

Two to die for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A Bogra court yesterday sentenced two men to death for killing a poultry trader in 2013.

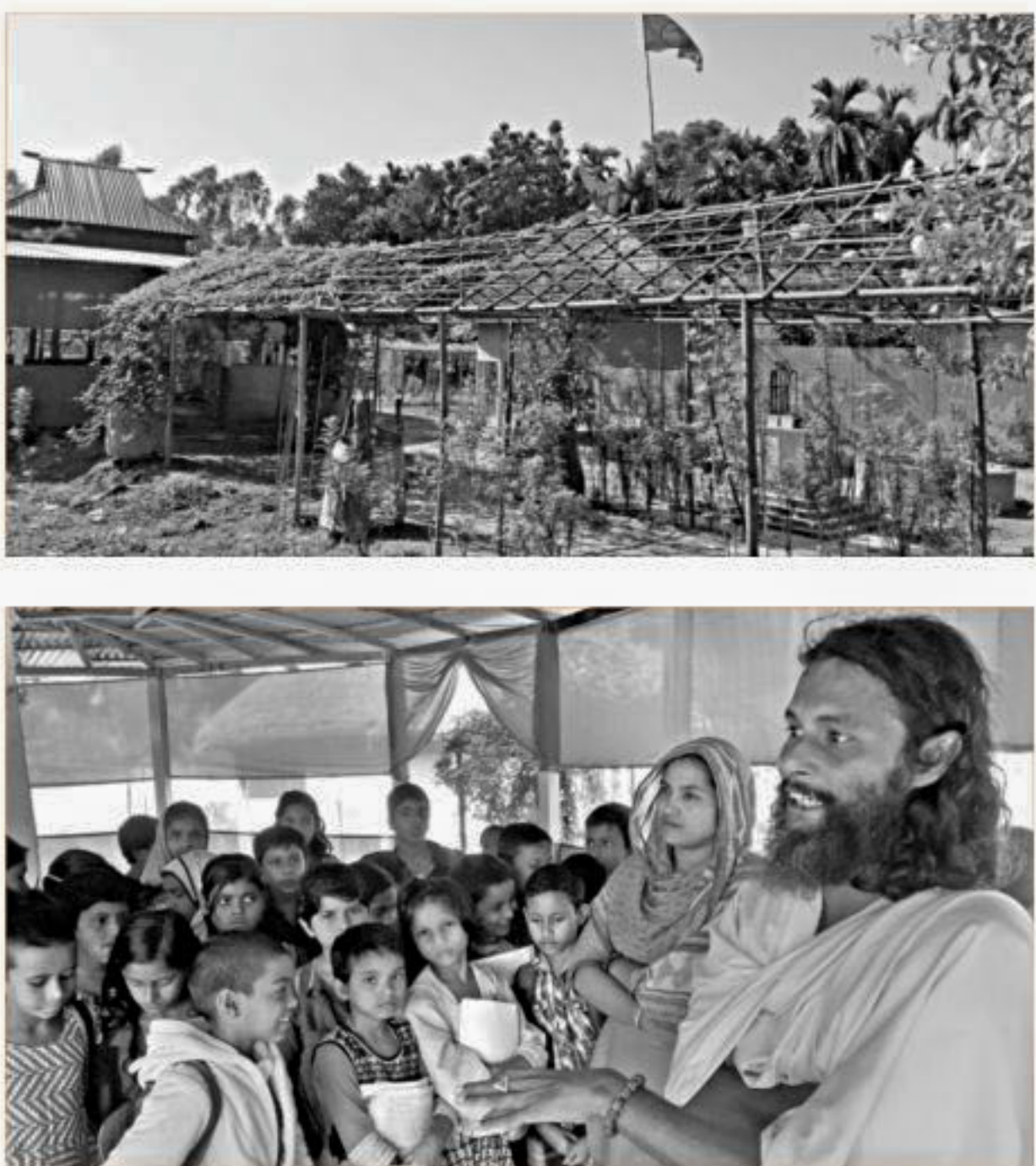
The convicts are Nurul Islam Joardar, 50, and Mostafa Kamal, 38, of Kafura Purbapara area in Sherpur upazila.

Senior District and Sessions Judge AM Md Sayeed also fined them Tk 5,000 each.

According to the prosecution, police recovered the body of Md Al Masud, 16, son of Alamgir Hossain of the area, from the septic tank of a local's house on September 17 in 2013, two days after his missing.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Jahangir Alam imparts lessons to children at Kadamchand Bidyapith founded by him at Durakuti village in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat; Jahangir, flanked by his wife Shirina Akhter, talks to the kids about the necessity of growing up as ideal humans; the schoolhouse and its premises.



2 kids drown in Noakhali trawler capsizes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Two children drowned and five others were injured in a trawler capsized near Koraitola ferry terminal in Companyganj upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were Ashik, 12, son of Ali Ahmed of Char Balua village, and Hriday, 5, son of Ibrahim of Urirchar village in the upazila.

The injured were admitted into the upazila health complex.

Nur Nabi, owner of the trawler, said the trawler carrying around 200 passengers left Char Torab Ali ghat in the morning.

Indigenous man found dead

A CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Police recovered the beheaded body of an indigenous man from Rubber garden in Matiranga upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased is Kartik Chandra Tripura, 55, of Lambachhara village.

Local people spotted Kartik's body near a hill at the village and informed the police who sent the body to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Officer-in-Charge Shahadat Hossain of Matiranga Police Station said the reason behind the murder could not be ascertained immediately.

Beacon for children's education

Through selfless service, Sadhok Jahangir and his wife Shirina prevent dropout at remote village in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Children of a remote village in Aditmari upazila under the district are getting quality lessons along with moral education, thanks to the benevolent service of a spiritually devoted couple.

Jahangir Alam, 40, locally known as Sadhok (saint) Pagla Jahangir, son of Nurul Amin and Jahanara Begum, established Kadamchand Bidyapith at Durakuti village of Saptibari union in Aditmari upazila for imparting basic education to the rural children in October 2002, starting with a school dropout.

Now the learning centre arranges lessons for over a hundred children, who are also regular students of different primary schools in the area.

They attend classes at Kadamchand Bidyapith before or after their regular school hours, in the morning and afternoon.

Inspired by the spiritual pursuit and selfless service of Jahangir, Shirina Akhter Sathi married him on May 22 in 2014, and thereafter she too got engaged in educating the village children.

Jahangir believes in Sufism and he is a devotee of great twelfth century saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.

"Seeing that most of the village children were deprived of the light of education I took the initiative for their basic learning, and gradually the guardians became more and more interested in the matter. Now cent percent children in the village are studying," said Jahangir.

"I feel happy and get peace of mind while teaching the children. I feel as if I am their mother," said Shirina.

"Along with textual lessons, we give them advice on how to grow up as ideal people," she added.

Set up on a 40-decimal land, Kadamchand Bidyapith comprises

classroom, a prayer room and a small house and there are a Shaheed Minar and a flower garden on its premises.

"I have donated all my assets for Kadamchand Bidyapith, and now I and my wife live at the house on its compound. Devotees provide us meal," said Jahangir.

Locals also provide donations for the school.

Before establishing Kadamchand Bidyapith, No 1 Durakuti Government Primary School at the village had only a small number of students, but now the school has gained reputation as a very good school in

Aditmari upazila, locals said.

"Our children are getting ideal teaching in Kadamchand Bidyapith, and they are doing good results in school examinations. And we don't have to pay anything to the couple for the purpose," said Anwar Hossain, 45, a student's guardian at the village.

Now there is no primary school dropout at the village and it is the contribution of Jahangir and his spouse, said Abdul Mannan, headmaster of No 1 Durakuti Government Primary School.

Local union parishad Chairman Rafiqul Islam Alam echoed the same.

BCL leader hurt in attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was injured in an attack by criminals yesterday.

The victim, Abu Sayeed Rubel, is the vice-president of Ghatail CGB College BCL.

Officer-in-Charge Kamal Hossain of Ghatail Police Station said a gang of criminals stabbed Rubel with machetes when he was returning home around 12:30am.

Rubel was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital from where he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he said.

The identities of the attackers could not be

FORMER INDIAN ENCLAVES

Fakes enjoy privileges

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

A good number of outsiders are illegally enjoying various government facilities meant for the residents of former Indian enclaves, now merged with Dimla upazila of the district, as they got their names falsely listed in government documents.

Many of the genuine beneficiaries are being deprived due to the malpractice, locals said.

Aggrieved over the matter, several residents of four former enclaves in Dimla filed a written complaint to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Nilphamari on August 20 this year, alleging that 50/60 families are getting such facilities illegally before the eyes of the authorities concerned.

According to the complaint, Md Mizanur Rahman, hailing from Paschim Kharibari village of Dimla upazila, having national ID card No 19747311228432599 falsely got listed as an inhabitant of enclave No 29 Boro Khanki Gidaldoho.

He is serving as teacher of Titpara Adarsho High School in Sadar union of Dimla upazila since September 29 in 1996 (teacher index No 564179).

Another 'outsider' beneficiary, Mazeda Begum having national ID card No 19787311228434205 is working as assistant teacher of Paschim Kharibari Government Primary School since April 20 in 2006 and regularly drawing salary from Dimla branch of Sonali Bank with account No 719.

A few others enjoying such illegal facilities in enclaves are Mominur Rahman, national ID No 19847311228000029,

Abdul Alim, national ID No 19907311228000024, and Abdus Selim national ID No 19917311228000030, goes the complaint.

These people and several other illegal beneficiaries are also doing jobs in different places as Bangladeshi citizens for a long time, according to the written complaint.

Mokhtar Master, one of the complainants, alleged that those people falsely got listed as enclave inhabitants and managed to get 20 decimals of land each with khatian No 36 under Boro Khanki Gidaldoho enclave.

After the former enclaves merged with Bangladesh, the government undertook various development programmes like providing tin-roof houses, sanitary latrines, tube-wells, sewing machines, free electricity connection, spawn for fish cultivation, rice, pulses, financial support and construction of bridges, culverts, and roads.

During a recent visit by this correspondent, several genuine inhabitants of enclaves No 28 and 29, including Moklesar, Taifur Rahman, Sofura Begum, Aliar Rahman and Joinal Abedin told him that they were deprived of different government-sponsored facilities although many fake ones got it.

It was found that Nidu Molla, who got a high quality latrine as 'resident' of No 28 enclave, set it at his house at Paschim Kharibari village outside the enclave.

Nilphamari Deputy Commissioner Md Zakir Hossain said, "I have directed the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Dimla to investigate the allegations.

Contacted, UNO Rezaul Karim said investigation is on to take action as per law.



Ashmat Ali Mallik of Chakradip village under Kahalu upazila of Bogra sells palm tree fibre made products in Pirojpur town. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR



Chakma Raja Devashish Roy inaugurates Kathin Chibar Dan through opening the spinning wheel at the bain ghar (sewing room) of Rajban Bihar in Rangamati town yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

KATHIN CHIBAR DAN BEGINS

A festival to preserve Buddhist tradition

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Kathin Chibar (robe) Dan, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist people in Chitragong Hill Tracts (CHT), started yesterday at Rajban Bihar of the Chakma king in the town with great enthusiasm and festivity.

The hill districts are Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban, said the organisers.

They have already completed all preparations to hold the 43rd Kathin Chibar Dan festival this year.

Raja Debasish Roy, Chakma circle chief, inaugurated the two-day-long festival through opening the bain ghar (sewing room) and spinning wheel around 3:00pm at Rajban Bihar.

"Every year we hold this religious festival to preserve our tradition and customs. We follow this bain (sewing) amongst all over the Buddhist people in CHT," said Debasish Roy.

Bishakha, a nurse of Goutam Buddha, introduced the religious festival about 2500 years ago.

Since then the Buddhist community celebrate the Kathin Chibar Dan or the yellow robes offering ceremony every year.

Thousands of Buddhists devotes from three hill districts have already gathered in Rangamati and around the Rajban Bihar.

One of the organisers, Goutam Deawn, president of Upashok-Upashika Karjo Nirbahi Parishad, said the district administration have already taken tight security measures to hold the festival peacefully.

Md Rashid, officer-in-charge of Rangamati Kowtoali Police Station, said police personnel have already been deployed to avert any further trouble during the programme.

Palm tree fibre made product gets popular

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Different types of products made with the fibre of palm tree have gained popularity in the district.

Very attractive to look at, the products include handbags, small baskets, different types of caps and penholders.

Though the items are not produced in the district, they have become popular here. A man came from Bogra came to Pirojpur to sell them a few days ago for the first time.

"This is my first trip to Pirojpur," said 50-year-old seller Ashmat Ali Mallik of Chakradip village under Kahalu upazila of Bogra. He has been doing the business for the last 25 years.

"I as well as my family members make the items at home. After making enough, I go to different areas of the country to sell them," he said, adding that the items cost between Tk 30 and Tk 400, and he can earn up to Tk 2,500 per day.

"The products are very attractive, but they do not cost a lot," said Sayem, who bought a cap for Tk 40.

"These palm tree fibre products are new in our areas, so there is a great demand here," said Rezaul Islam, another customer in Pirojpur town.