board expressed satisfaction with the improvement in his right hand, Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of the National Institute Burn and Plastic Surgery, told The Daily Star.

For over ten years, Bajandar, 26, has been suffering from epidermodyplasia verruciformis, a rare skin disorder commonly known as the tree man illness, which covers limbs with warts, making them look like a tree branch.

Samanta Lal said it will take at least one year to release Bajandar from the hospital.

Prof Abul Kalam, who is leading the team, said the doctors are aiming to bring usability of Bajandar's hands but the hands may not resemble those of a normal person.

"We hope to reach our goal in stages of procedures for refinement," he added.

With no use of his limbs, Bajandar, believed to be the fourth man in the world with tree man illness, got admitted at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery on January 30.

4-KID MURDER

Accused Shahed on fresh remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Habiganj court yesterday granted three-day fresh remand for an accused in the case for killing four school kids at Sundrateki village in Bahubol upazila.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Kawsar Alam passed the order when police produced accused Shahed Ali before the court on expiry of his 5-day remand, said advocate Triluk Kanti Chowdhury.

A total of six people have so far been arrested in connection with the gruesome murder of the four schoolboys.

Of them, Jewel Miah and his younger brother Rubel Miah made confessional statements before the court under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Meanwhile, another accused, Bachchu Miah, was killed in a gunfight with Rabat Deorgach in Chunarughat of the district early Thursday.

Four schoolboys, who had gone missing from Sundrateki village in Bahubol upazila on February 12, were found buried at the village on February 17.

Two girls commit suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two teenage girls allegedly committed suicide at Ratnai Moradhar and Harinmari Noyabari villages in Baliadangi upazila of the district on Sunday and the day before.

Police and locals said schoolgirl Kajoli Akhter, 15, daughter of Abdul Razzak of Ratnai Moradhar village, took her life by hanging herself from a tree near their house early Sunday.

The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

On Saturday, madrasa girl Rina Akhter, 14, daughter of Abdul Haque of Harinmari Noyabari village, killed herself by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room.

Police suspected Rina committed suicide as her parents refused to give her money for picnic.

BNP to hold

FROM PAGE 16

Daily Star that there would be no one in the party to submit nominations for the posts of chairperson and senior vice-chairman and that Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman would eventually win their respective posts unchallenged.

In a standing committee meeting on February 10, the party brought a change in its charter. Keeping a provision for holding election to the post of senior vice-chairman along with the one for chairperson, the meeting suggested forming an election commission for holding the polls.

One has to be at least 30 years of age to run for the election and that he or she has to pay membership fees regularly.

Since 1984, Khaleda Zia has been playing the role of chairperson of the party. Tarique Rahman was made senior vice-chairman during the last national council in 2009.

According to the party constitution, members of the national council would elect the chairperson for three years through direct voting.

In the press conference, Sircar said there was no possibility of extending the date of the council. Elections for other posts would be held on that day as well.

Elections to 351 posts for the national executive committee would be held on that day.

Party leaders said Tarique, who is now in London, would collect and submit his nomination papers through a party leader or a nominated agent.

Man to die for killing wife for dowry in Bogra

Housewife set ablaze by mother-in-law dies in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A Bogra court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing wife for dowry in Shibganj upazila of the district in 1997.

The death penalty awardee is Nasir Uddin Khan, 56, son of Abdul Gaffar Khan of Maspara village in the upazila.

Judge Momtaz Begum of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2, Bogra, pronounced the verdict. The court also acquitted three other accused as charges brought against them could not be proved.

According to the prosecution, the victim, Momtaz Begum Shirir, was strangled by her husband Nasir Uddin following an altercation over dowry on the night of September 24, 1997.

Victim's father Mofser Ali of Hudabala village in the upazila lodged a case with Shibganj Police Station the following day. After investigation, Sub-Inspector Atiar Rahman, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted a charge sheet to the court against Nasir and three others on March 23, 1998.

After examining nine witnesses and the case record, the judge handed down the verdict at around 3:00pm, court source said.

Away in Rangpur, a housewife, who sustained 50 percent burn injuries after her mother-in-law set her on fire over a trifling matter on Thursday, died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH)

from Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday morning, reports our correspondent.

The victim is Tahmina Begum, 27, wife of Abdul Mannan of the village.

Victim's family said Mannan and his family members used to torture Tahmina for dowry since her marriage 12 years ago.

Quoting locals and victim's family members, police said Mannan locked in an altercation with his mother Alema Begum over family issue on Thursday night.

As Tahmina sided with her husband, Alema, being furious with Tahmina, set her on fire after pouring kerosene on the body.

Hearing Tahmina's scream, neighbours rescued her and rushed her to Pirgachha Upazila Health Complex. She was taken to RMCH the same night as her condition started deteriorating.

Dr Md Maruful Islam, head of burn and plastic surgery unit of RMCH, said Tahmina suffered 50 percent burn injuries. They referred her to the burn and plastic surgery unit of DMCH for better treatment.

Md Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Pirgachha Police Station, said Mostafa Hossain, elder brother of Tahmina, lodged a case with the police station on Friday night, accusing Mannan and Alema.

Police arrested Mannan from RMCH on the night, but Alema Begum went into hiding after the incident. "We are trying to arrest Alema," the OC said.



PHOTO: STAR

These sewing machines, vans, shallow engines, and other earning tools were distributed among poor people of the border area by Major General Aziz Ahmed, director general of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), at the inaugural function of BGB's 58 Battalion office at Khalishpur Bazar in Moheshpur upazila under Jhenidah district yesterday. The initiative was meant for providing livelihood support for the people who returned to normal life, leaving drug trade in the area, said officials.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Bangladesh Post
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NOTICE: 45th International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People (2016)

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has been organizing letter-writing competition for young people each year with an aim to develop young people's skills in composition and the ability to express creative thoughts clearly, to foster their enjoyment of letter writing and to help strengthen the bonds of international friendship-one of the basic missions of the UPU.

For the year 2016, the International Bureau of the UPU selected the following as the theme/subject of the letter writing competition.

Theme: "Write a letter to your 45-year-old self"

2. The following conditions are mandatory for participants in this competition:

- Participating boys/girls (Students) must be permanent citizens of Bangladesh.
 - His/her age (as on 30-4-2016) must not exceed 15 (Fifteen) years.
 - The certificates confirming the citizenship and age of a participant attested by his/her Head of the educational institution must accompany the letter. The certificates must bear the name of the participant along with names of parents, school, class, date of birth, and permanent address.
 - 5 (Five) copies of recent passport size good quality photograph to be attached.
 - The letter must not exceed the limit of 1000 words and the number of words written should be mentioned.
 - The writing must be in the form of a letter and contain the elements of a letter (place and date, addressee's address, opening and closing salutation & signature). Writing in any other form will lead to its outright cancellation.
 - The letter submitted must be recent, unpublished letters. It must be computer-composed in English.
 - When writing, one side of a paper (A4) should be used. Writing on both sides of a paper will not be accepted.
 - Each participant is required to write in English his/her own name, class, name of educational institution, address and names of parents along with the full address of residence and telephone/mobile numbers (if any) at the end of the letter.
 - Further information on this may be collected from www.upu.int/en/ilwc.
 - Children or wards of any officer/employee serving with the Bangladesh Post Office will not be eligible for this competition.
 - The complete letter must reach to Mr. Md. Jamal Pasha, Director (UPUA), Directorate of Post, Dak Bhaban (Room-369), Dhaka-1000 through the registered/GEP service offered by the Bangladesh Post Office no later than 30 March/2016.
 - Any letter received after the above-mentioned deadline and sent through any service other than the registered/GEP of the Bangladesh Post Office will not be considered as an entry to this competition.
 - The words "45th International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People (2016)" should be written on top of the envelope.
3. Awarding in this competition will be at two levels: at the national level in Bangladesh and at the international level.

a) Awarding at the national level in Bangladesh:

The winners at the national level in Bangladesh will receive the following prizes:
(I) First prize : Prize bond worth Taka 5000/- (Five thousand), an album of postage stamp, and a certificate.
(II) Second prize : Prize bond worth Taka 4000/- (Four thousand), an album of postage stamp, and a certificate.
(III) Third prize : Prize bond worth Taka 3000/- (Three thousand), an album of postage stamp, and a certificate.

b) Awarding at the international level:

The winners at the international level will receive the following prizes:
(I) First prize : Gold Medal, a certificate and other prizes. The gold medalist will also receive a trip to Berne, Switzerland, to receive prize at the International Bureau of the UPU.
(II) Second prize : Silver Medal, a certificate and other prizes.
(III) Third prize : Bronze Medal, a certificate and other prizes.
4) Only the letter of the participant securing the first place at the national level competition will be forwarded to the UPU International Bureau (Berne, Switzerland), to be included in the competition at the international level. All submissions to the UPU become the property of the Universal Postal Union.

Md. Jamal Pasha
Director (U.P.U.A)
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