

'Robber' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

An alleged robber was killed in a 'gunfight' with police in Jhenidah early yesterday.

The deceased was Abdur Rashid, 44, of son of Elahi Biswas of Dudshar in Shailakupa upazila.

ASP Azbahar Ali Seikh said informed that a gang was planning to commit robbery on Jhenidah-Kushtia highway near Dudshar Ashrayan Project they raided the area around 3:00am.

Sensing the presence of police, the robbers opened fire, forcing them to retaliate, triggering a 'gunfight'.

Later, the bullet-riddled body of Rashid was found on the spot. However, his cohorts managed to flee.

Two policemen were also hurt during the 'gunfight', the ASP claimed, adding that they recovered a shutter gun and two bullets from the spot.

# Jute price fall worries farmers

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Jute price fall worries farmers in Lalmonirhat and Jessore despite bumper production of the cash crop.

The growers in Lalmonirhat are becoming frustrated due to sharp fall in jute price, reports our correspondent.

They are counting losses as jute is now being sold between Tk 1600 and Tk 1700 per maund, while its price was Tk 1900-2000 a week ago in the local markets, said the farmers.

Grower Nabin Islam, 50, of Shalmara village in Aditmari upazila, said he sold jute at Tk 1700 per maund this week while it was sold at Tk 2000 last year.

With a hope of earning more profit, he cultivated the crop on eight bighas of land this time while it was five bighas last year, said another jute farmer, Aftab Uddin, 60, of Durakuti village in Sadar upazila.

"We are not earning profit from



Farmers wait for selling their jute at Durakuti bazar in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

jute farming as per our expectation," he said.

Jute trader Abdur Karim, 45, at Durakuti Haat, a local market in Lalmonirhat Sadar, said they purchased jute at Tk 1900-2000 per

maund from the growers a week ago due to lesser supply but its price now witnesses a fall due to huge supply.

The price of jute may fall between Tk 100 and Tk 200 per

maund next week due to sharp increase of supply, he said.

Sarwar-Ul-Haque, deputy director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat, said jute

cultivation is profitable for farmers as they earn extra profit from jute-stick and jute made sacks besides selling its fibre.

In Jessore, jute price sees unexpected fall in the local markets, much to the worry of farmers in the district, despite good production of the cash crop this season, reports a correspondent.

Last month, jute was sold between Tk 1900 and Tk 2000 per maund but its price now sees a sharp fall of Tk 400 to Tk 500 per maund before the arrival of new jute in the local market.

Md Sirazul Islam, a farmer of Ghurulia village in Sadar upazila, said he cultivated jute on two bighas of land this current season but its sharp price fall really worries him.

According to DAE in Jessore, 24,500 hectares of land have been brought under jute cultivation this year.

2 cargo boats collide in Meghna: 13 rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A cement-laden cargo boat capsized after being hit by another cargo boat in the Meghna River under Hatiya upazila.

Nurul Islam, sub-inspector (SI) of Hatiya River Police Camp, said police, Hatiya Coastguard and local fishermen rescued all 13 crew members from the spot. He said the cement-laden vessel named Kamrun Nahar Kanak was hit from behind by another vessel near Caring Char on the eastern side of Hatiya and capsized when it was going to Dhaka from Chittagong.

OC Golam Farooq of Hatiya Police Station said police and coastguard are trying to salvage the sunken vessel.



Women farm labourers plant aman saplings in a field along with their men colleagues at Bathina village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila though they are not paid as much as their male co-workers in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.

PHOTO: QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

## Home boss lauds cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The police are now united to fight against the militancy and those who are trying to create unrest in the country in the name of Islam, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said here yesterday.

The minister said this while inaugurating the newly constructed police station complex in Saghata upazila in Gaibandha.

Addressing the function, he said police must control the militancy by any means.

The home boss also expressed his hope that the law enforcers would continue their efficient performance to improve the law and order situation.

He blamed Jamaat-e-Islami and its students' wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for launching such militant attacks under the banner of several banned Islamist outfits.

## Justice still elusive

FROM PAGE 16

governments.

A band of rogue army personnel killed Bangabandhu's nephew Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni, founding chairman of Awami Jubo League, and his wife Arzu Moni at their Dhanmondi residence that morning.

In another attack, Bangabandhu's brother-in-law Abdur Rab Serniabat, the then water resources minister, was murdered at his Minto Road residence while a mortar assault by some army personnel killed 14 in Mohammadpur, taking the death toll to 34 on the fateful day.

The cases linked with these killings were filed in 1996. Two of them are still on the backburner while the accused in the case filed in connection with Sheikh Moni's murder have been acquitted by a lower court.

Law Minister Anisul Huq could not be reached for comments on this issue despite several attempts by phone yesterday.

He earlier told The Daily Star that the government would take initiatives for disposal of the two cases filed over Serniabat's killing and Mohammadpur attack.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told this newspaper yesterday that though most of the accused in these cases had either been convicted or executed in Bangabandhu killing case, his office would take steps for vacating the High Court order that stayed the proceedings of Serniabat murder case.

The HC stayed the case's proceedings in November 1999 following a petition filed by Bazul Huda, one of the accused executed for Bangabandhu's murder.

In January 2009, five condemned killers of the Father of the Nation were executed following a Supreme Court verdict in Bangabandhu murder case filed in October 1996.

**SHEIKH MONI MURDER**

The Criminal Investigation Department submitted the final report in the case in August 2002.

Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court in December the same year accepted the report and acquitted all the accused without even notifying the complainant.

**SERNIABAT MURDER**

A group of army personnel led by Maj Shahriar Rashid,

Maj Aziz Pasha, Capt Majed and Capt Nurul Huda stormed into Serniabat's house on Minto Road, gathered the residents in the living room and shot them.

Abdur Rab Serniabat, his nephew Shaheed Serniabat, daughter Baby Serniabat, son Arif Serniabat, grandson Babu Serniabat, who was only four then, domestic helps Potka and Laxmir Ma, and Abdur Naim Khan alias Rintu died on the spot.

Nine others were severely injured. Abul Hasnat Abdullah, son of Abdur Rab Serniabat, escaped hiding behind a door.

Hasnat's wife Shahana Ara Begum, among the injured, filed a case with Ramna police, accusing 18 people.

**MOHAMMADPUR MORTAR ATTACK**

Fourteen people were killed by mortar shells fired in Mohammadpur in Dhaka on the night of August 15, 1971.

The CID pressed charges against the same accused as in the Serniabat case in July 1997 for the incident.

The case is now pending with the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka. So far, 15 prosecution witnesses have testified in court in the case.

# Women labourers face wage disparity

Female farm workers are paid less than male colleagues in Thakurgaon, Panchagarh

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT with ANDREW EAGLE

If ever an example was needed that sincerity doesn't pay, one could visit the farm fields of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh. There, female farm labourers who are renowned for their dedication to the task at hand are consistently paid less than male colleagues.

"We have to work for a smaller wage," says Rosoda Bala, 35, a farm labourer from Bokanthapur village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila. "Otherwise the landholder won't give us work."

"There's no alternative," agrees Maleka Begum, 50, of Shakoya Shahapara village in Panchagarh's Boda upazila. "Working for low wages is a matter of survival in rural areas. If I avoid work for a day or two in order to bargain about wages, my family will pass those days half-fed or without food. Working in the crop fields is essential to arrange family meals."

The circumstances of Nomita Bala, 30, also from Boikanthapur, are typical. She told The Daily Star while working in an Aman paddy field that her payment for that day would be Tk 160, as it has been for the previous three days.

While women make up more than half of farm labourers in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts, especially active in the jute and Aman fields at the current time, typical day wages for women range from Tk 150 - Tk 180 while, for the same work, men can expect to earn Tk 250 - Tk 300.

Asked about the reason for lower wages for women, landholder Ramjan Ali from Panchagarh's Boda upazila says it relates to their productivity. "While women labourers are sincere in their work," he says, "they cannot render the same physical labour as males. As such, their wages are lower." It's a common myth used to defend the wage disparity. In reality, the output of

women farm labourers is on par with their male counterparts.

In a 2015 report prepared by the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit of the food and disaster management ministry entitled "National Food Policy and Work Plan and Domestic Investment Planning Observation" it is noted that while discrimination in wages between men and women continues its level has decreased by 10% in recent years.

It also states that an average male labourer can purchase on average nine kilograms of coarse rice from their daily wage, while women's wages will only cover the price of six kilograms.

"Women are contributing tremendously in the agricultural sector," says social research and executive of Eco Social Development Organisation Muhammad Shahid Uz Zaman. "But they suffer from discrimination in terms of wages, long working hours and various other disadvantageous conditions."

While the government has wage guidelines, he adds, these are neither adhered to nor properly monitored. Such monitoring could encourage more women to work outside the home and bring greater prosperity to their families, he believes.

Arshed Ali, the deputy director in Thakurgaon of the Department of Agriculture Extension, says no statistics on female participation rates in the agricultural sector are available to him. But he estimates at the district level not less than 1.5 lakh women work in the fields. "Steps should be taken to prevent discrimination against women, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to agriculture," he says.

Ironically women farm labourers are often sought after, compared to male colleagues, due to their diligence; but also potentially because a lack of alternative jobs leads to the weaker bargaining power that offers landholders unfair labour cost savings.

## Prima facie proof against

FROM PAGE 1

He also pointed out that it was the Counter Terrorism Unit of DMP which was investigating the case. "We don't produce [anyone] in a case unless there is any evidence against the person."

The DB official then said Hasnat was interrogated for a long time while on remand and "those things were primarily established" before accusing him in the case.

"If prima facie proof is established against any person, he or she is pro-

duced [accused] in the case for the specific allegation [against him or her]," he said.

Prima facie is based on the first impression, even though it may later be proved untrue.

Hasnat Karim was shown arrested in a case filed in connection with the terror attack in Gulshan on Saturday. Hasnat is the first arrestee in the case.

In the militant attack, 20 hostages -- nine Italians, seven Japanese, two Bangladeshis, one Indian

and one Bangladesh-born US citizen -- were killed. Two police officials were also murdered.

On Saturday, Hasnat and another arrestee, Tahmid Hasib Khan, were taken on a fresh remand as police claimed to have gleaned vital information from the duo during the previous remand.

Though Hasnat was shown arrested in the case, police chose to continue interrogating Tahmid under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for his "suspicious movement".

### ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ

প্রধান কার্যালয়  
১, কাওরান বাজার, টিসিবি ভবন, ঢাকা।

নং-২৬.০৫.২৬.৯০.০২২.১১.২৯০.১৬/৭৮৫

তারিখঃ ১৪-০৮-২০১৬খ্রিঃ

#### টিসিবি'র পরিবহণ ঠিকাদার নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পুনঃদরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০১৬-২০১৭ ও ২০১৭-২০১৮ অর্থ বছরের জন্য টিসিবি'র পরিবহণ ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত প্রকৃত ও বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে পুনঃদরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। ঠিকাদারের ধরণ, দরপত্র গ্রহণ, খোলার তারিখ ও সময় এবং দরপত্রের সাথে প্রদেয় দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ নিয়ে উল্লেখ করা হলোঃ

ক্রঃ নং	ঠিকাদারের ধরণ	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সর্বশেষ সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ
০১.	টিসিবি প্রধান কার্যালয়ের পরিবহণ ঠিকাদার (চট্টগ্রাম ব্যতীত সারাদেশ ব্যাপী)	আজ ১৬-০৮-২০১৬ সকাল ১১.০০ টা পর্যন্ত	আজ ১৬-০৮-২০১৬ সকাল ১১.১৫ টা	ট/১ ২,০০০/-	ট/১ ৩,০০,০০০/-

(১) দরপত্র সিডিউল সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ, টিসিবি ভবন, ১, কাওরান বাজার শাখা, ঢাকা এবং টিসিবি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় চট্টগ্রাম হতে দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্ব দিন পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নির্ধারিত মূল্য (অফেরত যোগ্য) পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে ক্রয় করা যাবে।

(২) দরপত্র উপরের ছকে বর্ণিত নির্ধারিত সময় পর্যন্ত টিসিবি প্রধান কার্যালয়, ১, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা এর অর্ডারনা কক্ষে (ভূতীয় তলায়) রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজে গ্রহণ করা হবে।

(৩) দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত সকল শর্তাবলী পূরণকরতঃ দরপত্র সিডিউলের ছকে দর উদ্ধৃতকরণসহ দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করে দরদাতার নিজস্ব প্যাডে ফরওয়ার্ডিং পত্রের মাধ্যমে সীলমোহরকৃত খামের উপরিভাগে পরিবহণ ঠিকাদারী কাজের নাম অবশ্যই স্পষ্টভাবে উল্লেখ করে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

(৪) দরপত্রের সাথে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে “ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ” এর অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট বা পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র জামানত (আর্নেস্ট মানি) সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

(৫) দরপত্রে কোনরূপ কাটাকাটি/ঘষামাজা করা হলে দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

(৬) টিসিবি কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার এবং এক বা একাধিক ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

(মোঃ শাহাবুদ্দিন)  
প্রধান কর্মকর্তা(সিএমএস ও বিওবি)

GD-1637

## Tea workers observe strike for wages

### Threaten indefinite shutdown in 23 gardens

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

About 400 workers of a tea garden along with their families have been continuing their programmes, demanding due wages and rations, for around 15 weeks.

Workers of Baikunthapur Tea Garden observed a strike yesterday and held a massive rally near the Habiganj deputy commissioner's (DC) office. They submitted a memorandum to the DC, demanding payment of their due wages and rations.

Nripen Paul, general secretary of Bangladesh Tea Labour Union, Lashkarpur valley unit, also threatened that workers from all the 23 tea gardens in Habiganj will go on an indefinite strike and block the highways if the demand is not fulfilled by August 17.

Mohendra Bhumij, an organiser of the programme, said, "Many family members of workers don't have jobs on the tea estate, and we have not been getting our wages. Without wages, it will be impossible for workers and their families to survive."

Gourango Patro, president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Sylhet Divisional unit, said "We have not been getting wages for 15 weeks. What type of justice is this?"

Prodip Kumar Mukharjee, managing director of the garden, didn't receive any phone calls.

এবারের সংগ্রাম আমাদের মুক্তির সংগ্রাম  
এবারের সংগ্রাম স্বাধীনতার সংগ্রাম

৭ মার্চ  
বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান

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যতদিন আমি এই পৃথিবীতে প্রত্যহ ভোর  
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হরিলের লাফ, ততদিন আমি লালন করবো শোক।

নিহত জনক, এগ্যামেমেনন, কবরে শায়িত আজ।

-শামসুর রাহমান

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