

## Husband, four hired goons get life for killing woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A court here yesterday sentenced five people, including the husband, to life imprisonment for killing a woman in 2009. Judge Md Moinuddin of Brahmanbaria Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court handed down the verdict.

The convicts are Rafiqul Islam, Shamim Ahmed, Akter Hossain alias Boro Akter, Arash Ali and Akter Hossain alias Chhoto Akter of Biddyakut area in Nabinagar upazila of the district.

Only Rafiqul was in the court when the verdict was given, while four others were tried in absentia.

According to the prosecution, victim Fatu Begum Shimu and her husband Rafiqul were going by a rickshaw to Biddyakut village from her parents' home in Kurighar village at night on July 10 in 2009.

According to a plan, four people, hired by Rafiqul, stopped them, killed Shimu and fled the scene. Rafiqul returned home and said Shimu had been killed by robbers.

Rafiqul's father Abul Hossain filed a case with Nabinagar Police Station, accusing unnamed people, the next day.



The brick kiln has been set up illegally on a farmland in Koterkuna area under Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar, posing health hazard to the people of nearby areas and damaging the crops on surrounding fields. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

# Brick kilns on farmland

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The government has banned setting up of brick kilns near cropland, human habitation and forest, but some influential people in the district are violating the law and setting up kilns near farmland and human habitations.

According to Burning of Bricks (control) Amendment Act 2010, setting up brick field within three kilometres of farmland, forest, township and human habitation area is illegal, but some influential people have done so in the district.

On a visit along Barlekha-

Kulaura-Shamsernagar-Kamalganj road recently, this correspondent saw 15 brick kilns set up on farmland.

Farmers of Koterkuna area in Kulaura upazila said the brick kiln owners are very powerful and put pressure on farmers to sell their lands to them. Crops on land adjacent to brick kilns are badly affected and the land becomes infertile, they added.

M/S Monu Brick Kiln was set up on five acres of land in Tilagaon village. Its manager Mithu Chakrabarty said the owner set up the kiln there as the

site is beside the road, which is convenient for transportation. The land belongs to the kiln owner, he added.

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh General Secretary Md Nurul Mohaimen said 90 percent of the brick kilns in the district have been set up on agricultural lands.

Many brick kiln owners are putting pressure on him to sell his land to them, Mohaimen said, adding that locals do not dare to raise their voices against them because they are very powerful.

Coordinator of Bangladesh

Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) in Sylhet division Shaheda Akther said many people are setting up brick kilns illegally.

The environment will be severely damaged as brick kilns have been established on farmlands near human habitation, she said, adding that local administration should take immediate steps to keep the environment free from pollution.

Sylhet Department of Agricultural Extension Deputy Director Mohammad Shahjahan said paddy production will

decrease if brick kilns are set up on agricultural land.

Kulaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer Chowdhury Mohammad Golam Rabby said the deputy commissioner's (DC) office can give permission to set up a brick kiln.

Director of the Department of Environment in Sylhet Md Salahuddin Ahmed said they do not give permission but only issue environmental certificates for brick kilns.

DC Tofail Islam said they will take necessary steps if anyone violates the law.

## Mystery remains over death of elderly trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Police could not unearth the mysterious death of an elderly trader, found with severed head, in Rajapur upazila on Monday yet.

The deceased, Habibur Rahman, 60, was son of late Khorshed Ali of Al-Falah village in Kathalia upazila.

Meanwhile, police detained Habibur's four other co-passengers and the driver of the three-wheeler he was travelling on and interrogated them at Rajapur Police Station on Monday night. Officer-in-Charge Shamsul Arefin of the police station said.

During interrogation, they all informed that the scarf around Habib's neck got entangled with the engine of the vehicle but none of them noticed that.

They noticed the incident when Habib's severed head fell in front of them, police said, quoting one of the passengers Abdul Haque.

When asked why they fled the scene, they said seeing the horrifying incident they thought Habib might have been attacked by a ghost.

Although police primarily accepted their statements, the mystery will be solved after getting the autopsy report, the OC said.

The four arrestees were released after giving an undertaking, but driver Hanif is still under police custody.



Cucumber growers in Jamuna river basin area under Bogra's Sariakandi upazila carry their produce to local markets by horse-drawn carts.

PHOTO: STAR

# Bogra cucumber growers happy with good yield

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Cucumber growers in Jamuna river basin area under Sariakandi upazila of the district are recovering their losses caused by the recent floods, thanks to good yield of the vegetable and its fair prices in the local markets.

Chunu Sheikh, a grower of Kazla union in the upazila, said each mound (40kg) of cucumber is selling for Tk 900 to Tk 1000 in the local markets.

Farmer Wazed Ali, 55, of Jamthala village under the union, said he cultivated the item in four bighas expending a total of Tk 60,000 to Tk 65,000

and already earned nearly Tk 5 lakhs within 40 days of starting cultivation.

Wazed said the recent flood damaged jute in his 15 bighas of land and fishes of three ponds, but profits he earned from selling cucumber makes him happy now.

Farmers in the area said about 150 to 200 maunds of cucumber can be harvested by cultivating one bigha (33 decimals) of land.

Grower Anwar Sheikh, 26, of Bera Panchberia village, said he cultivated cucumber in his 40 decimals of land for the first time this year spending Tk 30,000 and expecting to sell the item for over Tk 1.5 lakh.

Deputy Director Abdur Rahim of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in the district said growers can harvest cucumber within 15 days of budding.

Such crop can help farmers to recoup the loss they incurred during the recent floods, he added.

Mohammad Abdur Rashid, upazila sub-assistant agriculture officer, said growers usually cultivate Abadi-Green, Adari and Falan-2 variety of cucumber in the char areas.

This year farmers in the area cultivated cucumber in 200 hectares of land and already harvested the item from around 100 hectares, he said.

## Prof Mustafizur joins Nazrul univ as new VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Prof Dr AHM Mustafizur Rahman has been appointed as the fifth vice-chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University.

He was appointed for a four-year term and joined office yesterday, says a press release.

Treasurer of the university Prof Dr AMM Shamsur Rahman had been serving as acting vice-chancellor after the tenure of Prof Dr Mohit Ul Alam expired on August 12 this year.

Prof Mustafizur was a teacher of Social Science Department of Rajshahi University.

Born to late SM Momtazur Rahman and Rizia Begum in Sarishbari upazila of Jamalpur, Dr Rahman did his honours and masters from Rajshahi University.

He also did his MS in Rural Sociology from UPLB University in Philippines and PhD from Rajshahi University.

During his 34-year-long teaching career at Rajshahi University, Dr Rahman also served as Syndicate member, head of the department, house tutor and member of proctorial body.

The new vice-chancellor, accompanied by teachers, students and employees, placed wreaths at the portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on the campus.

# Endangered Himalayan mole rescued, released

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A critically endangered Himalayan mole rescued from Sreemangal upazila of the district on Sunday was released in Lawacherra forest under Kamalganj upazila the same night.

Sopon Deb Sajal, director of Bangladesh Wildlife Service Foundation in the upazila, said tea worker Choiton Rikmun captured the tiny black mole while it was digging soil in a canal at Phulchhari village in the evening.

After primary treatment at Bangladesh Wildlife Service Foundation the vulnerable species was released in Janokicherra area under Lawacherra reserved forest.

Generally the rare species is found in the central and eastern Himalayas usually between an elevation of 1,500 metres and 2,400 metres.

It mostly eats earthworms and insects and their larvae, said Tabibur

Rahman, assistant conservator of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department in Moulvibazar.

Tabibur said as its population is declining fast, mole is classified as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

According to IUCN, the English name of the species is Himalayan mole or Eastern mole and its scientific name is Euroscaptor micrura.

The Himalayan mole, generally found in Nepal, Bhutan, India and Bangladesh, is very secretive and nocturnal, it says.

Narayan Saha, former head of Department of Forestry and Environmental Science at Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, said in recent times we do not see such mole as it is losing its habitats due to excessive use of chemicals and fertilizers in tea gardens and croplands.



### North Bengal Medical College

(First Private Medical College established in the Northern region of Bangladesh)  
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\*Foreign students may apply with requisite GPA after taking equivalence certificate from the DGHS of Bangladesh.

(Prof. Dr. S.M. Akram Hossain)  
Principal  
North Bengal Medical College, Sirajganj

## LAND ACQUISITION FOR PAYRA PORT Villagers seek three times higher price

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The villagers living near Payra Sea Port area demanded enhanced values of their land, already acquired by the government, as the present value of the land is three times higher.

They came up with the demand at a human chain at Banatee Bazar under Lalua union in Kalapara upazila of the district on Monday.

Besides, in order to rehabilitate the land owners' families, they also demanded jobs for locals at the port site as per their qualification.

Speakers said around 2,500 families under Nayakata and Banatee moujhas will face eviction from nearly 6,500 acres of acquired land.

Following the hour-long rally, a street corner meeting was held at the venue where Lalua Union Parishad Chairman Mir Tariquzzaman Tara, the union unit Awami League president Mia Mohammad Chan Khan, UP member Mojibur Rahman and Abu Bakar, Sajal Biswas, Forkan Payda and Abdul Haque, among others, also spoke.

## ইসলামী ব্যাংক মেডিকেল কলেজ, রাজশাহী

বিমান বন্দর রোড, নওদাপাড়া, সপুড়া, রাজশাহী। ফোন-০২৪৭-৮৬১৩২৮, ০১৯১৭০৮৯৭০৫

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