

## Cold waves disrupt life in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Arrival of winter with heavy cold wave sweeping over the northern district for the last few days adds to the sufferings of poor people, especially those living in the slum and river basin areas, this year.

Besides, the cold wave accompanied by moderate wind is worsening the life of those living under the open sky.

According to Rangpur Met office, the mercury yesterday went down to 11.2 degree Celsius in Lalmonirhat and its adjoining areas while it was 10.9 degree Celsius the day before.

Cold hit Shamsunnahar Begum, 33, who returned empty handed from a blanket distribution programme in the town on Wednesday, said low income people are waiting for help from the government or non-government organisations as they cannot afford it from the market.

"My husband abandoned me and my two minor children months ago," Shamsunnahar said. "I do not know how I will save my babies from the biting cold as I do not have the ability to buy warm clothes from the market," she added.

Atiar Rahman, 48, a day labourer of Bowalmari village in Sadar upazila said like him many other labourers cannot go out early in the morning for work due to the cold.

Mogolhat union parishad (UP) Chairman Habibur Rahman said a number of cold bitten people living under the union are still crying for a blanket to save them from the cold.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Idris Ali said he had already sent a letter seeking allocation of warm cloths to the ministry concerned.



**Beds lie empty in the Divisional Railway Hospital at Saidpur as patients are reluctant to go there for treatment due to the lack of doctors and equipment for carrying out pathological tests.**

PHOTO: STAR

## Hospital on verge of closure

### Shortage of doctors, nurses and other employees at Divisional Railway Hospital in Saidpur

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Medical service in the Divisional Railway Hospital at Saidpur under West Zone of Bangladesh Railway is on the verge of closure due to shortage of doctors, nurses and other staff, and also unavailability of important equipment for diagnosing diseases.

The 82-bed hospital was established in 1885 on three acres of land to provide treatment to about 20,000 family members of officials and workers of Saidpur railway workshop. It used to be crowded with patients taking treatment in the indoor and outdoor facilities even a few years ago as it was regarded as a reputed place for treatment.

In a recent investigation by this correspondent, it was found that the lone post of Divisional Medical Officer (DMO), who is also head of the institution, has been vacant for a year. Assistant

Divisional Medical Officer (ADMO) Dr Shamim Ara of neighbouring Parbatipur Railway Hospital is working here on additional duty, but she comes only twice a week.

It was also found that only one doctor is posted here instead of the required six. He carries out indoor and outdoor duties and also does the daily administrative work.

There are only five nurses and one sister in charge, against 10 and two posts respectively.

In place of eight pharmacists there are only four, and there is no sanitary inspector. All the six posts of aya are vacant and only 26 cleaners are working against 52 posts. There is no storekeeper, lower division assistant or upper division assistant, creating a chaotic situation. There is only one night guard against four posts.

As the building for conducting various pathology tests was declared risky by the railway

engineering department a few years ago, no pathology test is done at the hospital, which compels patients to have all the important tests done in private diagnostic centres, which is very expensive.

The infrastructure of the hospital is also vulnerable as many doors and windows are broken and plaster from the ceiling sometimes falls on the floor.

Sources in the hospital said only five to six patients, on average, are admitted daily, and the rest of the seats remain vacant.

The lone doctor Dr Anisul Huque, who is serving on contract, admitted that patients are unlikely to come to the hospital as they do not get the desired service due to shortage of manpower, especially doctors and nurses, and lack of equipment to diagnose diseases.

Md Iftiaq Hossen, a wireman in the powerhouse of Saidpur railway

workshop, who admitted his son Arif to the hospital with various diseases, alleged that the treatment facilities in the hospital are not satisfactory.

General Secretary of Railway Workers' Union in Saidpur railway workshop Sheikh Robayetur Rahman said the then railway minister Suranji Sengupta, while visiting the workshop on January 22 in 2012, declared that the railway hospital would be turned into a medical college.

Implementation of the declaration is a far cry, on the contrary, the hospital is on the verge of closure, Robayetur added.

Acting ADMO Dr Shamim Ara said she had urged the higher authorities to solve the problems of the hospital and expected that the situation would improve very soon as the railway department has undertaken various plans to upgrade service in the hospital.

## Guard found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Police recovered the hanging body of a man from a tree at Manpasha Bazar in Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

The deceased, Harun Sardar, 45, son of Wazed Ali of Sabang village in the upazila, was a watchman of the bazar.

Sub-inspector Majibur Rahman of Sadar Police Station said locals spotted Harun's body hanging from a tree adjacent to bazar in the morning and informed the police.

Meanwhile, local shopkeepers observed a day long shutdown alleging that Majibur was killed and later his body was hung from the tree.

Mahe Alam, officer-in-charge of the police station, said after autopsy it will become clear whether it was suicide or a murder.

## Largest sugar mill in north region begins production

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon Sugar Mills, the largest sugar mill in the northern part of the country, started production for the fiscal 2016-17 yesterday.

Awami League Presidium Member Ramesh Chandra Sen, also the lawmaker from Thakurgaon-1 constituency, inaugurated the operation as the chief guest at a simple ceremony on the mill premises.

Engineer Enayet Hossain, managing director of the mill, said the production target was fixed at 7,975 tonnes of sugar by crushing 1,10,000 tonnes of cane and will continue for 75 days.

Enayet said the farmers have cultivated sugarcane in 6,172 acres of land this year against a target of 10,000 acres.

## Plea to get enrolled as FF

### Shafiar was a trainer of freedom fighters at a camp in Assam

Our Correspondent, Kurigram

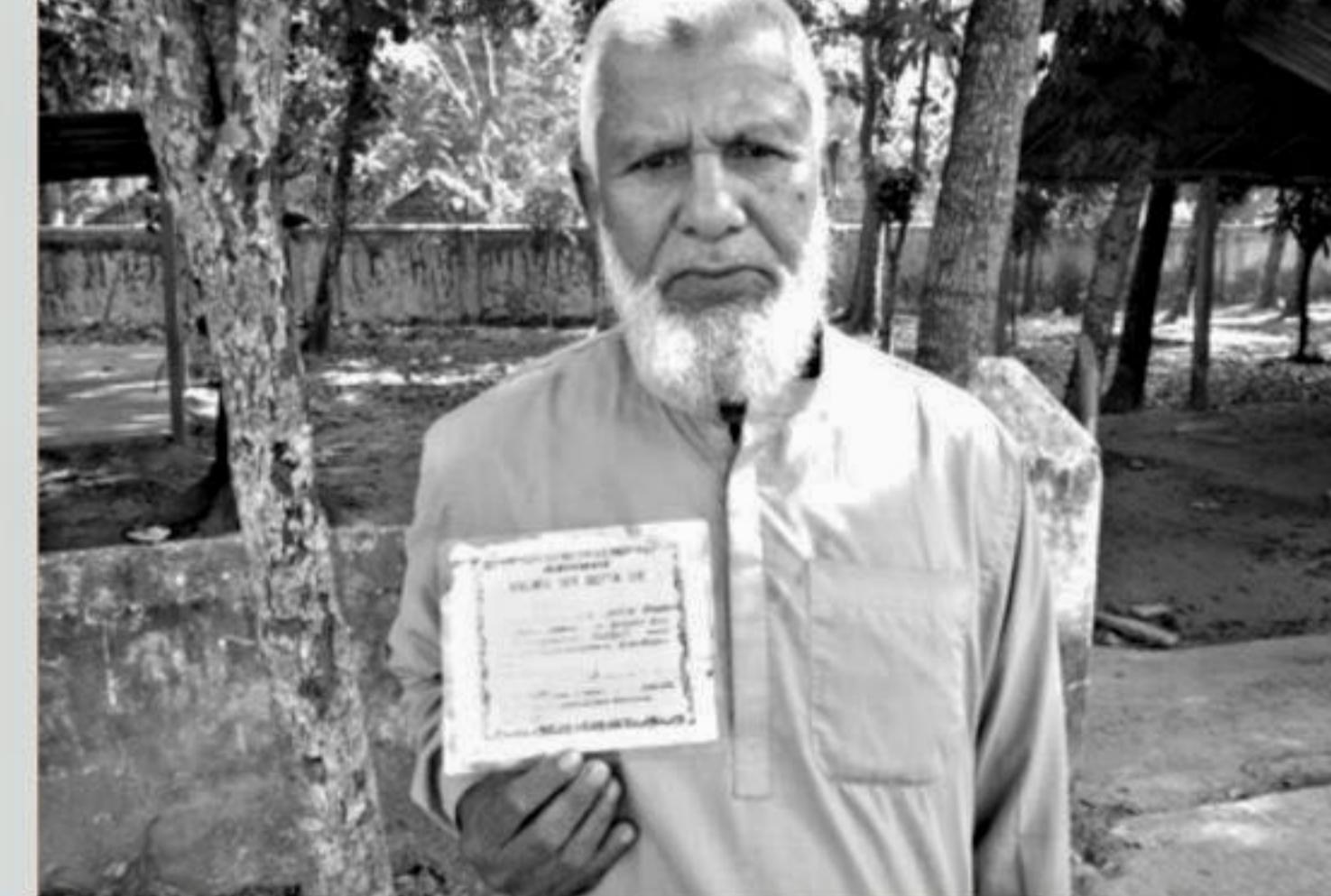
Shafiar Rahman, 64, a retired lashkar (sailor) of Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB), was an assistant trainer of newly-joined freedom fighters in Jhaukuthi Training Camp of Aulipurduar Police Station in Assam state of India during the Liberation War of 1971.

He is a son of late Shafar Uddin Sarkar of Maratari village in Ghogadaha union under Kurigram Sadar upazila.

Shafiar joined WDB as lashkar in 1975 and retired in June of 2010. He has been paralysed for about four years and lives in his home at Maratari village.

The government gave a scope to the freedom fighters of being enlisted through online in 2014, but he could not enlist himself due to illness.

Shafiar said, "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman came to Jatrapur union under Kurigram Sadar upazila before the



**Freedom fighter Shafiar Rahman shows his certificate.**

PHOTO: STAR

sticks). I never participated in any fighting against the Pakistani army or their associate forces," said Shafiar.

"I received the certificate signed by Shamsul Haque on December 21, 1971. As I was poor and educated up to class eight, I joined WDB in 1975. I did not know about the benefits for freedom fighters," said Shafiar.

"I could not enlist myself through online due to my illness. I have submitted a prayer to the Jatiya Muktijoddha Council to be listed as a freedom fighter," he added.

Upazila Commander of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, Kurigram Sadar upazila Command, Abdul Baten Sarker said, "Shafiar is a freedom fighter as he has a certificate that he received primary training from Bangladesh Youth Reception Camp in Jhaukuthi. We will take steps on the matter after we get an office order."

## JMB MAN SURRENDERS IN KUSHTIA

### Promises to return to normal life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An alleged operative of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) surrendered to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Kushtia yesterday, promising to return to normal life.

The militant is Salauddin Ahmed alias Sujan, 34, son of Abdul Halim Mollah of Poba upazila of Rajshahi, said Rab officials.

According to Rab sources, Salauddin was a second tier leader of the banned militant outfit.

He surrendered before the elite force members at an event held at Rab-12 office in Kushtia. Rab officials handed him a cheque of Tk 5 lakh for his rehabilitation to normal life.

At a press conference held at the Kushtia Rab office, Rab-12 Commanding Officer Sahabuddin Khan

said Sujan chose to surrender in a bid to return to normal life.

Rab officials could not say for how long he was involved in militancy. They said they were working on the matter.

On October 5, two JMB operatives -- Abdul

Hakim of Shahjahanpur of Bogra and Mahmud Hasan alias Bijoy of Shaghata of Gaibandha -- surrendered to Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and high officials of Rab in Bogra.

Hakim was a close associate of Khairul Islam alias Payel, one of the slain Gulshan cafe attackers.

Three more JMB operatives surrendered to the home boss in Rangpur on November 23. They are Hafiz Masud Rana, 18, Hafiz Rahman, 16, and Akhtarlal alias Akteruzzaman, 18, all madrasa students from Dinajpur's Ghoraghata upazila.

The government handed them a cheque of Tk 5 lakh each for their rehabilitation.

## UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following post of Health Section. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website and use the following link to apply for the post:

<https://www.unicef.org/about/employ/?job=501942>

### Programme Assistant(Temporary Appointment)-GS6

Last date of receiving applications: **29 December 2016**

Please note that no applications by email or post will be received. You must get logged-in yourself and create your profile with UNICEF global website and register for application.

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## Elephants kill 2 in Cox's Bazar

*The wild animals also damage paddy fields at night*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two people were killed by a wild elephant in Pekua upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Sayed Nur, 55, son of Moniruzzaman of Shapergara area in Shilkali union, and Mohammad Alamgir, 34, son of Chand Mia and son-in-law of Moniruzzaman.

Locals said Moniruzzaman and Alamgir cultivated aman paddy in remote mountainous areas every year. They guarded the crops at night during the harvesting season.

A herd of wild elephants entered the area at dawn yesterday and damaged the crops and killed the two men, locals said.

Assistant Sub-Inspector of Pekua Police Station Nasir Uddin said the bodies were handed over to the families. An unnatural death case was filed.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Pekua Joynal Abedin said he visited the families of the deceased and gave Tk 5,000 to each family on behalf of the administration. He has submitted a written letter to the deputy commissioner for further financial assistance, he added.

## BSF picks up one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Indian border guards picked up a farmer while he was irrigating his tobacco field near Bonchowki border in Hatibandha upazila of the district yesterday.

The Bangladeshi farmer was identified as Maminul Islam, 25, son of Usuf Ali of the village.

The incident occurred when members of the Border Security Force (BSF) of Dhumerkhata camp under 100 BSF Battalion at Sitai Police Station in Cooch Behar of India were patrolling.

Local people said BSF picked up Maminul while he was irrigating the tobacco field near the no-man's land around 9:30am. Many others, however, said Maminul is involved with cattle smuggling and he was caught when he was crossing the border for bringing Indian cattle.

"We live in border area but I and my son were never involved with smuggling," said Maminul's father Usuf Ali. "We don't know how is my son in the BSF camp and we fear as BSF tortures Bangladeshis there brutally," he said, adding that they informed the matter to BGB men at Bonchowki camp.

Commander of BGB 15 Battalion's Bonchowki BOP camp Shamsul Islam said he has nothing to say in this regard and their commanding officer will say about it to media.

Commanding Officer (CO) of Lalmonirhat BGB 15 Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Bazlur Rahman Hayati didn't answer the phone despite repeated attempts yesterday due to reasons unknown.

## সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

লিঙ্গাল ম্যাটার্স ডিভিশন

প্রধান কার্যালয়

সানমুন স্টার টাওয়ার

৩৭, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর আইন

উপদেষ্টা পদের জন্য নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর আইন উপদেষ্টা পদের জন্য আবেদনকারীকে হাইকোর্টে মুন্ডতম ১২

বছরের মালা পরিচালনার অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পর্ক এতেকোনও হাইকোর্টে মুন্ডতম

১২ বছরের মধ্যে যারা পুনরাবৃত্ত করে আবেদন করে আইনের অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়ে থাকে।

(ক) প্রাইভেটের উপদেষ্টা পদের জন্য আবেদনকারীকে হাইকোর্টে মুন্ডতম ১২

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