

SADULLAPUR EBTEDAYEE MADRASA

No students, yet four teachers getting salary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Visiting the Badlagari Purbopara Independent Ebtedayee Madrasa in Sadullapur upazila one will find no student, but surprisingly all the four teachers of the institution are getting regular salaries under government's grant.

The situation came to light after local people submitted a complaint to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), urging him to take necessary measures against the madrasa managing committee.

According to the upazila secondary education office, Badlagari Purbopara Independent Ebtedayee Madrasa was set up in 1990 and it was enrolled under government grant in 1994.

The institution has 124 students in Class I to Class V on paper, but virtually there is not a single learner, and its four teachers--headmaster Tajul Islam and three assistant teachers Tokabbar Hossain, Afroza Begum and Mominul Islam-- occasionally attend it.

In order to keep its existence, teachers of the madrasa lured or hired students from neighbouring schools every year to appear in examinations on behalf of the madrasa.

In recently concluded examinations, eight students from other institutions filled up their forms to appear at the examination

on behalf of the madrasa but only three of them appeared.

Of the eight, Rimon Mia, a student of Idrakpur High School, said "Teachers of the madrasa forced me to fill up forms, but when I heard fake examinees will be jailed I declined to appear from there."

One of Rimon's classmates Shihab Mia said the same.

During a visit on Tuesday, this correspondent noticed in first look the madrasa house look like an abandoned structure without any student or teacher.

A rain tree, which fell on its tin-roof days ago, is still lying there, but the madrasa authority did not even care to remove it.

One of the land donors Rahimuddin, 70, of Badlagari village, said such a situation has been prevailing in the madrasa for the last five years or so.

A visiting form allegedly signed by Sadullapur Upazila Secondary Education Officer Syed Monirul Hasan on September 18, highlighted that out of 124 students he found 90 of them present.

Monirul Hasan said he joined the office recently and does not know how the paper was signed as he never went to the said institution.

When asked, Headmaster Tajul Islam could not give satisfactory answers to the questions.



MEGA FISHING FESTIVAL: Langon Beel in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar upazila is teeming with hundreds of fishermen on country boats as a one and a half month-long traditional fishing festival, also covering Baak Langon and Atauri Beel areas in the same upazila, started on Monday. The decades-long yearly arrangement starts in the middle of Bangla month of Agrahayan and continues till the end of Poush. PHOTO: MASUK HRIDYO



Karomjal canal in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali gets divided into 20 segments as influential people have set barriers for fish farming there. PHOTO: STAR

Six-km canal grabbed for fish farming

Thousands of farmers worried as irrigation hampered due to lack of water flow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Some local influential people are cultivating fish by occupying six-km-long Karomjatali canal in Kalapara upazila.

After dividing the canal into 20 parts, grabbers cultivate fish round the year, said locals.

Due to this, local agricultural activities are being hampered greatly as natural water flow was totally stopped in the canal, said Abdul Latif Gazi, chairman of Dhankhali Union Parishad.

The canal plays a key role in agricultural activities of people in about 10 villages in the upazila.

Several thousand farmers used its water in their agricultural activities, but a gang divided the canal into 20 pond-size parts and started fish cultivation in the canal by setting up nets there in the last one year, alleged locals.

Prince Hawlader, Asman Gharami, Sohag Gharami, Reaz Akand and Mohiuddin Sikder allegedly led the gang.

During a recent visit, a group of reporters found that the gang used heavy nets to make partition to protect fish, hampering natural flow of water in the canal.

If anybody raised voices against the misdeed, the gang

harassed them in many ways, said the villagers.

Accused Prince and Asman said they along with some jobless youths are cultivating fish in the canal to create income source.

They declined to make further comments over the issue.

Md Khandakar Robiul Islam, assistant commissioner (land), said he has asked the local union land officer to remove all nets from the canal.

He will visit the area soon and if they don't remove nets willingly, his office will take proper steps considering local farmers' interests, said the commissioner.

Body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman from an abandoned farmland at Perul village under Comilla Dakkhin upazila yesterday.

The identity of the deceased, aged about 25 to 30 years, could not be ascertained.

Sub-inspector Kamal of Vucchi Police Outpost said labourers spotted the body in the morning and informed the police.

Police primarily suspect that criminals might have killed the woman somewhere else a month ago and later dumped the body there.

Mohammad Adil, in charge of the police outpost, said they recovered the body and sent it to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

One gets life for child rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A court here yesterday sentenced a youth to life imprisonment for raping a four-year-old girl in 2009.

District and Sessions Judge Ratneshwar Bhattacharya pronounced the verdict in presence of the convict. The court also fined him Tk 50,000.

The convict is Mohamed Mustafa, 38, of Madhya Boilkhali village in Dighinala upazila of the district.

According to the case statement, the girl went to take bath with her friends in the Maine river near the village on March 8 in 2009.

The girl was returning home when Mostafa took her to a field nearby and raped her.

The girl told her mother about the incident. Her neighbours caught Mostafa and handed him over to the police. The girl identified Mostafa.

Father of the girl filed a case with Dighinala Police Station the same day, accusing Mostafa.

'Panchagarh free day' observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Amidst huge festivity, freedom fighters and different political and socio-cultural organisations on Wednesday chalked out different programme, marking liberation of Panchagarh from Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

On the occasion, a colourful procession was brought out from Panchagarh circuit house and it ended at the compound of district Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

The rally followed a discussion with Deputy Commissioner Amal Krishna Mandal in the chair.

Prior to the discussion, they placed floral wreaths on the monument of Liberation War and portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

District administration and district unit of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad jointly organised the event.

On November 29 in 1971, valiant freedom fighters hoisted the flag of independent Bangladesh in Panchagarh town by defeating the Pakistani army.

On 20 November 1971, the freedom fighters intensified attacks on the Pakistani occupation army from three corners of the town.

Gradually, they took control of the camps of Pakistani occupation forces -- Amarkhana on November 20, Jagdalhat on November 25, Shingpara village on November 26, Talma village on November 27 and Panchagarh CO Office at Atwary in Mirzapur on November 28.

In the face of joint attack by the freedom fighters and allied forces the previous night, the Pakistani occupation forces finally retreated from the district town on November 28 night and took shelter at Saidpur Cantonment.

Freedom fighters entered the town on November 29 morning. As the news spread, people from the adjacent villages rushed to the town and rejoiced liberation of their motherland by chanting 'Joy Bangla' with the freedom fighters.

Two Indian boys sent back home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two Indian boys were sent back to their country through the Hili land port under Hakimpur upazila of the district on Wednesday.

They are Babu Sona Das, 16, son of late Shyamal Das, and Monoj Roy, 15, son of Gopal Roy of Hili Police Station in South Dinajpur of West Bengal.

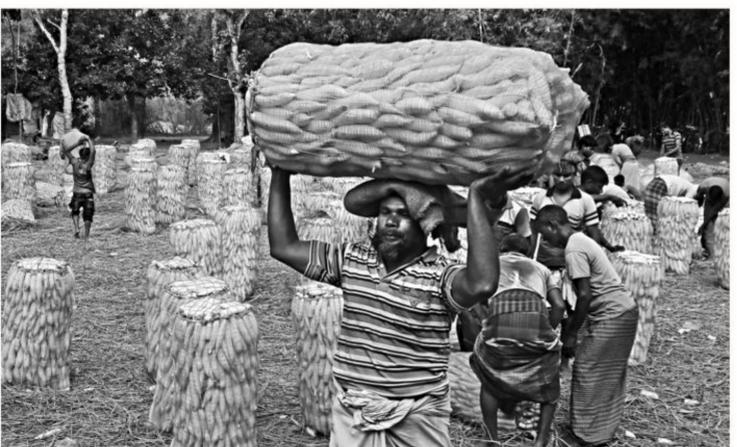
Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) of Hili area caught the duo when they entered Bangladesh illegally in December last year.

The boys were later produced before a court that sent them to Dinajpur jail.

Completing the legal process, police handed them to Indian immigration authorities on Wednesday noon, said Aftab Uddin, in-charge of Hili Immigration.



This recently re-constructed culvert on Mahendranagar-Mostofi road at Dogarpur in Lalmonirhat collapsed on Saturday night, causing a halt to vehicular movements on the road connecting the district town. PHOTO: STAR



Huge quantities of radish are brought for sale at a field beside Lalmonirhat-Chaparhat road at Hajiganj in Aditmari upazila. Despite good yield, farmers are far from being happy as they have to sell the item for as low as Tk 2 a kg. PHOTO: STAR

Radish price fall upsets growers in Lalmonirhat

The vegetable now sells at Tk 2, farmers worried about cost recovery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The price of radish has fallen sharply in the district due to abundant supply of other vegetables in the local markets, upsetting radish growers.

Growers are not getting their investment from selling radish as it is being sold at Tk 2 per kg below the production cost. Due to decrease in demand for radish in the local markets, middlemen are buying the vegetable from the growers and sending those to the capital and

other parts of the country.

Farmers said they were happy as they sold 1 kg of radish for Tk 10 to Tk 12 only a week ago, but it is being sold at Tk 2 per kg now.

Aftab Uddin, 56, of Hajiganj village in Aditmari upazila, said he cultivated radish on eight bighas of land this season and he is very upset over the low price in the market. "We spent Tk 6,000 to Tk 7,000 for farming radish on one bigha and got 50 maunds to 60 maunds of the vegetable," he said, adding that he sold only 20 maunds at Tk 11 per kg a week ago.

"I cultivated radish on ten bighas spending Tk 68,000, whereas I have sold the produce of four bighas only," Mobarak Hossain, 42, of Bamonerbasa village said, adding that he will suffer loss this year.

Vegetable trader Hasmat Ali, 48, of Durakuti vegetable market in Sadar upazila, said they are selling radish for Tk 4 to Tk 5 per kg, but they purchase it for Tk 2 per kg from the growers in the field. "Due to supply of other vegetables, people are not interested in buying radish," he said. Middleman Azaharul Islam, 52,

of Hajiganj makeshift vegetable market in Aditmari upazila, said they send radish to Dhaka and other areas of the country, where they sell it for Tk 10 to Tk 12 per kg to the vegetable traders. "We get profit of up to Tk 2 per kg after meeting the expenditure," he said.

Department of Agriculture Extension sources said radish was cultivated on 2,000 hectares of lands in five upazilas, mainly Aditmari, of the district this year.