

## Students protest extra fee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Students in Birganj upazila of the district formed an hour-long human chain at Jharbari area in protest against charging of additional money for HSC registration under Dinaipur Education Board.

They said Dinaipur Education Board fixed Tk 2,275 for each student for filing their HSC registration, but the authorities of Jharbari College allegedly took Tk 3,200 from each student.

The agitating students threatened tougher agitation if their problem was not solved immediately. Earlier, the students brought out a protest procession which paraded different roads in the area. Chairman of Dinaipur Education Board Ahmed Ali warned of tough action if extra money is realised from the students.

This correspondent tried to reach the principal of the college Md Anwar Hossain for his comments about the allegation, but his phone was switched off.

## Bullet-hit body found

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The bullet-hit body of a man was found beside KB Brick Kiln at Laxmipur village in Faridpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Shahadat Sheikh, 35, son of Abdul Malek of Rahimpur village in the upazila.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body around 6:30am and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Office-in-Charge of Faridpur Sadar Police Station Najim Uddin.

## Attack on journos protested

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Newsmen at a human chain in the district town yesterday protested assault on photo-journalist Nirob Chowdhury of daily Prothom Alo by the mayor of Khagrachhari municipality.

They organised the programme in front of the deputy commissioner's office in the town.

Being informed, Nirob went to take picture of illegal sand lifting from the bank of the Chengi river in Khagrachhari on December 18, said witnesses.

At that time, a group of local youths resisted Nirob, picked up him from the spot and took him to the municipality office. Mayor of the municipality Rafiqul Alam later beat the journalist bringing extortion charge against him.

Maksud Ahmed, editor of Dainik Giri Darpan, and Shakhwat Hossain Rubel, president of Rangamati Press Club, took part in the programme.

## War hero but not in list

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Rabiul Islam, locally known as Borno Mia, who fought against the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators during the Liberation War in 1971, is yet to be enlisted as a freedom fighter even after 45 years of the country's independence.

During a visit to his home, this correspondent found the 70-year-old man from Gazipur village under Benapole Police Station suffering from various old-age complications and lying on his bed without any treatment.

Borno said responding to the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman he joined the freedom fighters and took training at Chapabaria MuktiFouj Training Camp in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal in India in 1971.

After completing his training, Borno along with local youths Irfan, Yusuf, Batul and Sattar joined the other freedom fighters in Jhikargachha upazila and fought against the Pakistan army in different

areas of Jessore under the leadership of Sector Commander Major Ziaur Rahman.

After the country was liberated, Borno failed to submit his certificate issued by the commander bearing serial number 1773 to the proper place and remained unrecognised till today.

As a result, the brave fighter was denied the facilities of a freedom fighter, which pushed him and his family into an absolute despair.

Now he has no work as he cannot evengo out of his house. Shah Alam, commander of Bangladesh MuktiJoddha Sangsad's Benapole municipal unit, said he had issued a

certificate stating Borno's role in 1971 but unfortunately he failed to submit the certificate through proper channel, which led him to the untold sufferings.

Borno said only Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina could pull him out of the disaster, adding that he expects the Awami League government to take necessary steps to enlist him as a freedom fighter before his death.



These two children, like many others in Kalmati village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, work in a bidi factory instead of going to school as their earning helps their hard-pressed families to survive.

PHOTO: STAR

# Poverty drives kids to bidi factory in Lalmonirhat

Parents prefer earning to arranging schooling for children

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Sumi Akhter, 10, read up to Class II, but she could not continue going to school as her parents put her to work in a bidi factory at Kalmati village in Sadar upazila of the district.

Like Sumi, her cousin Lavlu Islam, 7, was admitted in Class I, but he was engaged in the same work by his parents instead of going to school.

"I want to go to school, but my parents put me to work to earn for the family," said Sumi Akhter. "I can make 2,500 to 3,000 bidi sticks every day, and I get Tk 10 for mak-

ing 1,000 bidi sticks," she added.

"I was admitted in Class I, but dropped out after six months as my parents engaged me in a bidi factory," said Lavlu Islam. "I can make 2,000 to 2,500 bidi sticks every day," he said. "I want to go to school, but my parents are not interested," he added.

Sumi's father Fazlu Miah, 42, said, "We are poor, so our children help us to alleviate poverty by working," adding that many children of the village work in bidi factories.

"It is not possible for our children to go to school as we have no

ability to pay for their education, so we want them to get training on job," said Sumi's mother Meherbanu Akhter, adding that she also worked in a bidi factory.

Lavlu's mother Ahila Begum, 32, said, "Our poverty is the main reason for putting our children to work instead of sending them to the school."

Azizul Islam, 48, a bidi factory worker in the village, said many children of 20 villages in five unions -- Harati, Khuniyagachh, Sarpukur, Saptibari and Bhotmari - under the district are engaged in bidi factories.

Ashraf Ali, manager of a bidi factory in Saptibari village of Aditmari upazila, said they do not hire children, but the guardians send their children to work in the factories.

Fatema Begum, 35, a primary schoolteacher at Sarpukur village, said, "Some children from ultra poor families take admission in the school, but many of them drop out very soon."

District Primary Education Officer Nabaz Uddin Sarker said the teachers in the villages are trying their best to convince the guardians to send their children to school.

## Girl murdered after rape

A CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A seven-year-old girl was murdered after rape at Kachhait village in Sadar upazila of the district.

Police recovered the body of the minor girl from a field on Wednesday morning.

The deceased, Tofa Moni, daughter of Maulana Shafiqul Islam of the village, was also a Class I student at a local primary school.

Quoting deceased's family members, Sub-inspector Narayan Das of Sadar Model Police Station said Tofa went out of her house on Tuesday evening to attend a Tafsir Mahfil in the area.

As she did not return home till late night, family members and neighbours searched for her everywhere but failed to know her whereabouts, the SI added.

Later, villagers spotted Tofa's body lying in the field and informed the police, who recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

SI Narayan said primary evidence shows that the girl might have been raped before being murdered.

### PHULBARIA KILLING CASE

## Cop asked to submit report by Feb 16

Court orders ASP to probe the case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Mymensingh court yesterday asked the Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) to investigate the case in connection with the killing of two people during the Phulbaria Degree College agitation for its nationalisation on November 27.

The order was given following filing of a case with the Cognisance Court-2 of Senior Judicial Magistrate on Wednesday against the Phulbaria ruling Awami League lawmaker and six others in this regard, court sources said.

The court also asked the ASP to submit the report by February 16, 2017, they added.

Apart from lawmaker advocate Muslem Uddin, the other accused in the case are his son advocate

Emdadul Haque Selim, information and research affairs secretary of Phulbaria upazila unit of AL, Phulbaria Degree College Principal Nasir Uddin Khan and Vice-principal Amzad Hossain, Officer-in-Charge of Phulbaria Police Station Rifat Khan Rajib, Sub-inspector Rafiqul Islam and Assistant Sub-inspector Ratan, court sources said.

SM Abul Hashem, a senior teacher of the college, lodged the case with the court against the seven people, including lawmaker Muslem, who is also president of Phulbaria Degree College governing body.

On November 27, a clash between the protesters and police broke out as police swooped on the demonstration by teachers, students and staff of the college.



Anwarul Islam, who lost his two legs in an accident at the shipyard in Chittagong seaport in 2004, drives battery-run rickshaw on Bogra town's streets to feed his five-member family, setting an example for those who engage in begging in such a situation.

PHOTO: MAMUN-UR-RASHID

## Woman killed by ex-husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her former husband in Mathbaria upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased was Rabeya Begum, 32, daughter of Abdul Halim Mridha of Baro Shinga village in the upazila.

Police and family sources said Rabeya and Sagar Sardar Mintu of Munshiganj started living in Dhaka since their marriage seven years ago. As Sagar is a drug addict, the couple often engaged in altercations over the issue.

Six months ago, Rabeya returned to Mathbaria from Dhaka after divorcing Sagar.

A month after the incident, Sagar went to Rabeya's house and cut himself with a sharp blade as she refused to go with him.

Around 1:00pm yesterday, Rabeya went out to respond to a natural call. At that time, Sagar, who was waiting outside, stabbed her mercilessly, leaving her dead on the spot. She was rushed to the upazila health complex where on-duty doctor declared her dead.

Later, locals caught Sagar red handed and handed him over to police.

A murder case was filed, accusing Sagar in this connection, said Khandakar Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Mathbaria Police Station.



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Memo No. APSCL/Pro-02/2016/1754

Date : December 22, 2016

### "e-Tender Notice"

e-Tenders are invited through e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. (APSCL), Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria as stated below :

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Works	Tender Publishing Date & Time at e-GP portal	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	Tender ID: 78235	Construction of RCC irrigation Channel in 450MW CCPP (North) and 450MW CCPP (South) project area of APSCL.	December 20, 2016 17.15 BST	January 23, 2017 15.00 BST
2.	Tender ID: 79508	Road Construction work around APSCL's Sub-Station Area.	December 20, 2016 18.35 BST	January 10, 2017 15.00 BST
3.	Tender ID: 79509	Supplying, fitting & fixing of window, painting and other repairing works at all flats of Korotoa-1 to Korotoa-5 nos. buildings of APSCL.	December 20, 2016 18.30 BST	January 09, 2017 15.00 BST

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@procure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)).

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