



Students of Shaheed Altaf Memorial Girls' High School in Barisal city attend a class under the open sky as the schoolhouse has turned too risky. Right, the dilapidated building of Dakkhin Sublat Government Primary School in Jhenidah's Shalikha upazila is still used for classes, posing risk for students and teachers.



PHOTO: STAR

Students at risk in classrooms

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A government primary school in Shalikha upazila of Magura and the primary section of a girls' school in Barisal City Corporation area are on the verge of collapse due to lack of proper maintenance.

Dakkhin Sublat Government Primary School in Shalikha was established in 1953 on 52 decimals of land as a private institution. It was made a government school in 1995 and a new building was built. There are 143 students in the school.

Due to use of substandard materials in construction, it has lost its longevity and may collapse any time, the teachers alleged.

Headmaster Meghnad Biswas said the institution was declared abandoned by the upazila administration in February, 2016. "Now we are taking classes in a tin-shed. It will be quite impossible to hold classes in

the rainy season," he added.

Abdur Rahman of Class V said the students do not feel comfortable attending classes in the tin-shed.

Sumayia Khatun of Class IV said, "We are always afraid in the classroom. In the coming rainy season we will not be able to attend classes in the makeshift shed."

Guardian Daliluddin of Sublat village said the government should take immediate steps to make a new building soon.

Shalikha upazila Primary Education Officer Arun Chandra Dhali said they had sent several letters to the authorities concerned for construction of 17 schools but only six received funds for new buildings, adding that he is trying his best to get allocation for this school.

Some classes of Shaheed Altaf Memorial Secondary Girls' School in

Barisal City Corporation area are being held under the open sky as the school building has become risky. There are 350 students.

The school was established in 1962 in memory of Shaheed Altafuddin, a zamindar of Agorpur village under Babuganj upazila of the district.

Headmaster Nurul Islam said, "Ranada Prasad Saha, a renowned social worker, visited this area from Tangail and donated Tk 35,000 for building a school in memory of Shaheed Altafuddin."

The present school building was built in 1995, but it has become dilapidated as poor quality materials were used to build it, he said, adding that classes III and IV are being held under the open sky.

The headmaster said they wrote to the Education Engineering Department on

several occasions during the last five years to build a new schoolhouse, but to no effect.

Assistant teacher Anowar Hossain said plaster falls from the ceiling in many places and water enters the building during the rainy season. They are facing many problems, including classroom shortage, as the lone building has become unfit for use, he added.

Mohammad Mahin, a student of Class V, said they are always in fear as the condition of the building is very bad.

Mojibul Haque Swapan, a guardian, said they are afraid that the building might collapse anytime. They have called upon the authorities concerned to take immediate measures in this regard.

Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department Md Jahangir Alam said, "We are preparing a proposal for a new building."

Dowry victim schoolgirl fighting for life

KONGKON KARMAKER, from Dinajpur

Brutal torture by dowry-greedy in-laws has turned the life of a bright schoolgirl hell.

The victim, Habiba Khatun, 16, daughter of Hafizur Rahman of Dakkhin Kalitola in Naogaon municipality, is now battling for her life at the bed of Naogaon General Hospital.

She secured GPA-5 in her PSC and JSC and was to attend SSC examinations from PM Girls' High School in Naogaon as a science group candidate this year, but could not, said the father.

Now the girl can hardly move even on the bed. Family members feed her through nose with a pipe.

Family members said HSC student Tamvi Hasan Ovi, son of Shamsuzzoha Khan of Dakkhin Kalitola, developed an affair with the girl who eloped and married the boy on August 23 last year.

"Then my daughter lived in her in-laws' house but shortly afterwards, her parents-in-law started torturing her demanding Tk 2 lakh as dowry. But I live by working as a home tutor and could not arrange the money," said the father.

Later on November 30 last year, Habiba's parents were informed that she tried to commit suicide. They tried to meet their daughter that day, but the in-laws did not allow them.

After six days, Habiba's parents found her at the house of a relative of her husband in Rajshahi. "We



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Critically injured Habiba Khatun at Naogaon General Hospital.

admitted her to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) where she stayed in life support for 16 days," said the father.

"Habiba also received treatment at the burn unit of RMCH. She had severe head injuries and two of her teeth were lost due to brutal torture at her in-laws' house.

"We took her home in Naogaon from RMCH. But she was admitted to Naogaon General Hospital on February 24 as her condition was deteriorating.

"Dr Arshad Hossain of the hospital said my daughter needs to be taken to Dhaka immediately for proper treatment," said Habiba's father.

"The girl's father filed a case

with Naogaon Sadar Police Station on February 6 accusing Ovi and his parents. Police have already arrested Ovi and his father and trying to arrest Ovi's mother who has gone into hiding," said Md Tariqul Islam, officer in charge of Naogaon Sadar Police Station.

"The dowry-greedy in-laws have destroyed the life of my underage daughter," said Safura Begum, mother of the victim girl, who is second among three siblings.

Marriage registrar Rafiqul Islam who administered the marriage of Habiba and Ovi, claimed that the bride and groom were adult as per the birth certificates he got from them.

ACC launches

FROM PAGE 16

AKM Zayed Hossain Khan.

"We'll conduct an inquiry. If the allegations are proved primarily, we will file a FIR [first information report]," he added.

Police have so far checked his over 10,000 phone calls, which were made in the last six months, and got important information related to Liton murder, reports our Gaibandha correspondent, quoting Atiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sundarganj Police Station.

Kader used his men to vandalise idols of three temples. Notes were left there, claiming responsibility by "Neo JMB". In the notes, priests of the temples were threatened. Those were done just to show the areas as JMB-prone, said Ashrafuzzaman, O.C. (investigation) of Sundarganj Police Station.

Kader Khan made the confession during interrog-

ation, the police official said.

Meanwhile, ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmud yesterday warned that if anyone working in the ongoing nine projects of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), is found guilty of corruption, they would be brought to book.

He said this in a meeting with Hamid Sharif, AIIB's director of compliance, effectiveness and integrity unit, at the ACC's headquarters.

Hamid Sharif held the meeting with the ACC's chairman to ensure transparency and accountability of the ongoing \$26.29 million projects of Bangladesh Power Development Board, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, and Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd.

Urging the authorities concerned to be cautious, the ACC chief said there was

a scope for corruption at every stage of tender.

Take proper care

FROM PAGE 2

state government were present.

Many patients from Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan come to Kolkata for treatment. So, "excess of anything" would not be tolerated, she warned.

The chief minister said patients could not be fleeced in the name of hospital business.

She expressed anger over the allegation that a number of private hospitals were treating patients carelessly and charging them extra.

The Seven Sister States are the neighboring states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura in northeastern India.

During interrogation, the arrested told police that the foreigner was killed to create instability in the country and tarnish Bangladesh's image abroad, added Rathish.

Unidentified assailants shot dead Kunio Hoshi at Alutari village on October 3, 2015 when he was on his way to his grass farm by a rickshaw. He had been staying at a rented house in Munshipara of Rangpur city.

Two other accused -- Nazrul Islam alias Bike Nazrul of Panchagarh and Saddam Hossain of Kurigram -- were killed in "gunfights" with law enforcers on August 1 last year and January 5 this year in Rajshahi and Dhaka.

However, another accused Ansar Ullah Ansari has been absconding.

Betel leaf falling off trees

Khasi farmers worried

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Betel leaf growers in the district are facing losses as the leaves dropped from the trees due to intense cold and heavy fog this season.

"I have to face huge losses due to dropping of the betel leaves," said Donbosco Khonglah, a betel leaf farmer of Meghatila punjee under Kulaura upazila of the district.

Not only Donbosco, but most of the Khasi growers are also in the same situation.

During this correspondent's recent visit to betel leaf plantations in Meghatila punjee in Kulaura upazila, farmers said about 10,000 betel cultivators in Kamalganj, Kulaura, Sreemangal, Rajnagar, Juri and Barlekha upazilas left cultivation in recent years due to the uncertainty caused by the weather.

Mithilda Bareh, a betel leaf farmer of No 7 punjee in Barlekha upazila, said betel-leaf production in punjee areas under Sylhet region faces setback because of the cold spells. As such, farmers are always worried about getting back their investment.

Assistant Prof Monirul Islam of the Department of Plant Pathology and Seed Science at Sylhet Agriculture University said betel leaf farming is more profitable than many other crops if it is grown properly.

Betel leaf grown in the district has tremendous demand at home and abroad for its quality and flavour, and the demand is increasing day by day, he added.

Deputy Director Department of Agriculture Extension Mohammad Shahjahan said, "The betel leaf is locally known as 'Khasi paan' and is very much in demand in the Sylhet region. The leaves can grow properly if the weather is dry with sufficient sunlight and flow of air. We did not set a target for Khasi betel leaf in the area as very few growers are cultivating it this season."



'Arrest killers of AL leader'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Speakers at a rally in Bhuapur upazila yesterday demanded immediate arrest and capital punishment of the killers of former upazila Awami League Organising Secretary Rakibul Islam Farid.

AL leaders Abdul Halim, Amirul Islam Bidyut, and Abdur Razzak spoke at the rally.

Farid's slit-throat body was found in a pond at Bharoi Madhyapara village on December 6.

Police then arrested four people-- Mainul

Hasan Masud, Shawkat Hossain Saikat, Mokbul Hossain Tarafder and Nasir Uddin Rana--from different areas in the upazila in connection with the killing.

The arrestees confessed before the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Rupon Kumar Das that they killed Farid, said Ashok Kumar Sinha, officer-in-charge of Detective Branch of Police in Tangail.

They also disclosed names of several local AL leaders who planned and financed the murder, said the OC, also investigation officer of the case.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার		
শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়		
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তারিখ ও সময়	স্থান ও ফি	কোর্স সম্বয়কারী
১. সু-শাসন বাস্তবায়নে করীরী ৪ জাতীয় উদ্বাচার কোশল, অভিযোগ প্রতিকার ব্যবস্থা, তথ্য অধিকার, বার্ষিক কর্মসম্পাদন চুক্তি ও প্রাবল্যক সার্ভিস ইন্ডেক্সেন	বিআইএম ঢাকা মার্চ ০৩ - ০৪ ০৯:০০-১৭:০০ (ভার্ট ও ট্যাক্স ব্যাচিত)	মামুন মুজতাবা ৬,০০০/- ই-মেইল : mamunmuztaba.bim@gmail.com
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