



PHOTO: STAR

Students and guardians accompanied by locals bring out a procession near Tilla High School in Satura upazila under Manikganj district yesterday demanding removal of headmaster Abul Hashem Bhuiyan, alleging corruption and misbehaviour against him.

TILLI HIGH SCHOOL IN MANIKGANJ'S SATURIA

# Locals want headmaster to quit for 'corruption'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Teachers and students accompanied by people from all walks of life formed a human chain on Tilla High School premises in Satura upazila of the district yesterday, demanding removal of headmaster of the school for his alleged corruption and misbehaviour.

They also brought out a procession to press for the

demand, said locals.

Chairman of Tilla Union Parishad Abdul Latif, former president of the school managing committee Johirul Alam, secretary of Tilla union Awami League Abdur Razzak Khan, students Nazmul Hossain, Selim Mia and Jasim Uddin, among others, took part in the human chain.

The participants said headmaster Abul Hashem

took all decisions about the school unilaterally.

He has been misappropriating money from the school for long, they alleged.

He often misbehaved with his colleagues and beat up students over lame excuses, they said.

Earlier, local people filed complaint to District Education Officer Khandaker Rezaul Karim against the headmaster.

The DEO then informed the director general of education directorate about the matter. Later, the DG served a show cause notice to the accused, said speakers at the human chain.

Despite repeated calls, this correspondent could not reach the headmaster for his comment on the issue as his cellphone remained switched off.

## Mystery over

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hunters removed the skull in the late 18th century.

The robbers would have defied the inscription on a stone slab above the grave reading: "Blest be the man that spares these stones, And curst be he that moves my bones".

The grave is only a metre (three feet) below the floor of the church and there is no evidence of metal, indicating that the body of the "Bard" was wrapped in a shroud rather than buried in a coffin, the survey also found.

Shakespeare is buried alongside his wife, Anne Hathaway, and the grave is a place of pilgrimage for the many fans who flock to Stratford every year.

The discovery will feature in a documentary being broadcast on Britain's Channel 4 television as part of commemorations ahead of the April 23 anniversary of Shakespeare's death when there will be a series of performances and a candlelit vigil in the church.

The scan -- the first ever carried out -- revealed significant repairs to the head-end of the grave.

Local vicar Patrick Taylor said he was unconvinced by the theory that the skull had been taken away but ruled out opening the grave.

"We intend to continue to respect the sanctity of his grave, in accordance with Shakespeare's wishes, and not allow it to be disturbed," he said.

"We shall live with the mystery of not knowing fully what lies beneath the stone."

## 18 cheats held from Tangail medical jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court yesterday sentenced 18 brokers to three months' imprisonment each following their arrest on charge of cheating patients at Tangail Medical College Hospital.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested them from different wards of the hospital and produced them before the court on Wednesday.

Executive magistrates Abdur Rahim Sujon and Mohammad Kaiser Khasru awarded them the punishment under Section 79 (6) of the Touts Act of 1879.

The convicts are Mohammad Sabur Uddin, Hasinur Rahman, Hira Miah, Abu Sayeed, Aminur Rahman, Iqbal Hossain, Fazal Miah,

Nasir Uddin, Abdul Baten, Swapan Miah, Abdus Salam, Abdullah Al Mamun, Russel Miah, Abdul Matin and Beauty Begum.

The magistrates told journalists that they had been getting complaints from the Tangail Medical College Hospital authorities that a brokers' ring had been harassing general patients in various ways for a long time.

The brokers would take patients to private clinics that do not have proper treatment facilities and quality doctors. They also sold sub-standard medicines to the patients at higher prices, they said.

Though drives were conducted against the brokers on several occasions previously, the situation has never improved, they added.

# Fruit orchards flourish in Pirojpur village

Jujube brings new prosperity

HABIBUR RAHMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

Tarabuniya village in Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila has become green and eye-catching for its fruit orchards. Along both sides of the main road, the 151 plantations of jujube, known locally as "kul", cannot but attract attention. Several years ago there were no jujube orchards in the area. The flourishing new agricultural industry came from the initiative of one man: 50-year-old Hangsopoti Mistry.

"In 2007 I went to visit my relatives in Satkhira," says Mistry, "I saw their jujube orchard looked very nice and thought I could also plant an orchard in my garden."

Accordingly, Mistry cleared 3 acres of timber plantation and some cropland to make room for the jujube. He collected seedlings of Bari-1

variety from Satkhira to start.

"Villagers laughed at me," recalls Mistry, "They couldn't understand why I would damage the timber plantation and cropland. Some of them thought I was mad."

But as the orchard grew, opinions changed. Some neighbouring farmers even started jujube orchards of their own.

"All the jujube growers were inspired by Mistry," says Harolal Boral, 55, who also grows the crop on 2 acres.

"From one acre we can harvest 50 maunds of paddy once a year," he says, "while from jujube we can profit more, over Tk. 4.5 lakhs after expenses."

According to local orchardists in the first year there are additional expenses like landfill cost to consider with jujube. Planting the orchard is likely to cost Tk. 50,000 per acre; but

each year thereafter Tk. 25,000 per acre will cover all ongoing expenses. Moreover, agriculture officers advise jujube trees produce fruit for over 35 years.

From October to November the jujube trees flower, with harvest running from January to March. In these months the local community is busy, especially the women who primarily take on the role of picking the fruit and processing them ready for sale.

"Each morning and afternoon we go to collect fruit," says Mistry's wife Happy. "It's difficult to find any woman at home during these hours."

"We have to collect the jujube daily," says orchardist Sujon Sikder, 36, "or they fall to the ground." Three years ago he planted his first acre of jujube and now his orchard features three varieties: bari-1, apple and

bao kul. Selling the fruit is made easy with the arrival of wholesale buyers who send the jujube crop direct from the village to Dhaka, and across the country. One maund currently sells at up to Tk. 2000.

"People now realise that fruit trees are more profitable than timber trees or paddy," says Nazirpur's agriculture officer Pankaj Kumar Boral, who advises farmers on how best to grow the trees. "In Tarabuniya, villagers are also becoming interested in growing other fruit orchards including mango, litchi and malta."

With 250 acres already dedicated to orchards, Tarabuniya's landscape has significantly changed.

"Within a few years," says another orchardist Sachin Tarua, "it will be difficult to find any farmland in our area not populated by fruit trees."



PHOTO: STAR

Jujube trees bent with ripe fruits at an orchard at Tarabuniya village in Nazirpur upazila under Pirojpur district.

## Farmer electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A farmer died from electrocution in Khansama upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Hirendranath Roy, 55, of Jamai village.

Police said Hirendranath came in contact with a snapped wire while he was cutting tree branches near his house. He later died at a hospital.

## SNIPPETS

### Couple commit 'suicide'

UNB, Naogaon

A young couple allegedly committed suicide at Barilya village in Manda upazila of the district yesterday morning. The deceased are Shafiqul Islam, 32, and his wife Bilkis Bibi, 28, residents of the village. Quoting locals, police said Shafiqul, son of Lafir Uddin, married Bilkis, daughter of Saidur Rahman of the same village, a year ago following a love affair. However, Shafiqul's parents did not approve of the marriage which led to frequent quarrels between them. Shafiqul locked into an altercation with his father in the morning over the issue. At one stage, the young man and his wife took poison. Later, they were taken to upazila health complex from where they were shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital following deterioration of their condition. Doctors at the RMCH declared them dead.

### BNP man stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A district level BNP leader was stabbed to death by some unidentified criminals at Lohapatti area in Jessore district town on Wednesday night. The deceased was identified as Ferdous Hossain, 50, son of Amin Uddin of Battala in Jessore Sadar upazila. Ferdous was the assistant organising secretary of the Jessore district unit of BNP. Quoting witnesses, Ilias Hossain, officer-in-charge of Jessore Kotwali Model Police Station, said some criminals waylaid Ferdous at Lohapatti and locked in an altercation with him at around 11:00pm. At one stage, the criminals stabbed the BNP leader mercilessly, leaving him seriously injured. Later, he was sent to Jessore Medical College Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead.



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion arrest 18 brokers from Tangail Medical College Hospital on charge of cheating patients on Wednesday. Later a mobile court awarded them three months' jail to each.



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