



With large cracks and holes due to erosion during the last rains, the playground of Balapukur Government Primary School in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat remains in an awful condition, depriving the children of sports and recreational facilities.

PHOTO: STAR

Rain-damaged ground deprives kids of sport

Edn officer says they have no fund to prepare the field

S DILIP ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

As at any government primary school, many of the 208 students of the school in Balapukur village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila are keen on sport. It used to be that the schoolyard was regularly brought to life with ballgames. But for the last five months it hasn't been possible. Excessive rain damaged the school's grounds, which now feature ruts and holes in place of a level playing field.

"School is so boring now," says Al Amin, a student of Class V. "We used to play games during breaks every day, but now we can't because of the damaged playground."

"We can hardly move freely," adds his classmate, Ripa Akther Moni. "We fear falling in one of the holes. We have requested our school authority to fix the school grounds several times, but it hasn't happened," she says. "It's quite upsetting."

"The holes in the school grounds which are up to four feet deep developed during the heavy rainfall in July and August 2017," says the school's head teacher, Bodiuzaaman Mithu. "Earth was washed away into an adjoining pond. It's a situation that also causes difficulties for teachers. The education officer and school management committee have been informed."

Aditmari Upazila Education Officer (UEO) Chand Miah says he is aware of the problem and that it will be addressed jointly by the school authority and the school managing committee, as the education office has no applicable funds for the earth-filling works required.

The managing committee president Abdul Jalil says he has raised the issue with the local public representative. He assured The Daily Star that support for repairing the playground would be provided by the end of the year.

No X-mas joy for Khasis, Garos

About 400 indigenous families fear eviction

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

This year's Christmas hardly brings any cheer for four hundred Khasi and Garo families in Srimangal upazila of the district, as an influential person has taken initiative to establish a tea garden on the land inhabited by them.

"How can we celebrate the Christmas when we are living in fear of eviction," said Thiari Suting, 45, a man belonging to the Khasi community at Nahar-1 punjee (betel plantation area).

Md Kamal Hossain, joint secretary of Awami League's Moulvibazar unit, also president of Moulvibazar Chamber of Commerce and Industries, has got permission from the Ministry of Land to establish a tea garden there and sent his papers to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Moulvibazar for approval.

Kamal Hossain, owner of Mahi Tea Estate, said, "As far as I know the land is not indigenous Khasi people's property. There are 1800 acres of land in total. Nahar tea garden took 600 acres and Khasis live on 600 acres. We wanted the rest of the land on lease."

Henry Lamin, headman of Nirala punjee, said, "We have been living on the land and cultivating here from the time of our forefathers. But the Awami League leader wants to set up a tea garden on a 600.7-acre area in our land."

Tofail Islam, DC of Moulvibazar, said, "The Ministry of Land has approved leasing the land to Mahi Tea Estate. The punjee people have also lodged a case, following which the court asked us to show cause. The matter is under official process."

Meanwhile, local lawmaker Abdus

Shahid has sent a DO letter to the DC office, asking for giving the land to the ethnic minority people.

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent adds: When the Christian community celebrate their biggest religious festival Christmas, the family of slain Anando Mohan Barmon are staying away from their Banderkura village home in Kaliganj upazila under the district.

"I with my two daughters and a son have taken shelter at a relative's house in Lalmonirhat town in fear of fresh attack by the killers, who are still at large," Anando's wife Kalpona Rani said.

Anando, 47, son of late Dakkhina Chandra Barmon of Banderkura village, was tortured and strangled to death on 20 May this year.

The case is now under investigation by Criminal Investigation Department.

Housewife found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinhajpur

A housewife was found dead in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat yesterday.

She was Kalpana Khatun, 23, wife of Latif Hossain of Paschim Hasta-Basantapur village and mother of an eight-year-old son.

Villagers saw the housewife hanging from the ceiling of her room and took her to Akkelpur Upazila Health Complex, where the doctor declared her dead.

Officer-in-Charge of Akkelpur Police Station Sirajul Islam said nobody was in the house during the incident.

Mysterious death of Islamic kindergarten principal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

The body of the principal of a kindergarten school named Lifemaker Islamic Kids University was found at Halderpara in the town yesterday.

However, the reason behind the death could not be known immediately, said police.

The deceased was Abdul Matin Ashrafi, 29, son of Shahjahan Mia of Ashrafpur village in Nabinagar upazila of the district.

Ashrafi joined the institution two months ago. He had madrasa education background, said family members.

The previous name of the school was Peacemaker Islamic Kids University, said local people.

Police recovered the hanging body from

the principal's room at the school at noon.

Officer-in-Charge (Inquiry) of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station Ziaul Hoque said the housemaid first found Ashrafi's room closed in the morning and informed Matin Ahmed, the owner of the school.

By informed, police entered the room by breaking open the door and found the body hanging from the ceiling fan.

The body was sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said the OC.

Terminating the death mysterious, the police official said everything will be known after getting the autopsy report.

Meanwhile, owner of the school Matin said Ashrafi worked here as acting principal. He was supposed to join the school as regular principal in January.

RECRUITMENT, JOB UPGRADATION AT PABNA UNIV

Agitating staff lock admin building, registrar's office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Employees and officials of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) locked the registrar's office and administrative building yesterday protesting the authorities' decision over recruitment and job status upgradation of a section of staff.

They alleged that the regent board meeting has been shifted to Dhaka for giving appointment and upgradation according to the choice of Vice Chancellor Al Nakib Chowdhury.

Deputy Registrar Md Rejaul Haque said the authorities decided to approve upgradation according to the choice of the VC without reforming the policy.

Many people continued working at PUST under master roll during the last few years but the VC has attempted to recruit new

people before ending his tenure on January 1 depriving the existing employees and officials, he said.

Ignoring employees' demand, the VC called the meeting in the capital on December 28, four days before his tenure ends, sparking agitation.

Additional Registrar Bijon Kumar Brammah said the employees' demand would be discussed at the regent board meeting the 1st with the existing VC.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Anwarul Islam said the meeting would decide about recruitment and upgradation.

The VC was not available on phone for comment. However, his personal secretary Md Fazle Rabbi said, "As sir is staying in Dhaka for the last few days for family affairs, he often does not answer phone calls."

2 schoolgirls drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two schoolgirls drowned in a pond in Delduar upazila yesterday.

They were Dolon Akter, 16, daughter of Babul Miah, and her cousin Smriti Moni, 14, daughter of Budu Miah of Paikpara village.

Dolon was an SSC candidate while Smriti appeared in the JSC examinations.

They had gone to their uncle's house in Fultara village, locals said.

The girls went to a pond to bathe but they drowned as they did not know how to swim, said Fazilah Union Parishad Chairman Tofazzal Hossain.

Neighbours rushed the girls to Delduar Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead.

A part of the culvert built in Purbo Belagaon area of Juri upazila under Moulvibazar broke down the day after construction was completed on December 21. Some cracks have also appeared in other places of the culvert built at a cost of Tk 1.5 lakh by Jaifarnagar Union Parishad under Local Government Assistance Project.

PHOTO: STAR



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৩. অনলাইনে জমাকৃত BPSC Form-1 এ মুক্তিযোক্তা/স্কুল নৃ-গোষ্ঠী সম্প্রদায়কৃত/প্রতিবন্ধী কোটায় প্রার্থিত দাবি করে পর্যবেক্ষিত প্রার্থীয়ের প্রার্থনা দ্বারা কর্তৃপক্ষে গোপনীয় হবে। মৌখিক প্রতিবন্ধী কোটায় প্রার্থনা দ্বারা কর্তৃপক্ষে গোপনীয় হবে।

৪. BPSC Form-1 এবং বিপ্লিবেসনি ফরম-২ এ প্রদত্ত তথ্য এক এবং অভিন্ন হতে হবে। তথ্যের মধ্যে গোপনীয় হবে বিজ্ঞাপনের শর্তন্যায়ী প্রার্থী কৃতক আবেদনপত্রে BPSC Form-1 এ প্রদত্ত তথ্য হতে হবে।

৫. BPSC Form-1 এ মুক্তিযোক্তা/স্কুল নৃ-গোষ্ঠী সম্প্রদায়কৃত/প্রতিবন্ধী কোটায় প্রার্থিত দাবি না করলে পর্যবেক্ষিত প্রার্থীয়ের দ্বারা কর্তৃপক্ষে প্রার্থনা দ্বারা কর্তৃপক্ষে গোপনীয় হবে।

৬. BPSC Form-1 এ নাম, নেজিন নথ, জন্ম তারিখ পরিবর্তন কোটায় প্রার্থিত করার প্রয়োজন নাম্বার স্বাক্ষর করে হতে হবে।

৭. BPSC Form-1