

BCL factions clash in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least five Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men were injured in a clash between two factions of the party in Galachipa upazila on Wednesday.

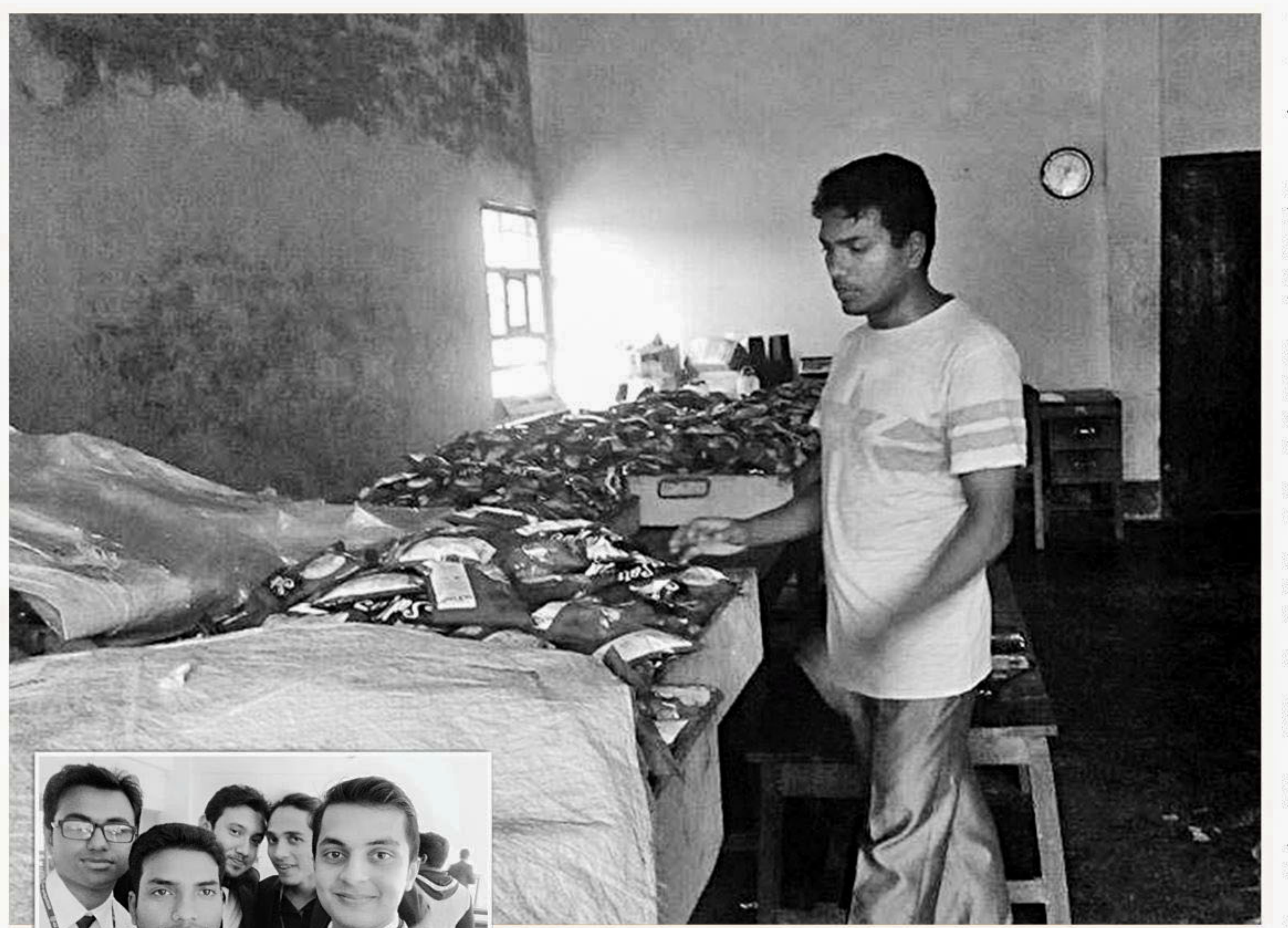
Of the injured, Shakil, 17, Suvonkar, 18 and Nayeem, 17, were sent to Barisal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

The clash took place between the men of Sabbir and Shakil, members of convening committee of the upazila unit of BCL, over establishing supremacy in the area.

Around 8:30pm, 10 to 12 supporters of Shakil equipped with sharp weapons attacked Sabbir group, triggering a clash, said locals.

Upazila BCL Convener Md Farid Ahsan said organisational action will be taken against those responsible for the clash after investigation.

Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Galachipa Police Station, said Naima Akhter, sister of injured Shakil, filed a case, accusing six people in this connection.



Limon Hossain works as a part timer at Gonoshasthaya Food Factory in Savar, alongside his honours study in law at Gono Bishwabidyalay. Inset, Limon with his university friends.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Limon's dream on way to come true

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Defying odds, Limon Hossain has continued his study as a law student of Gono Bishwabidyalay in Savar as the youth, himself a victim of 'mistaken' shooting by law enforcers, dreams to work for establishing human rights in future.

"I don't have to pay tuition fees to the university as it has offered me free education with residential facilities. I have also got some help from an organisation for my food cost at the university dormitory," said Limon, now a sixth semester student of the Department of Law of the university.

But Limon works three hours at Gonoshasthaya Food Factory in Savar for Tk 100 a day as he has to manage other costs including that for purchasing books.

"The work is a bit tough as I have to stand for long in hot atmosphere of the factory. It causes pain in my legs. But I have to endure the trouble for managing other expenses," he added.

Still Limon is thankful to the factory authorities for giving him the job.

"I want to go to abroad for higher study on law after completing my post graduation degree," said a confident Limon, expressing gratitude to the Gono Bishwabidyalay authorities.

"Limon has overcome his challenge through his extra ordinary effort. He is very broadminded and helpful to us," said Md Abu Kaiser, a classmate of Limon.

"Limon is very regular with his classes and studies. He is very polite and gentle," said Md Rafiqul Alam, chairman of the Department of Law at Gono Bishwabidyalay.

On March 23 in 2011, Limon was shot in the left leg by law enforcers while he was bringing cattle home at Satura in Rajapur under Jhalakathi.

On March 27, his leg was amputated from the thigh due to tissue damage caused by excessive bleeding and delay in treatment.

Man gets life for raping son's wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A Natore court yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment in connection with a case filed for raping his daughter-in-law in 2007.

The lifer is Jamal Hossain, son of Akbar Ali of Narayanpur village in Lalpur upazila of the district.

Natore District and Sessions Judge Rezaul Karim also fined the convict Tk 50,000.

According to the case statement, Jamal raped his son's wife when none of the family members were present at home on May 21 in 2007.

Hearing screams of the victim, neighbours went to the spot and rescued the victim.

They also caught Jamal while he was trying to flee the spot and handed him over to the police.

Sheltered at PS, missing boy returns to family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A twelve-year-old missing boy, who was sheltered at Bogra Sadar Police Station for 18 days, returned to his parents on Wednesday.

The boy, Manik Rana had gone missing from Rangpur Railway Station on February 17.

"After meeting my grandfather and other family members I want to come here again as the people here love me like their son," said Manik Rana, who became overwhelmed by the benevolence and caring of the policemen of Sadar Police Station.

Rana, son of van-puller Mohammad Fazlu and Monika Khatun of Rangpur Sadar upazila, and a Class III student at Mohabbat Kha Government Primary School, is the eldest among the three kids of the couple.

Rana said while returning from his maternal uncle's house on February 17, he boarded a train at Rangpur Railway Station out of curiosity when the train started moving suddenly.

Finding no alternative, he stayed in the train and got down at Bogra Station with other passengers the same night, Rana said.

Later, seeing him roving in the station area, two students rescued him and took him to Sadar Police Station where he had been staying since then, he added.

Monika Khatun said after getting the information of her missing son from an NGO they came to Bogra to take him home but the kid did not want to leave the station for the love and care he received from the policemen.

Emdad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said when none came to extend their helping hand he decided to stand by the poor kid and kept him at his office and ordered fellow policemen to look after the boy.

Swarnamoti Bridge opens to traffic in May

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Construction work of a bridge over the Swarnamoti river on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway in the district is going on quickly as the bridge will be opened for traffic in May this year, said Lalmonirhat Roads and Highways Department Executive Engineer Sajedur Rahman.

Earlier its construction work was at slow progress till middle of January, so it was very frustrating for the transport owners, workers, pedestrians and local people.

After a report in The Daily Star on January 17, RHD authorities took prompt steps to build it quickly, sources at the construction firm said.

Tk 18.17cr grant for Tagore's Kuthibari

Deal with India signed at Shilaidaha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Indian government has donated Tk 18.17 crore for the development work of poet Rabindranath Tagore's historic Kuthibari in the district.

Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Harsh Vardhan Shringla and senior Secretary of Economic Relations Division in Bangladesh Kazi Shafiqul Alam signed a deal involving the grant at Shilaidaha Kuthibari yesterday.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor was present during the signing ceremony.

During his visit to Kuthibari in 2013, Indian President Pranab Mukherjee announced the fund allocation.

Under the fund, a complex of a magnificent design will be built at the Kuthibari premises.

Noted architect Robiul Husain has prepared the design of the complex to be built on six acres of land in front of the historic mansion.

The complex will have a spectacular theatre of Greek pattern, an amphitheatre, an impressive two-storey cafeteria, a library-cum-documentation centre, a two-storey ultra-modern guesthouse and a security shed.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina unveiled the plaque for construction of the building during Modi's visit to Dhaka.

Boy 'rapes' schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A 13-year-old schoolgirl was raped allegedly by a teenage boy in Kalihati upazila of the district.

The victim's mother filed a case with Kalihati Police Station on Wednesday night.

The fourth grader was sent to Tangail General Hospital yesterday for medical test, said Sub-Inspector Mohammad Nasir Uddin, investigation officer of the case.

According to the case statement, when the girl was going to join a waz mahfil in the area on Tuesday night, Rabbi, 18, son of Jinnat Ali of Pungli Moyapara village picked her up and took her to a lonely place. Helateraped her.

Hearing her screams, locals rushed to the spot and rescued the girl. However, the culprit managed to flee the scene.

College girl commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A college girl allegedly committed suicide in Tabalchhari area under Matiranga upazila of the district Wednesday.

The deceased, Arifa Begum, 19, was a first year student of Green Hill Degree College in the upazila.

Officer-in-Charge Shahadat Hossain Tito of Matiranga Police Station said Local people found the body of Arifa hanging from a tree near her house in the morning and informed the police, who recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Bad days for Tangail shawl

Demand for the item drops due to mild winter for two seasons

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Shawl makers and traders in the district have been passing bad days as demand as well as price of the item dropped due to mild winter for the last two seasons.

Around 150 families at Abadpur village in Delduar upazila and Bathulee, Habla, Tenguriapara and Adabari villages in Basail upazila, who have been earning their livelihood by producing shawls for many years, are the worst affected.

The varieties of clourful shawls (mostly for ladies) produced in the two upazilas include du suti, pair, monipuri, bhashabuti, jori, kirkiri, noyon tara and bohurupi, and their prices range from Tk 300 to Tk 1,000 per piece, workers said.

Shawl is produced on handlooms and the weaving process is similar to that of sari, they said, adding that the period from October to February is the peak season for producing the items while the rest of the year generally sees dull business.

Local handloom owners said they produce the item as per order of the wholesalers. The wholesalers also give designs and colourful yarns to them for making shawls, they added.

Handloom owner Abdus Salam of Abadpur village said he can produce 150 to 200 shawls on his eight handlooms in a week and get Tk 30 to Tk 50 for each shawl. "I can earn Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 per month during the peak period," he added.

Weaver Abdul Alim of the same village said he can make six to seven shawls a day and get Tk 40 to Tk 60 for each item. "I can earn Tk 7,000 to Tk 8,000 a month during the peak season," he added.

Shahar Ali, a wholesaler at the village, said demand for locally produced shawls dropped in the last two seasons as it was less cold in the winter. "I was forced to sell shawls at low prices. The wholesale price of a shawl came down to Tk 250 to Tk 300 from Tk 400 and Tk 300 to Tk 350 from Tk 500. About 1,000 shawls are lying unsold at my house," he added.

Expressing frustration, Abul Kasem, another wholesaler, said he will have to leave the business if a similar situation arises in the next one or two years.

Trader Dulal Miah of Karatia said he buys shawls from local wholesalers and sell them at the weekly Karatia market. "Normally, buyers from many places of the country, including Dhaka, start coming to the traditional market to buy shawls about four months before the winter season," he added.



A worker weaving a shawl on a handloom in Abadpur village of Tangail. Inset, wholesaler Shahar Ali of Abadpur shows some of his unsold shawls.

PHOTO: STAR



A woman collects drinking water from the supply line of a solar pump beside her house at Purbo Bejgram village of Tangbhanga union in Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila. Right, the solar power run pump meant for supplying pure water for the villagers.

PHOTO: STAR

Solar pump reaches water to poor Lalmonirhat villagers

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

One hundred and sixty five people of 28 families in Purbo Bejgram village under Hatibandha upazila of the district have been getting pure water since a solar-powered water pump was installed in January 2016.

Before installation of the pump, which cost Tk 4.9 lakh, they had to collect water for drinking from nearby villages, villagers said.

Anjoli Rani Singh, 46, wife of Shyamol Chandra Singh of the village, said, "We had trouble in getting pure water, but the problem was solved when the solar system water pump was installed by the union parishad. We are getting water in our homes through a pipe connected to the pump."

"We get water from the solar system pump from morning to afternoon every day," said Sabitri Rani, 35, of the village. "At night, we use stocked water and water from a tube-well," she added.

Hridoy Chandra Singh, a college student, said, "The solar system makes our life easier by supplying pure water, we are happy now."

Pronob Chandra Roy, 48, a farmer at Paschim Nawdabash village, said the solar water pump has changed the lifestyle of the residents of Purbo Bejgram, so the residents of Paschim Nawdabash are demanding installation of solar system pump in the village.

Nawdabash Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Ashwini Kumar Basuniya said there is a plan to install a solar system pump in the village this year.

Tangbhanga UP Chairman Atiar Rahman Ati said the solar system water pump was funded by Local Government Support Project, and the upazila innovation team implemented the technology.

"Villagers are getting water supply free of cost, and the union parishad maintains the infrastructure," he said, adding that they have a plan to install this technology at other villages in the union.