

# Flood-hit kids work to support families

MINITU DESHWARA, from Sunamganj

A large number of the school children in the haor areas of Sunamganj are staying away from classes as they have joined different types of works to support their hard-pressed parents after this year's floods washed away Boro paddy, the main crop of the area.

A Class V student of a local primary school, Minhaj Ahmed of Ratanstree village in the district's Tahirpur upazila works as a boatman's assistant.

"While crossing the Tanguar Haor in a boat, my father died four years ago. Then my mother started working at others' homes. We got some Boro paddy from our land every year," Minhaj said.

"But our Boro paddy was destroyed by floods this year. And my mother hardly finds any work as all are suffering from financial problem. So, I joined a work to support our four-member family," he added.

Tipu Islam, a resident of Pathabuka village in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj, said he with his wife and daughter went to Dhaka in search of job after the floods destroyed their Boro paddy.

"There my daughter Jui Akter, a Class V student, joined a garment factory three months ago due to our hardship," said Tipu, who came to see his village home.

While visiting Tanguar Haor area in Tahirpur upazila a couple of days ago, this correspondent saw a good number of children fishing with boats or helping parents in their work during school hours.

Till March, Class V student Rubel Mia attended his classes regularly but the sudden flood in April changed everything.

"We faced starvation after all of our nearly ripe Boro paddy was destroyed. Now our son Rubel is fishing in Tanguar Haor along with his father," said Aklima Begum, mother of the boy.

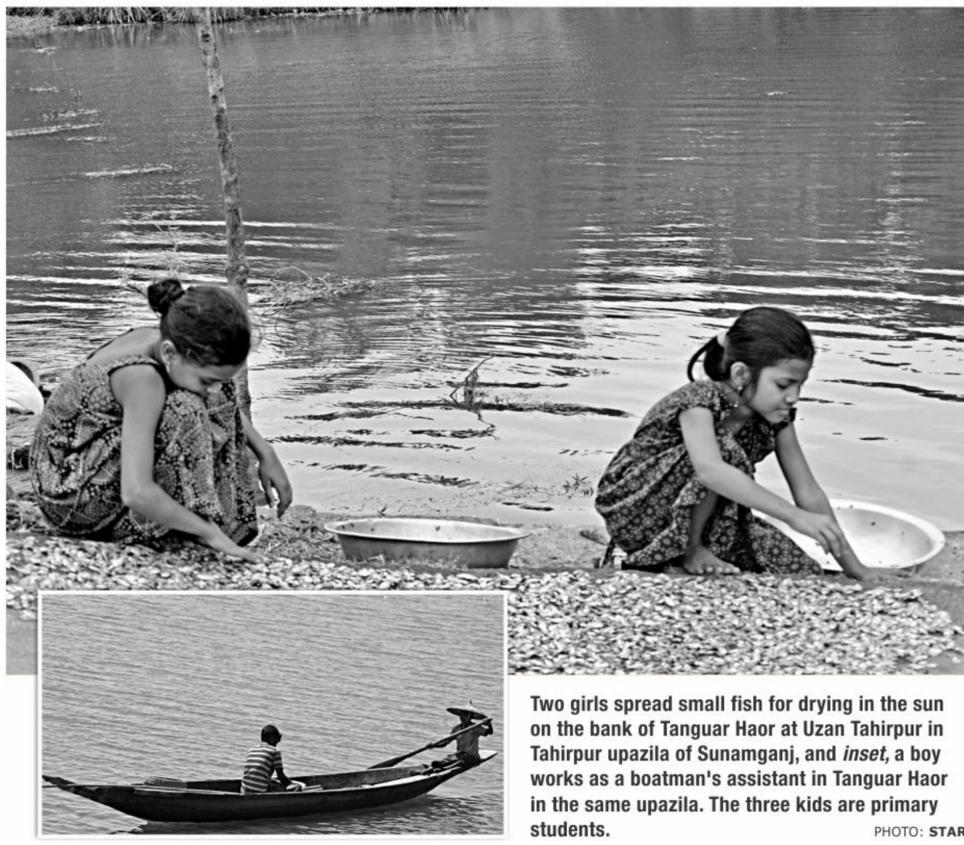
Mizan Miah, driver of an engine-run boat in Tahirpur, said many children come to him for work.

Abdul Gani, headmaster of Kawhani Government Primary School in Dharmapasha upazila, said students' presence at classes has reduced as many of the kids joined work during and after the floods.

According to district primary and secondary education offices, there are approximately three and a half lakh students at the primary level and 1,21,000 students at the secondary level in Sunamganj.

Bayezid Ahmad, district primary education officer in Sunamganj, said

After the April flood, average attendance of students came down to 70% in Sunamganj district.



Two girls spread small fish for drying in the sun on the bank of Tanguar Haor at Uzan Tahirpur in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj, and inset, a boy works as a boatman's assistant in Tanguar Haor in the same upazila. The three kids are primary students. PHOTO: STAR

## ASSAULT ON TEACHER Investigation starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A two-member probe committee yesterday started investigation into the complaint lodged by the headmaster of Chiraviza Golna High School in Jaldhaka upazila against the school management committee (SMC) president for assaulting him.

Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board in Dinajpur formed the committee.

Earlier, Headmaster Al Hasan Zayed Nawrozy filed a general diary accusing SMC President Khorshed Alam.

"Following a phone call from the president, I went to the school office room on September 3 and all on a sudden, Khorshed started beating and slapping me without any reason," said the headmaster.

The post of a peon in the school became vacant a few days ago. The headmaster and SMC president are separately trying to appoint their respective candidates by taking bribe, said sources.

## Cattle trader tortured by BSF, dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A cattle trader who was tortured allegedly by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) succumbed to his injuries at the upazila health complex in the district yesterday morning.

The Bangladeshi trader identified as Sohel Mia, 28, was found unconscious on no-man's land of Sreerampur border of Patgram upazila.

He was caught by the Indian border guards while he was returning home with Indian cattle along with four other men early hours of yesterday, said Sohel's father Mahasin Ali at Burimari border village of Patgram upazila.

Mahasin said his son and four others went to India for bringing Indian cattle on Friday night. The Indian border guards of Panishala camp of Changrabandha 61 BSF Battalion in Cooch Behar district left his son on no-man's in a critical condition after torturing mercilessly, he said.

Dr Rafiqul Islam, resident medical officer Patgram Upazila Health Complex, said Sohel was injured critically in his back, head, face, eyes, hands and legs. He died in the hospital within 20 minutes of admission, Dr Rafiqul said.

The Commanding Officer (CO) of Lalmonirhat 15 BCB Battalion Lt Col Golam Morshed said BCB sent a letter to the BSF with strong protest yesterday. The Indian side, however, denied torturing Sohel, he added.

## Two 'Neo JMB men' arrested in capital

FROM PAGE 16 unidentified men over a month ago.

Nayeem was picked up from near his Adabar home on July 27 and Anwar, a mechanic, from his motor workshop in Savar on July 31, their families said.

Nayeem's mother Farzana Ahmed lodged a general diary (GD) with Adabar Police Station on August 1 and Anwar's brother Ali Hossain lodged a GD with Savar Police Station the same day.

Counterterrorism officers at a press briefing yesterday said they found 30 detonators in their possession.

Monirul Islam, chief of DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, said a team, acting on a tip-off, arrested Nayeem and Anwar when they were trying to meet and

discuss organisational activities.

Monirul said Nayeem and Basharuzzaman alias Chocolate joined "Neo-JMB" together in 2015. Basharuzzaman, who is believed to be killed during a raid on a militant den in Chapainawabganj on April 27, was a "Neo-JMB" fund collector.

Both of them worked for an IT firm in Dhaka.

"Nayeem took a 40-day military training with some of the militants killed in Kalyanpur during a raid on July 26 last year," Monirul said.

He added that Nayeem kept in touch with IS militant Saiful Haque Sujon, who was recently killed in Syria, via secure messaging app Threema.

On the other hand, Anwar, who lived in Savar's

Hemayetpur, joined "Neo JMB", which according to CTTC officers is an offshoot of the banned militant outfit Jama 'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), in 2015.

He used to find shelters for "Neo JMB" leaders in Savar and Ashulia. He also used a portion of his earnings for terror funding, Monirul said.

Officers will investigate whether they were involved in any of the murders committed by "Neo JMB", CTTC officers said.

Monirul said the terror outfit had plans to carry out a car bomb attack before last year's July 1 café siege. Some of the militants even tried to make a car bomb at Anwar's workshop.

The CTTC chief said all of the operatives were killed during different raids.

FAMILIES CONTRADICT

Nayeem's mother Farzana told The Daily Star that he left his job at the IT firm almost two years ago as the late-night working hours took its toll on his conjugal life. Nayeem started selling different household items online.

On July 27, Nayeem and his wife went to Islampur to buy clothes at the wholesale market for his business. While they were there, a man called him and ordered a gold measuring scale.

"He returned home with the clothes around 7:10pm and went to Shyamoli intersection, some 100 metres from home, to deliver the scale. He never returned. He told me to keep his meal ready. He did not even take his wallet," the grieving woman told this correspondent at their Adabar home.

His phone was switched

off since then. After a few days, a man identifying himself as Rostom, called and said Nayeem was at the DB office. The man later gave the family a note handwritten by Nayeem, she said.

The family contacted the DB office but was told that Nayeem was not picked up by them.

Seeing Nayeem in yesterday's news, Farzana said her son wore the same shirt when he left the house.

Nayeem's wife, a school teacher who did not want to be named, said she married him in 2010 after being in a relationship with him for several years.

"My husband is religious. I do not find anything suspicious about him."

On the other hand, Anwar's brother Ali Hossain told our Savar correspondent that several men came

in a blue microbus at his workshop and identified themselves as DB officers on July 31 and picked him up.

Requesting anonymity, a roadside tea stall owner of the area corroborated the account.

When Ali contacted Savar Model Police Station and Savar DB, he was told that they did not pick up Anwar.

Ali Hossain said a policeman in Savar Police Station asked him to contact DB office on Minto road. "We contacted there, but did not find him," Ali Hossain said, adding, "I do not believe Anwar is a militant. He is a victim."

Ali and neighbours said Anwar lived with his family in a rented house in Jadurchar area for the last 15 years.



Mashfaqr Rahman, assistant commissioner of land in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur, listens to the service seekers to solve their land related problems at his office on Thursday. PHOTO: STAR

## Hassle-free land office

People happy with services at Chirirbandar

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

The office of the assistant commissioner of land (AC-Land) in Chirirbandar upazila under the district has turned into a real service oriented centre during the last one year, locals said.

The mind behind the noble initiative, Mashfaqr Rahman got farewell amid tears of grateful stakeholders on Friday as he is going to join elsewhere, being promoted as a upazila nirbahi officer.

Like in many other places, bribery and issuance of fake land related documents were common in Chirirbandar as brokers with the help of a few dishonest officials and employees made the service seekers hostage.

"But, Mashfaqr Rahman earned people's trust and respect by providing hassle-free services," said Mir Bakhs of Dakkhin Sukhdevpur village in the upazila.

After getting the charge in August last year, Mashfaqr Rahman reorganised the land related records, opened a help desk for visitors, installed biometric attendance device at the office, set up CCTV cameras to monitor the area, and instructed his colleagues to provide services with responsibility.

The office complex saw massive renovation.

"Earlier service seekers suffered a lot due to the presence of brokers and maltreatment of some employees but AC Mashfaqr Rahman took quick steps to remove the anomalies," Mamunur Rashid of Nashratpur village in the upazila told this correspondent.

Introduction of similar practices at every land office in the country will help to check land related crimes, said Mir Bakhs, 68, of Dakkhin Sukhdevpur village in the upazila.

During a visit last week, this correspondent found a good number of people coming to the office, some for hearing while some others for collecting required documents.

Office sources said the AC (Land) solved 43 cases in July alone.

The official also lectured in many schools and colleges in the upazila to inform the students about the basics of land issues.

Such unique initiative has helped students to get primary knowledge on the matter, said Mizanur Rahman, headmaster of Amana Baki Residential Model School and College in the upazila.

Talking with this correspondent, Md Mashfaqr Rahman said, "I have taken my job seriously and tried to give my best service. Proper policy and services regarding land can help prevent clashes over land disputes and resulting casualties."

## 2nd submarine station opens today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally inaugurate the second submarine cable landing station in Amkholapara area, about 5km north from Kuakata Sea Beach in Kalapara upazila, from her office through a video conference today.

She will inaugurate two more development projects in the district.

They are Rangabali upazila complex building and a 175-metre-long girder bridge on the Tiakhali river.

The PM will also lay the foundation stone for extension building of Kalapara upazila complex.

Monwar Hossain, managing director of Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL), said the second submarine cable landing station was built on 10 acres of land, about 5km north from the sea beach.

The station area comprises dormitory, security barrack, rest house, officers' quarter, staff quarter and children's playground.

"We will get about 1,500 GBPS speed internet from this station while only 250 GBPS speed internet was available from the first submarine cable landing station in Cox's Bazar," he said.

After inauguration of this station, telecom companies can buy bandwidth from it instead of abroad, said Monwar.

"Moreover, we will earn more foreign currency by exporting bandwidth after meeting domestic demand," he added.

People of southern areas like Patuakhali, Barisal and Barguna will get speedy internet at a cheap rate, he said.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC)  
BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212  
Phone: +88 02 9848396, Fax: 88 02 9848820, email: info@bmrcbd.org, website: www.bmrcbd.org

**Request for Expression of Interest on 'Assessment of Delivery of Quality Care at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Level Hospital in Bangladesh' through BMRC for the Year 2017-18**

1	Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC).		
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC).		
4	Procuring entity code	5008.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
6	Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Assessment of Delivery of Quality Care at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Level Hospital in Bangladesh	<b>Thematic area</b> Quality care in existing public health care services in Bangladesh.	<b>Objective</b> To assess the existing health facilities systems, service delivery system, satisfaction of the service recipient and service provider, mechanism for overcoming barriers, existing referral mechanism at the primary, secondary and tertiary level hospitals.	<b>Expected outcome</b> The overall health delivery system will be improved among government health facilities (hospitals/clinical and diagnostic services) and assist to create a friendly environment in the hospital.
7	EOI Ref No.	Memo No. BMRC/Research/2017 Date: 07/09/2017		
8	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	10/09/2017		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9	Procurement method	Research organizations will be selected by Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) after anonymous review of the (Request for Proposal) RFP by PEC in accordance with the procedures set out in the Public Procurement Regulation 2008 of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (BG/PPA) and following QCBS Method. Proposals must have the ethical approval of BMRC.		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
10	Budget and source of funds	As per ADP Allocation (2017-2018): RPA and GoB		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
11	Project/programme code (if applicable)	PMR Code-5008		
12	Project/programme name	Planning, Monitoring and Research (PMR), HPNSP, Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC).		
13	EOI closing date & time	05.10.2017, 5:00pm		
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>				
14	Brief description of assignment	Research activities will be undertaken to reveal cost-effectiveness and efficiency to current strategies and to explore new one.		
15	Experience, resources and delivery capacity required	The research organization or agencies should have the reputation recognizing its expertise in the field of Health care service activities and must have minimum 5 years of experience in relevant research fields. The organizations will need to provide documentary evidence in this regard and a profile including a list of all relevant research activities for the past 5 years mentioning volume of fund and funding agencies. Interested research firms are invited to provide the following information: (a) Brochures submitted by the Applicants summarizing their facilities and areas of expertise; (b) Descriptions of similar assignments. (c) Experience in similar operating environments and conditions; (d) Availability of appropriate experience and professional qualifications among applicant's staff and adequate resources to carry out the assignment; and (e) Managerial strength and financial capacity. Shortlisted qualified firms will be formally invited to submit valid trade license/registration, updated income tax certificate, certificate of VAT, bank solvency certificate and other relevant documents.		
16	Association with foreign firms	N/A		
17	Name of official inviting EOI	Dr. Mahmood-uz-Jahan.		
18	Designation of official inviting EOI	Director, Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC).		
19	Address of the official inviting EOI	Office of the Director (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor), Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC), BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.		
20	Contact detail of the official inviting EOI	Director, Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC), BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. Phone: +88 02 9848396, Fax: 88 02 9848820, email: info@bmrcbd.org, Website: www.bmrcbd.org		

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the EOIs.

**Director**  
Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC)  
BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

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