



PHOTO: STAR

Women workers doing the laborious job of stone breaking perform nearly as much as their male counterparts do but get less than half the amount paid to the latter as wage. The photo was taken from Islampur village in Patgram upazila under Lalmonirhat district.

Plight of women stone breakers in Lalmonirhat

Victims of exploitation, they work for less than half of men's pay

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Women labourers are preferred for the arduous work of breaking stones in Patgram upazila under the district as they can be exploited, being hired for wages as low as one-third of their male counterparts.

The stone traders in the upazila pay a woman labourer Tk 100 a day for breaking stones into small pieces, whereas a male labourer gets Tk 250 to 300 for the same work, said labourers.

At least 4,000 women are engaged in the work in the upazila, especially in Burimari land port area, as

the hard-pressed people have no alternative for earning, said sources of Bangladesh Sangjukta Sramik Federation's Patgram upazila unit.

"We break stones for eight hours from 8:00am to 4:00pm daily but our earning is very low. A woman labourer can break into chips 22 cft (cubic feet) of stone everyday, and the traders sell one cft for Tk 25 to 30, according to quality, on the spot," said Maleka Begum, 45, at Islampur village of Patgram upazila.

"We are deprived of fair wages although the stone traders earn high profit by selling stone chips. Still we

have to do the hard labour, in absence of alternative option for earning," said Rabeda Bewa, 50, at the same village.

Abdul Mamin, 45, a male labourer at the same village, said, "We get Tk 250 to 300 each as daily wage for breaking stones and loading and unloading it. I think woman labourers doing the same work should get wages like us."

Nazrul Islam, 48, a stone trader at Burimari village of Patgram upazila, said they buy one cft of stone for Tk 10 to 12 from the importer and Tk 8-9 is spent for processing one cft of stone after getting it broken into small pieces by labourers.

"We earn Tk 5-6 from selling one cft of stone chips on the spot. I am ready to increase woman labourers' wage if other traders do it," he said.

Maniruzzaman Manir, general secretary of Lalmonirhat district unit of Bangladesh Sangjukta Sramik Federation, said his organisation is working to unite the woman labourers engaged in stone breaking to fight against wage discrimination.

"A woman labourer should be paid minimum daily wage of Tk 200 and I am talking with the stone traders in this regard," he said.

Four staff burnt in Jhenidah factory explosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Four employees were seriously burnt in a container explosion yesterday at Taji Agro-Industry Ltd in Achintapur village in Jhenidah's Sadar upazila.

The injured are Frank, 55, a Chinese citizen, Monir, 31, son of Mosharrar Hossain of the village, Jalal Hossain, 39, son of Shahjahan Mollah of the same village, and Jobair Hossain, 26, son of Solaiman Bhuiya of Dhaka.

Monir is a security guard, Jalal is a labourer and Jobair is a caretaker at the factory. Frank's designation could not be known

immediately.

Locals said they were working near the factory at around 8:30am when they heard a huge sound. They rushed to the spot and found that a container had exploded and the factory was on fire. Four people suffered burn injuries.

The injured were immediately taken to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Jobair and Jalal were referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) burn unit and were taken there in an ambulance, while Frank was taken to DMCH burn unit in a helicopter. Monir is undergoing treatment at Jhenidah

Sadar hospital.

Miraj Uddin, station officer of the fire fighting unit of Jhenidah, said, on information they along with Magura unit reached the spot and brought the fire under control after frantic efforts.

He added that the there might have been some flammable material in the container that caused the fire. At the time around 70 workers were working in the factory. The fire fighters brought them out safely.

The loss caused by the explosion could be around Tk one crore.

Dr Jahidur Rahman, surgery consultant of Jhenidah Sadar Hospital,

said Monir suffered 20 percent burns, Frank 70 percent, Jalal 45 percent and Jobair 25 percent.

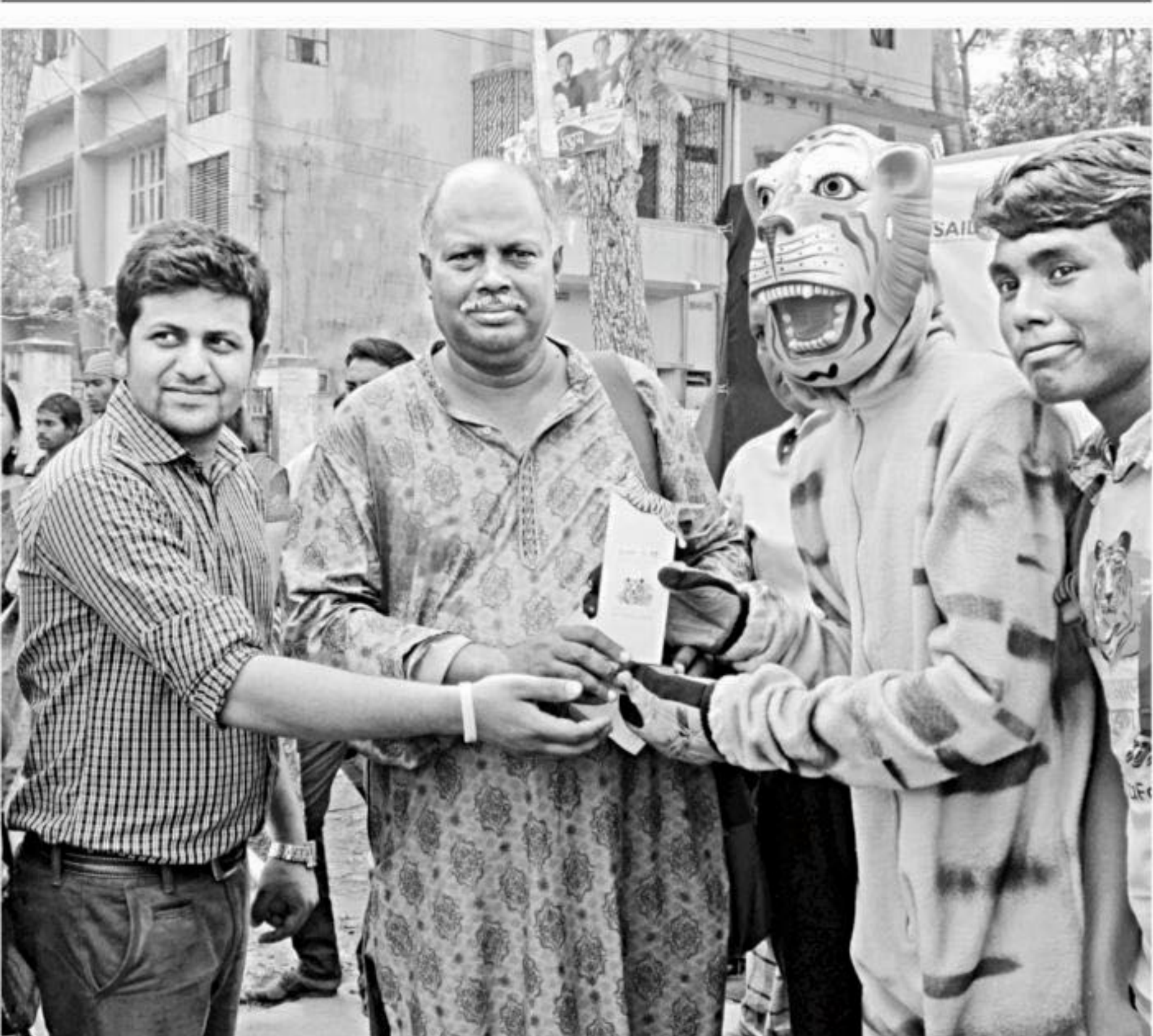


PHOTO: STAR

Tiger Caravan arranges different programmes including street drama in Pirojpur town yesterday as part of their awareness campaign to save the tigers of the Sundarbans. The group started their programme, to be held across the country, in the capital Dhaka on February 12.

Murder of Nazrul univ student sparks protest

Teachers, students hold rally on campus demanding immediate arrest of killers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Teachers and students of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in the district held a rally and formed a human chain on the campus yesterday, demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of a fellow student.

The victim is Raihan Mahmud Raj, 23, a third year student of economics department, and son of Rafiqul Islam of Char

Nilaxmia village in Sadar upazila, said police.

Vice Chancellor Mohit Ul Alam, Proctor Md Mahbub Hossain, Head of economics department Prof Nazrul Islam, and Treasurer Prof AMM Shamsur Rahman, among others, took part in the human chain.

Wearing black badges, students and teachers joined the programme.

On Sunday morning, the body of Raj, then unidentified was found in Akua bypass area under Sadar

upazila, said police. On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) morgue for autopsy.

The body bore injury marks on the neck. Later, police buried him at a town's graveyard.

Criminals might have strangled the student and dumped the body in the area, said Md Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

Family members learnt that the law enforcers recovered an unidentified body when they went to inform Kotwali police about Raj's missing.

Seeing the photograph of Raj at the police station, they identified the body as his.

Police exhumed the body on Wednesday noon and another autopsy was conducted at MMCH.

Raj was buried at his village home after the Esha prayers on Wednesday, police said.

Graduate Admission Summer 2016

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

The only university in Bangladesh where all faculty members have foreign Master's or Doctorate degrees primarily from USA, Canada, UK, Australia and Japan

Graduate Programs

School of Business and Economics
 Master of Business Administration (MBA)
 Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA)
 MS in Economics
 Master in Development Studies (MDS)

School of Engineering and Physical Sciences
 MS in Computer Science and Engineering (MSCSE)
 MS in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering (MSETE)
 MS in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (MSEEE)

School of Humanities and Social Sciences
 MA in English
 - TESOL, Linguistics, Literature

School of Health and Life Sciences
 MS in Biotechnology
 MS in Environmental Science and Management
 MPharm in Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacy (MPharm PCP)
 MPharm in Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmaceutics (MPharm PTB)
 Master of Public Health (MPH)
 Executive Master of Public Health (EMPH)

Application Requirements

Four-year Bachelor's degree or equivalent with at least Second Class or GPA 2.75 on a scale of 4.0. Three-year Bachelor's degree with honors
 Students with inadequate course work background may be advised to take additional pre-requisite courses.

Admission Test is waived for candidates with GPA 3.0 from NSU or 3.5 from other institutions or adequate score in GMAT or GRE and TOEFL score of 500 (Paper Based) or equivalent.

Financial Aid
 Up to 100% based on admission test and academic performance.
 NSU offers scholarship over Tk. 10 crore per year for meritorious and needy students.

Application Deadline
 6 April, 2016, 5:00 pm

Admission Test
 8 April 2016
 Friday, 10:00 am
 at NSU Campus

Application form can be downloaded from NSU website and submitted with document of deposit Tk. 1500 at any of the following banks: Southeast Bank, UCBL, DBBL, NCCBL, IFIC Bank, Bashundhara branch, and One Bank, Jagannathpur branch, Dhaka. Printed forms are also available in the above mentioned banks.

For more details, please contact
NSU Admissions and Information Office
 Level 1, Bashundhara, Dhaka 1229
 Tel: 880 2 55668200, Ext. 5000, 5002, 5004, 1174, 1062
 E-mail: admissions@northsouth.edu, nurul.amin@northsouth.edu

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

Undergraduate Degree Programs Offered

School of Business (BBA, B.Sc.)

- Accounting • Finance
- Marketing • Management
- Management Information Systems (MIS)
- International Business (IB)
- Human Resources Management (HRM)
- Investment Management
- BSc in Economics

School of Engineering & Computer Science (B.Sc.)

- Computer Science & Engineering
- Computer Science
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical & Electronic Engineering
- Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering
- B.Sc. (Hons.) in Mathematics

School of Environmental Science & Management (B.Sc.)

- Environmental Management
- Environmental Science
- Population Environment

School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (BSS, BA, LLB)

- Media & Communication
- Anthropology
- Sociology • English Literature
- English Language Teaching (ELT)
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons.)

School of Life Sciences (B.Sc.)

- Microbiology • Biochemistry

Undergraduate Admission

Summer 2016

Application Eligibility

- ◆ Combined GPA of 8.0 in S.S.C and H.S.C with minimum 3.5 in each
- ◆ Minimum GPA 2.5 in five subjects in O-levels and GPA 2.0 in two subjects in A-levels
- ◆ For further information please visit website: www.iub.edu.bd

Scholarship and Financial Aid

- ◆ IUB offers scholarships over Tk. 8 crores per year for meritorious & needy students.
- ◆ Upto 100% Financial aid based on performance in IUB and financial need.

Apply Online : www.iub.edu.bd/admission

◆ Help desk available at IUB

Top 5% scorers in admission test will get 100% scholarship

100% scholarship with free board & lodging will be provided to meritorious underprivileged FEMALE students from outside Dhaka provided by Shaheed Khalek & Major Salek Bir Uttam Trust

Academic Partner

Member
 The Association to Advance Collegiate School of Business, USA

ADMISSION TEST

Saturday, 19 March 2016 at 10:30 am

LAST DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

Friday, 18 March 2016 till 2:00 pm

CLASSES COMMENCE

Sunday, 8 May 2016

Admissions & Financial Aid Office (Ground Floor), Plot-16, Block-B, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka-1212.
 Tel: 8431645-53, 8432065-76 Ext-1354, 1355 Fax: 8431991 Cell: 01780 185006 e-mail: admission@iub.edu.bd