

# Mro life turned upside down

With their lands grabbed, 81 families in Bandarban find it hard to make a living

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

Jhum cultivation is what Kumrao Mro did for a living until recently he has lost his land in Lama upazila of Bandarban to the relentless grabbing by Bangalee settlers.

Now in his sixties, he is compelled to think what else he can do to feed his family of six.

Like his, 81 other families have become landless in three villages -- Kompong Mro para, Aomboy Mro para and Menlon Mro para -- of Lonkhyong mouza of the upazila.

Shahidul Islam from Barisal began occupying jhum land in the villages in August last year, locals said. His men now do not allow villagers to step onto the land that they cultivated even a year ago.

During a visit to the upazila, four men were seen clearing jhum land.

Among them, Rashid Ahmed said he and the other men were Rohingyas. Shahidul has been paying them Tk 300 each per day for a month for clearing the land, he added.

Shahidul admitted that he grabbed land with the help of his relative Abul Hossen, a local leader of the ruling Awami League.

He claimed that he bought around 20 acres of land at Kolajiri from the headman of the mouza at only Tk 9,000 in 2008.

He has reports given by the headman, claiming his ownership of the land, one of which he showed to the correspondent.

"Now more than 100 acres of land is under my possession.

"It takes time to get the 'legal ownership' of land in hills. I will soon start the process for my possessed land," Shahidul said.

Asked how he would get the legal papers, he claimed that he would get the headman's report on the remaining 80 plus acres like he did earlier.

According to the Hill District Council Act 1989 and the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation 1900, no land including the khas land suitable for settlement within the jurisdiction of Hill District shall be leased out, settled with, purchased, sold out or transferred otherwise with the prior approval of the department concerned.

"The illegal purchase of jhum land has continued unabated managing the local administrations, headmen and

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PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

A fence put up on a piece of jhum land grabbed by Bangalee settlers in remote Choto Kolajiri area of Lama in Bandarban. Farmers from Mro families, inset, in the upazila have become landless due to the relentless grabbing of their land and are passing difficult days.

## 12 die in deadliest phase of UP polls

FROM PAGE 1

the rest were people with no political affiliation. There were a few from Jatiya Party and Jatiyatobadi Samajtantrik Dal.

Jamalpur saw the worst violence yesterday in which at least four people, including two children, were killed.

Over 100 others were injured when supporters of AL and AL rebel chairman candidates locked in a fierce clash over taking control over a polling centre in Bahadurabad union.

Witnesses said armed supporters of AL candidate Shakiruzzaman Rakhal and AL rebel candidate Sajahan Mia clashed around 10:15am at the polling station.

The law enforcers tried to control the situation but Jahangir Alam, secretary of Bahadurabad union parishad, said, "All the three parties fired bullets that left four people shot."

Majed, 15, of class-VIII and Nabirul, 16, of class-IX of a local school were among those hit. Majed died on the spot while Nabirul died on his way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, Shariful Huq, additional superintendent of Jamalpur police, told this paper.

Police fired at least 140 shots to control the situation, he said.

Locals said Majed and Nabirul had gone to Khutarchar Ebtedayee Madrasa polling centre to see the voting.

Nurul Islam, 55, and Ziaur Rahman, 35, were also shot and they died in local hospitals.

At least 10 policemen and Ansar men were injured in the clash, reports our correspondent there.

The deputy commissioner of the district has formed a four-member probe body, led by an additional district magistrate, and asked it to submit a report within three days.

In Chittagong, two people, including a member candidate, were killed and several others injured when supporters of AL chairman candidate Md Ali and AL

rebel chairman candidate Didarul Alam locked in a clash outside Fakirir Hat Sunnia Madrasa polling station in Barauthan union around 1:00pm.

They were armed with firearms and sharp weapons.

Yasin, 34, an independent member candidate from Barauthan Union Parishad was stabbed outside the polling centre at that time, locals said.

Doctors at Chittagong Medical College Hospital declared him dead at 1:30pm. Hossain, 30, was also taken to the hospital with stab wounds and was declared dead in the evening.

In another incident, one person was killed and several others, including three police constables were injured as supporters of two member candidates clashed at South Ashia Shah Amanat Hefzakhana polling centre in Ashia union around 11:30am.

Police and eyewitnesses said the followers of member candidates Nurul Karim and Shafulul Islam locked in clash accusing each other of casting fake votes.

They hurled brick chunks and fired shots at each other, said Sergeant Saiful Islam, who was in charge of the centre's security.

"We too fired four bullets to disperse the mob," he added.

In the melee, Babul Shil was seriously injured after being beaten up. He died at Patiya Upazila Health Complex in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, presiding officer of Kazipara Govt Primary School polling centre, Manjunul Alam, 55, died of cardiac arrest while discharging his duties at Haidgaon of Patiya around 3:30pm, reports our correspondent there.

In Noakhali, two people were killed in separate incidents at two unions of Begumganj.

Our correspondent reported that a group of people gathered in front of Rajganj Senior Madrasa polling station around 11:00am allegedly to occupy

the centre.

Law enforcers went to the spot and started charging truncheons.

Amid the chaos, Soyad Ahmed, 65, he ran into a wall and started bleeding from his head, said locals.

He was taken to Noakhali General Hospital where he died.

In another incident, Shakil, 17, a shopkeeper of a fruit stall, was killed during a clash between the supporters of two member candidates over occupying KB Union High School polling station in Chirtoli union.

Shakil was being treated at a local hospital but doctors referred him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

VOTING DAY DEATH TOLL	
March 22, 2016 1st Phase	10
March 31, 2016 2nd Phase	8
April 23, 2016 3rd Phase	1
May 7, 2016 4th Phase	6
May 28, 2016 5th Phase	12

He passed away on his way to Dhaka. Details of the incident could not be known.

In Comilla, Kamal Uddin, an independent chairman candidate and also the outgoing chairman of Bolorampur union parishad and vice-president of Titas upazila BNP unit, was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals.

ASM Abdun Nur, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Titas Police Station, said a clash erupted between the supporters of Kamal and BNP-nominated chairman candidate Tofail Ahmed Tapan Bhuiyan around 3:00pm in Bolorampur.

Kamal was stabbed during the clash, he said.

In Panchagarh, Nasiruddin, 50, was killed in a clash between supporters of two member candidates at Harinabari union of Panchagarh sadar last night.

A clash erupted around 9:00pm when presiding officer of Joardarpara Government Primary School polling centre declared Tarikul Islam unofficially elected.

After the announcement, supporters of a defeated member candidate attacked Tarikul's men leaving at least four people injured, including Nasiruddin, a supporter of Tarikul.

Nasiruddin was taken to a local hospital where he died.

In Narayanganj, an elderly man died when supporters of a defeated member candidate chased the fans of a winning candidate in Naogaon union of Sonargaon in Narayanganj last night, reports our correspondent there.

Winning member candidate Nurul Islam said Idris Ali got trampled during the attack by his rival's men.

However, Manjur Kader, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon Police Station, said Idris died of cardiac arrest.

In Sirajganj, a mobile court sentenced presiding officer Forhad Hossain of Shuvogacha Govt Primary School polling centre in Kazipur to six months' imprisonment for allowing people to cast fake votes in favour of an AL nominated candidate.

The magistrate also fined four AL men for their involvement in irregularities.

In Munshiganj, Haji Md Ripon Patwari, AL chairman candidate for Mollakandi union, boycotted the polls alleging capturing of polling stations by AL rebel chairman candidate Mohsina Haq Kolpona.

In Chittagong, BGB members arrested AL chairman candidate Haji Saber Ahmed at Ichanagar Govt Primary School polling centre in Chorpathorghata in connection with voting irregularities.

In the presence of a mobile court, the BGB members also recovered ballot papers and seals from his possession, sources said.

## At the heart

FROM PAGE 1

in 1969 continues to be a standard of achievement for human ingenuity.

Deep down in his heart, the boy believed he would one day build a rocket that would reach the skies defying gravity.

Forty years later, as Dr RifatUllah walks down the corridors of Pratt and Whitney (P&W) headquartered in Connecticut, one of the world's three largest companies that makes propulsion engines for aircrafts and rockets, past his portrait hanging in P&W's display hall in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to aeronautics and spaceships, he fondly recalled those dreams of his childhood.

The dreamer boy from Dhaka is today a top rocket scientist whose inventions are used by Nasa. After graduating from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) as a mechanical engineer, he earned his PhD from Texas A&M University where he also accepted a teaching position before embarking on a career in aerospace to fulfil his childhood dreams.

And today, he has become an exceptional scientist in his own field with the rare experience of significant contributions to both the areas of aerospace, namely aeronautics (aircrafts) and astronautics (spacecrafts).

"I am an engineering scientist and apply engineering and scientific principles to invent, design and produce advanced aerospace technologies," RifatUllah says.

At Pratt & Whitney (P&W) he has worked on the iconic Space Shuttle Main Engine. Before that, he worked as a rocket scientist at a company called Orbital Sciences, which is the largest maker of rockets in the US after Nasa.

His inventions are used in Pratt and Whitney jet engines across the world.

His specialisation is in the science of "Tribology", specifically, as applied to sealing systems in rocket and jet engines. Tribology is the science of friction, wear and lubrication. These aerospace engines operate at tremendously high speeds, temperatures and pressures, and contain a wide variety of volatile liquids and gases that must remain separated at all times. Any unintended mixing of these fluids can result in emergency landing of an aircraft, and in rare cases the loss of an aircraft or a rocket.

Poorly performing sealing systems could result in passengers complaining of odour inside the aircraft cabin, since the air humans breathe inside the aircraft must first pass through the jet engine (the air does not come directly from the atmosphere outside the aircraft). Thus, the science of Tribology and sealing systems ensures safe and comfortable flights for humans.

RifatUllah today has 14 patented inventions with more in the pipeline and some of his inventions are classified in the breakthrough category. His inventions fly in thousands of aircraft engines worldwide that ensure safe and comfortable flights.

Complex sealing systems are dynamic and are vital for aircraft and rocket engines. Before his inventions, the aerospace sealing systems were not as dependable or as durable and required frequent change of engine parts.

During his work at Honeywell, a leading maker of small jet engines and avionics, headquartered in Arizona, he was among the first aerospace engineering scientists to obtain critical insights into the complex physics of dynamic sealing systems in aerospace engines. From those insights, many patented

inventions followed from him and those are enabling jet engines perform better.

"Prior to my work, the understanding was not as clear and there were lots of costly and lengthy development trials to arrive at optimal solutions," Rifat explains. "My work substantially reduces the number of development trials and provides superior solutions to difficult Tribological problems."

His early inventions at Honeywell earned him that company's very first Engineering Innovation Award, the highest technical honour at Honeywell.

For outstanding contributions to his field Rifat was appointed the Discipline Chief of Tribology and Sealing Systems at P&W. He has also been recognised as a "Fellow" at P&W, which is a title of distinction that recognises an engineering scientist's deep knowledge and contributions to their field.

Among the 36,000 employees at P&W, he is the only Fellow and Discipline Chief in his field.

Rifat says he derived a lot of his inspiration from his father, the late Brig Gen HedayetUllah, a former director general of Health Services of Bangladesh.

He taught Rifat not to blindly follow others but to follow "our hearts, dreams, and passions." Rifat said his father grew up in poverty in Dhaka overcoming many obstacles in life, yet, through sheer hard work and compassionate service rose to become the top health official in the country.

Rifat loves to pilot small aircrafts. He is also an accomplished painter. He believes that painting helps him blend art with science. He mentions Leonardo daVinci, who was a prolific engineering scientist and inventor of the renaissance period, but most people only know him for his art such as Mona Lisa. Rifat believes painting makes the two sides of his brain work in harmony, boosting creativity.

A loving family man, he believes that one of his main goals in life is to nurture a family with sound values. His lovely wife Seema RifatUllah is a finance graduate from Arizona State University who also loves to sing at Bangladeshi cultural functions in the US.

Their only son, Imran, is the centre of their lives. Rifat believes that his top priority is to be the best father to his son who began his university studies this year.

Meanwhile, more challenges lie before Rifat and his P&W teams spread across the US, Canada and Europe, as the world continues to demand lower fuel burn, lower jet noise and lower emissions from jet engines.

"All this is required in the next generation of jet propulsion engines," he mentions. "P&W is now getting ready to introduce the next generation of jet engines to the world and these jets have highly advanced sealing systems, so our inventions continue to evolve." Many of his inventions are going to be in the next-gen engines.

Modern jet engines contain thousands of complex parts that must work flawlessly and cost millions of dollars each to make human flight possible.

So, the next time you settle down in the plush seat of a trans-Atlantic aircraft such as a Boeing Jumbo-jet, or the Airbus A380 Superjumbo, know that your journey will be safe because the enormous jet engines spinning at over 20,000 revolutions per minute, generating thousands of pounds of thrust are enabled probably by a critical technology invented by a Bangladeshi, which is keeping you safe in your journey 10,000 meters up in the air hurtling across the sky at around 900kph.

## Some relief at beach

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internal tourism industry and ensuring proper security for tourists, especially foreigners.

The special unit started functioning on December 31 the same year.

Now the unit has a 699-strong force headed by a deputy inspector general with its headquarters at a rented building in the capital's Banasree area. A proposal for recruitment of another 694 members is awaiting approval from the finance ministry.

The force is now in operation in Dhaka, Kuakata, Sylhet, Chittagong and

Cox's Bazar zones and Moulvibazar, Teknaf, Bandarban and Rangamati subzones under Dhaka and Chittagong divisions.

Once the proposed manpower is recruited, it will establish two more divisions -- Rajshahi/Rangpur and Khulna/Barisal.

A number of Tourist Police officials said they are now facing some logistics and accommodation problems. In Cox's Bazar the barrack where their personnel live is eight kilometres off the beach.

There is also vehicle shortage and it is often difficult for the force to travel

between the barrack and duty areas, said a top official wishing anonymity.

The specialised unit has seven jeeps, 11 double cabin pick-up vans, one minibus, two trucks, 28 motorcycles, three water bikes and three speedboats.

Rafiuazzaman said services of the Tourist Police are not yet up to the international standards. Members of the force need necessary training on tourism and how to deal with the tourists, he observed.

He also suggested allocating the tourist policemen special allowances as living cost in the tourist spots is usually very

high.

Taufiq Rahman, chief executive of Journey Plus, said, "Initially we were hesitant about the force, but now it seems its formation was a positive step. They have already done a good job and are trying their level best to do better."

"Operation of the Tourist Police is quite different from the general force. So, they are being trained up about how they should deal with the tourists and how to change their attitudes," said Sarder Nurul Amin, Superintendent of Police (Admin, Finance and Logistics) of the Tourist Police.

## Fizz hoping to play

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provided encouraging news to his legion of fans.

"I'm now feeling well. I am hopeful that I will be available for the final," Mustafizur told The Daily Star over phone before leaving Delhi for Bangalore yesterday.

Sunrisers won the Qualifier II against Gujarat Lions, but they sorely missed the controlled bowling at the death from the left-arm pacer, who missed out on the crucial game due to a slight hamstring injury.

Bangladesh national team physio Bayjedul Islam Khan, who has been in constant touch with Hyderabad physio Theo Kapakoulakis, was also hopeful of Mustafizur's participation in tonight's final.

"I talked with Mustafizur today and he informed me that he was feeling much better and was eagerly waiting to play the final. He passed the fitness test before the qualifier, but as he told the team management that he felt tightness in his right hamstring, they didn't take any risks," said Bayjedul.

"Everything will depend on Mustafizur tomorrow but one thing that we want to ensure is that there is no scope of even the slightest risk. With this kind of injury, one may take a chance, but thankfully Sunrisers didn't want to take any chances. Sunrisers physio and the player himself remain positive, now let's see what happens at the last moment," he added.

The wonder boy from Satkhira has so far bagged 16 wickets in 15 matches but one cannot judge by this statistic

alone how much of an impact he has made in his maiden appearance in the tournament.

Mustafizur has been enjoying his stint with the Sunrisers, although he doesn't like travelling too much and he was desperately looking forward to returning home.

"If you are homesick then mental fatigue will be an issue and that can hamper you physically. I would like to see him spend two weeks in his village after returning from the IPL," said Bayjedul.