

Death threat to 2 journos

A CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Two journalists of the district yesterday received death threat over publishing news on corruption.

They are Kalyan Banerjee, district correspondent of national bangla daily Prothom Alo, and Yarab Hossain, district correspondent of Daily Manabzamin.

Kalyan Banerjee received the threat through a mail with a letter, a piece of red cloth and shroud at noon. Yarab also received the threat with the shroud.

The letter reads, "You took life risk publishing a report about the godown against our brother. We will see you. We will cut of your source Yarab's hands."

Kalyan informed the higher police officials and his colleagues about the matter. He also filed a general diary (GD) with Sadar Police Station in this regard.

Satkhira Press Club condemned the death threat to Kalyan and Yarab.

News, titled "Traders and middlemen giving rice to the Govt godown" was published in Prothom Alo on June 23.

Boy 'commits suicide' for not having Eid dress

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushita*

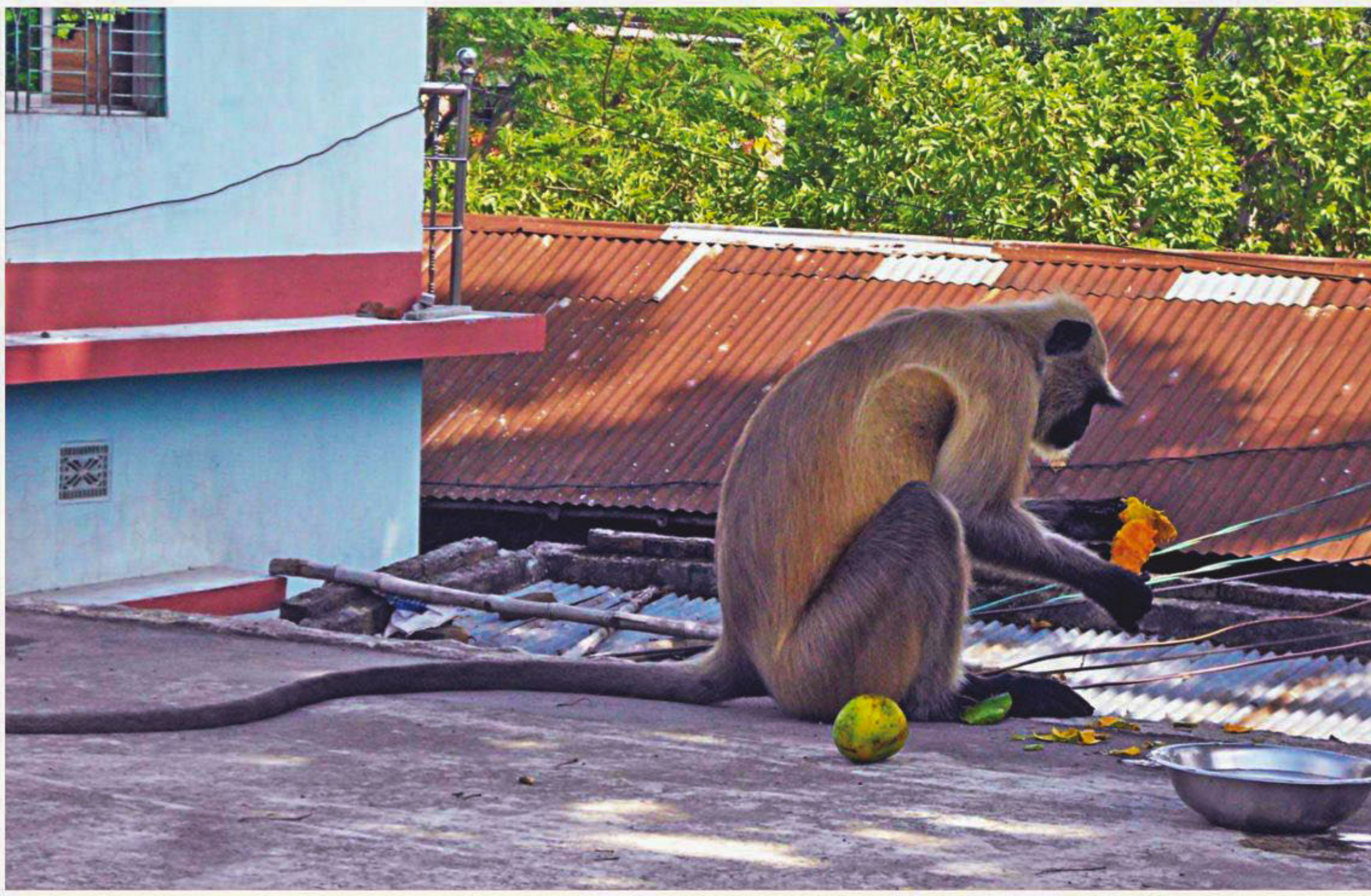
A schoolboy allegedly committed suicide as he got despaired for not having new dress for Eid at Kumari village in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district on Monday.

The deceased is ninth grader Muhin Amed Shilon, 15, son of Abdul Ali of the village.

Akram Hossain, officer-in-charge of Alamdanga Police Station, said Shilon has been demanding new Eid dress from his parents.

On Monday afternoon, mother of the boy scolded him as he went crazy for realising his demand.

Later, he went out of the house and hanged himself from a nearby tree, said the OC.



A hanuman relishes on mango on the rooftop of a house at Banani in Naogaon town.

PHOTO: STAR

Hanuman langur finds home at town treetops

KONGKON KARMAKER with ANDREW EAGLE

Last Monday Naogaon town dwellers were greeted by an unusual visitor when a grey langur, also called a Hanuman langur, adopted the treetops of residential Bananipara as its home. Wherever the large monkey has roamed since, curious locals gather to catch a glimpse of the creature.

"I gave fruit and puffed rice to it," says local Md. Mukul, "but the Hanuman was annoyed by the crowd of onlookers."

Locals from the Hindu community meanwhile have greeted the black-faced monkey with the traditional religious sounds of the conch shell, kartal and dhol drums.

"It landed on the roof of Khaleque Master's house," continues Mukul, "where it had more fruit and puffed rice and drank water."

"It's a big monkey," observes Khaleque Master. "We don't know where it's come from but it seems to be

Locals from the Hindu community have greeted the black-faced monkey with the traditional religious sounds of the conch shell, kartal and dhol drums.

a wild animal."

According to other locals the langur has been spotted in trees around the town for the past month but has only recently ventured into residential areas.

While langurs usually move in groups, this animal appears to be alone.

Senior journalist Faridul Islam says he has already informed the local administration, including Naogaon sadar's upazila nirbahi officer Rabiul Islam of the langur's presence in the hope that steps can be taken to protect it. "It might've come from Kesepur village in Jessore," Faridul suggests, adding that after watching the animal for many hours he is concerned that it is yet to make a sound. Langurs are known to make a range of vocalisations.

Locals too hold fear for the langur's health. "It's gradually losing weight for a shortage of food," says Afsar Ali of Bananipara. Like Faridul they hope forest department officials will come forward to save the langur.

UNO Rabiul Islam says he will take local forest department officials to catch the langur at the earliest opportunity, with the goal of saving its life.

BRAHMANBARIA ROAD CRASH Tank lorry workers observe strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

District Tank Lorry Workers Federation in Brahmanbaria yesterday observed an eight-hour work abstention in Sadar and Ashuganj upazilas, protesting the death of their three leaders in a road accident on Monday.

The strike began from 6:00am in the two upazilas and continued till 2:00pm.

Meanwhile, protesting the incident, the lorry workers also observed an hour long strike across the country from 10:00am.

The federation called the strike on Monday after three of the federation's leaders on a motorcycle were crashed under the wheels of a stone-laden truck while trying to escape a chase from the highway police in Sarail upazila of the district.

Meanwhile, two police-

men--Sub-inspector Md Anisuzzaman and Constable Ali Akbor of Sarail Highway Police--have been closed for throwing baton on the running motorbike which allegedly caused the fatal accident.

Besides, a three-member probe committee headed by Additional Superintendent of Police Enamul Kabir of Gazipur Circle was formed yesterday and was asked to submit its probe report with the next 10 days.

Locals and witnesses said highway policemen stopped the motorcycle on Dhaka-Sylhet highway and "demanded money" from the trio, saying triple riding on a bike is prohibited.

The accident occurred when the trio tried to speed away, lost control and a stone-laden truck from behind ran over them, killing the three on the spot.

Contractors protest bribe, demand arrear bill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

Water Development Board (WDB) Contractors' Association in the district on Monday demanded immediate payment of Tk 27 crore in due bills to at least 100 contractors of the board.

It also urged the authorities concerned to take punitive measures against its executive engineer alleging that he took Tk 4 crore in bribe from them for giving work order.

The association made the demands at a press conference on the WDB premises in Cox's Bazar.

They also submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through Deputy Commissioner Md Abul Hossain in this regard.

At the conference the association threatened to lock the WDB office and go on sit-in demonstration if their dues were not paid by today.

Executive Engineer Sabibur Rahman of the transmission and maintenance department at Cox's Bazar WDB invited bids from contractors in January for Tk 34 crore work orders in 39 packages giving false announcement that Tk 34 crore allocation has been received for rehabilitation and repair of coastal embankments seriously

damaged by the natural disaster and tidal surge, alleged the contractors.

The authorities appointed contractors on the basis of competition and gave work orders in February, they said, adding that the engineer realized Tk 4 crore in bribe from the contractors who got the work orders.

After getting the work orders, contractors collected money in different ways like bank loans and taking credit on high interest rates and after completing the works from March to May they handed those over to the authorities, said the contractors.

But when they asked the executive engineer to pay their bill money, he started "dilly-dallying". At one stage engineer Sabibur told them that he did not get allocation of whole amount of money rather got only Tk 7 crore from non-development revenue sector from the ministry.

Refuting the allegation of taking bribe, engineer Sabibur said, the contractors have completed Tk 34 crore work but their bills could not be paid on time as he did not get allocation of the amount.

The engineer further said he has been trying to get the allocation. He said the contractors will get their bills even if late. The work has been done with permission from the authorities, he said.



The Power Development Board disconnected electricity supply to this water tank in Bogra town, along with a few other set-ups yesterday, due to huge unpaid arrear bills. The action led to water crisis for the local residents.

PHOTO: STAR

Power disconnection creates water crisis

Triggering huge sufferings to people of Bogra municipality

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bogra*

Power Development Board (PDB) of Bogra has disconnected power connection to municipality buildings, water pumps and road lights under the municipality because it has not paid the electricity bill of around Tk 17 crore.

As a result, the people of the town, commuters and thousands of users of nine water pumps under the town are suffering a lot.

On a visit to Bogra town on Monday morning, this correspondent saw officials and employees of PDB supply and sale 1, 2, and 3 disconnecting power connections at Jaleshwaritola, Rahmannagar, Nur Mosque road, Malotinagar, Jahurulnagar, Badurtola, Jhaotola, Sherpur road, Namajgor, Dottobari, Katnarpara, Choksutrapur and surrounding areas.

About 3,200 users of the pumps have been suffering greatly due to the disconnection of electricity to the water pumps.

Abdul Kader, a resident of Jaleshwaritola area, said the department disconnected his power line without giv-

ing notice.

Sushmita Rani, a housewife of Dottobari area, said their connection was cut-off because of dues for the last few months.

Tofazzal Hossain Pramanik, executive engineer of power supply and sale-2, said the water pumps owed his department around Tk 7.35 crore, which forced PDB to cut power connection to them.

Repeated requests have made to the mayor about payment of the huge electricity bill of the 9-km-long Bonani-Matidali road and 3-km-long Shatmatha-Tinmatha road lights of the town, which have also remained unpaid for a long time, the Ex.En added.

AKM Mahabubur Rahman, mayor of Bogra Municipality, said his office paid Tk 1.2 crore, and they will pay the due bill in installments from July.

The power department has issued some inflated bills to the municipality, causing sufferings of the inhabitants of the town before Eid. They also cut the line to his office, though they paid the bill, alleged the mayor.

2 JMB men jailed for 10 years in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jamalpur*

A court here yesterday sentenced two members of the banned Islamist outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) each in a case filed under Arms and Explosive Act with Sarishabari Police Station in 2007.

The convicts are Kamrul Hassan, 29, son of Abdul Mazid of Hajipur Kumargati village in Sadar upazila, and Habibur Rahman Yusuf, 30, son of late Yunus Ali of Maddhyapara village in Sarishabari upazila.

Judge Fatema Imroz Khanika of Special Tribunal-3 pronounced the verdict in presence of the convicts around 1:00pm yesterday. The court also fined the convicts Tk 10,000, in default, they are to suffer six months more in jail.

According to the prosecution, a police team, led by Sub-inspector Shafiqul Islam of Sarishabari Police Station raided Bhatara Bazar area in the upazila to arrest Kamrul and Yusuf on March 21 in 2007.

Sensing the presence of the police team, the two JMB men hurled a hand grenade on them in a bid to escape the arrest.

Local people, however, caught the duo while fleeing the scene and handed them over to the police along with a two more grenades.

Sub-inspector Shafiqul Islam filed a case with the police station against Kamrul and Yusuf under Arms and Explosive Act the same night.

Bogra women's college limps

Academic activities being hampered for shortage of teachers, classrooms

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, *Bogra*

The academic activities of Government Mujibur Rahman Women's College, Bogra, are being hampered as the institution has been facing many problems for a long time.

The problems include shortage of teachers and classrooms, scarcity of buses, lack of exam hall and auditorium, and shortage of accommodation in the hostels.

The only women's college now crammed with over 12,000 female students was established on July 31, 1963 and nationalised on February 1, 1978, college sources said.

"We have only 16 classrooms whereas we need at least 32 for 19 courses, including seven at Honours and seven at Masters' level, and 46 teachers are serving against the requirement of 56, though over 100

teachers are needed," Vice-Principal Prof M Hasan Zahid told this correspondent.

He said each department needs at least 12 teachers, but most of them are facing shortage of teachers, classrooms, ICT rooms and other facilities.

From its birth, the college has been running with shortage of teachers, including commerce teachers.

"Most of the commerce students of higher school certificate (HSC) course have been suffering due to the lack of commerce teachers, said Sadia Afrin, a second-year commerce student.

Sometimes, they have to sit idle as the hired commerce teachers from other colleges come late from their respective colleges for taking classes, she added.

Megna Khatun, a student of humanities of HSC second-year, said

students who stay out of the campus face problems due to a lack of communication facility.

The four 52-seat buses are not enough to carry about 8,000 students from different places of the district, and at least two more buses and a microbus for teachers are needed for solving the transport problem, she added.

Sharmin Akhtar, a resident of Begum Rokeya Hall, said more halls need to be built soon as around 600 female students are staying in around 350 seats of the three hostels -- Begum Jahanara Rahman, Begum Rokeya and Moijannessa Bhandari -- in the campus of the college.

Around 8,000 students of the college have to accommodate themselves in around 400 private-run messes in areas near the college, she added.



Government Mujibur Rahman Women's College, Bogra.

PHOTO: STAR