

## REMARKS AGAINST PM Youth arrested in Naogaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested a youth yesterday allegedly for making derogatory remarks on Facebook against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and a local lawmaker in Raninagar upazila of Naogaon.

Mohammad Milon Hossain, 30, son of late Osman Ali, was arrested from Ataikula village in the upazila around 1:30pm.

Abdullahil Zaman, inspector (investigation) of Raninagar Police Station, said the arrest was made after Mamunur Rashid, general secretary of Raninagar upazila unit of BCL, lodged a complaint against Milon under Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act.

Police arrested Milon as he posted several derogatory remarks against the prime minister and local lawmaker Mohammad Israfil Alam, the OC added.



Students of Moulvibazar Government High School in Sadar upazila put up a sign-board after making a garden in the school ground where the education engineering department laid a foundation stone, inset, to construct its office building.

## Edn office building on school field!

Students demolish foundation stone, continue protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Students of Moulvibazar Government High School in Sadar upazila continued agitation against the move of the education engineering department to construct a building of its zonal office on the school ground, depriving them of a place to play.

On a visit to the school yesterday, this correspondent found that angry students had broken the foundation stone and made a garden on the school ground.

Sheikh Nasim Reza, executive engineer of the education engineering department, laid the foundation stone on the school ground on September 9.

Hearing of the matter, students protested with banners and festoons in the district town. They broke the foundation stone on September 28.

Later, former students planted different types of flowers and fruit trees on 20 decimals of land there.

Students say they cannot play in the ground as it is occupied by the education engineering department.

Syed Mushaid Ahmed, a former student of the school, said, "We will not accept erection of the building on the school ground. If the education engineering department does not stop we will announce a tougher programme after Durga Puja."

Fazlur Rahman, headmaster of the school, declined to talk with this correspondent regarding the matter.

Sheikh Nasim Reza said laying of the foundation stone was a government decision.

## Youth to die for killing minor girl after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court yesterday sentenced a youth to death for killing a minor girl after rape in Phulpur upazila of the district in 2013.

The convict is Jasim Uddin, 23, son of Gias Uddin of Solonga village in the upazila.

Judge Mohammad Helal Uddin of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal also fined the convict Tk one lakh.

According to the prosecution, Jasim abducted two and a half year-old Jonaki Akhter, daughter of Emdadul Haque of the village on July 26 in 2013.

The following day, seeing bloodstains on his shirt villagers caught Jasim and put pressure on him about Jonaki's whereabouts. At one stage, Jasim confessed that he killed the girl after rape dumped the body in a nearby jungle.

## THREE CUSTOMS STATIONS Workers in hardship as coal import suspended in Sunamganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 10,000 workers are passing hard days and the government is deprived of huge revenue as coal import through land customs stations at Borochara, Charagoan and Bagli in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj has remained suspended for over a year.

The suspension followed filing of a case by an environmental organisation with the High Court of India, alleging that unplanned coal extraction from mines in the hills of Meghalaya was causing environmental degradation and posing threat to the lives of the coal workers, coal importers' sources said.

About 10,000 workers involved in loading, unloading and carrying of coal are now struggling to maintain their families and over 400 traders involved with coal import are incurring huge losses due to the situation, said Alkas Uddin Khandaker, president of Chargaon Coal Importers' Association.

"Many of us are now finding it difficult to manage three square meals for our families," said Abdul Barik, general secretary of Bagli Land Port Sramik Sangha.

Customs office sources said the government is being deprived of about Tk one crore revenue daily due to suspension of coal import.

The situation has left the workers unemployed and it may lead to increase of theft and robbery incidents in the area, said Kamruzzaman Kamrul, chairman of Tahirpur upazila parishad.

## Bhabani Sen's land still in grip of grabbers

The Lalmonirhat Hindu family seeks help to continue legal battle

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Bhabani Kanta Sen along with his wife, two sons and elderly mother are passing a hard time as their land is under the control of illegal occupiers at Rasulpur village in Patgram upazila under the district.

"As they occupied my 32 decimals of arable land, I am working as a day labourer. The case is under trial with the District and Sessions Judge's Court, but the grabbers built houses and raised orchards and are cultivating crops on my land," said Bhabani, 46, a resident of Rasulpur village of Bawra union in Patgram.

"I don't have the ability to appoint any lawyer for legal battle against the land grabbers, but they have appointed expert lawyer for fighting the case," he said.

"We dared not protest when the land grabbers started building more houses on our land six months ago," said Bhabani's son Bidyut Chandra Sen, 18.

Advocate Manzil Murshid, president of rights organisation Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, filed a writ petition with the High Court on March 2 in 2014, after The Daily Star the same day ran a report headlined "Hindu's land grabbed by AL leader".

After hearing the petition on March 9, a High Court bench comprising Justice Kazi Rezaul Haque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain issued an order to police for arresting the land grabbers within 48 hours.

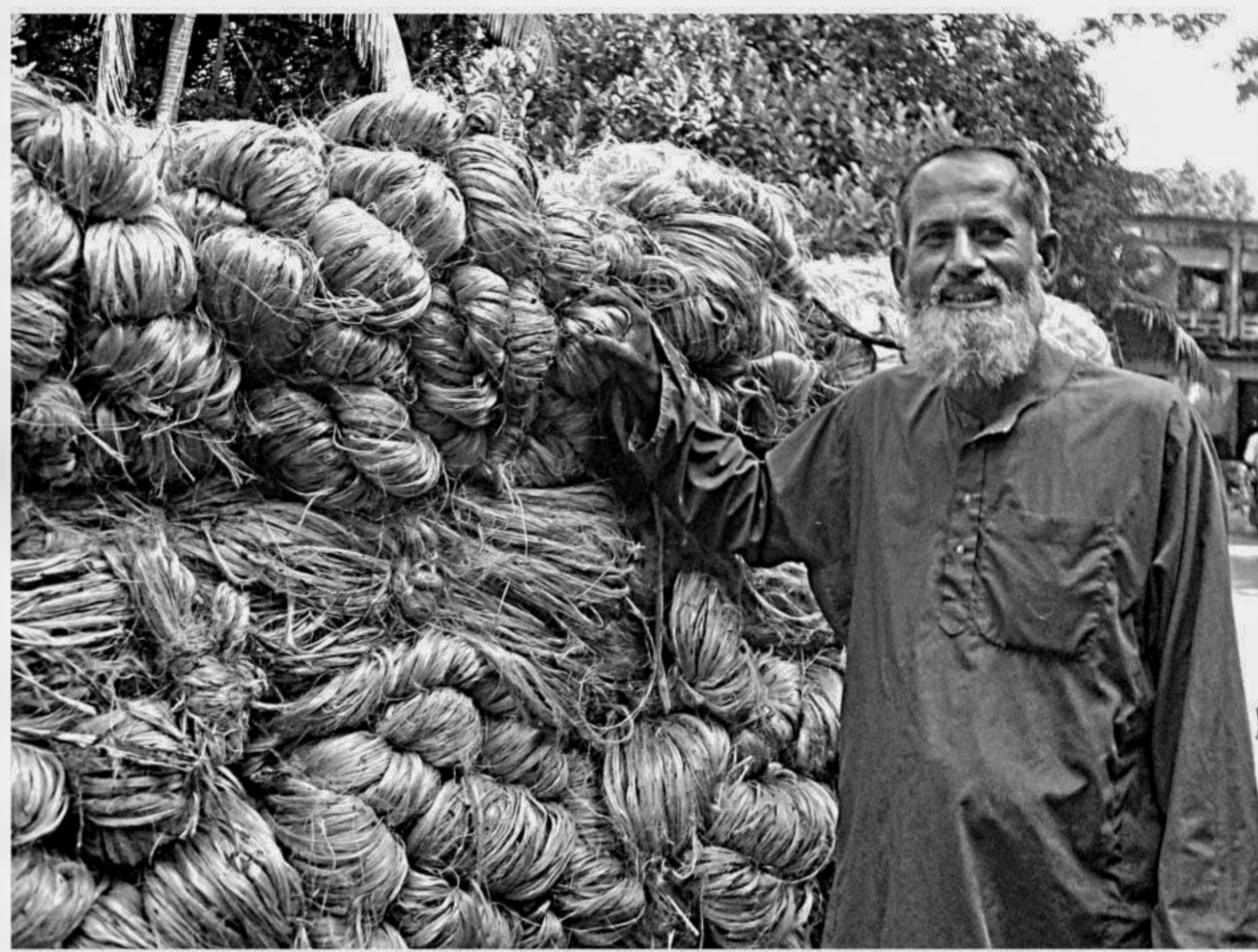
The next day, a case was lodged with Hatibandha Police Station accusing alleged land grabbers Rabiul Islam Miron, president of Bawra union unit of Awami League (AL), and his cohorts Nazrul Islam, vice-president of Rasulpur ward AL, and Mukul Hossain, president of Bawra union Jubo League and AL activists Anar Khan, 55, Sultan Khan, 58, and Abdus Samad Khan, sons of late Hossain Ali Khan of Rasulpur village.

Police arrested Anar Ali Khan and Sultan Khan on March 12, but the main accused Rabiul Islam Miron and others went into hiding. Now all of them are under bail, police said.

"On February 9 in 2014, AL men grabbed the poor Hindu family's 32 decimals of arable land, built a structure there and forced Bhabani Kanta Sen and his sons Bidhan Chandra Sen, 18, and Bidyut Chandra Sen, 16, to sign on a non-judicial stamp. Police recovered the stamps on March 12, 2014," said Rezaul Karim, officer in charge of Hatibandha Police Station.

After investigation, police submitted charge sheet against the accused on August 31 in 2014, he said.

Bhabani Kanta Sen said he needs help to run the case properly so that he can get back his land from the grabbers.



A smiling Shahadat Ali of Baliadanga village under Jhenidah with his produce at Kaliganj Bazar. The photo was taken on Monday.

## Jute growers all smiles

Jhenidah farmers are happy for good yield and fair price

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Farmers in the district are happy at getting fair price of jute this year due to favourable weather and availability of seeds and fertilizers at the beginning of the cultivation season.

Jute is being sold at Tk 1,500 to Tk 2,000 per maund, to the delight of farmers.

The Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in the district Shah Akramul Haq said 35,825 hectares of land have been brought under jute cultivation in six upazilas of the district, while the target was 34,543 hectares.

Of the lands, 7,445 hectares are in

## Child murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Police recovered the body of a boy from Chaigari in Sadullapur upazila of the district.

The deceased was Shaheed Mia, 11, a rickshaw van puller, and son of Azizur Rahman of Mandolerpara village under Pirganj upazila of Rangpur.

Police said Shaheed went out of house with his rickshaw van but did not return at night.

Locals found his body in a field and informed the police, who sent it to Gaibandha hospital.

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