

Primary school runs with lone teacher

Over 100 students deprived of proper education

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A primary school at Golkhali union in Galachipa upazila has been running with only one teacher for the last 10 months, hampering the students' education.

A total of 111 students of six classes, including pre-primary, are being deprived of proper education at Bolaibunia Government Primary School in the district due to shortage of teachers.

Assistant teacher Uttam Kumar Mondol has been serving as acting headmaster since the then headmaster Kamal Hossain died on November 13 in 2017.

The school was set up in 1943 in a tinshed and a one-storey building was built in 1999. The building has become risky as it has not been repaired since it was built.

During a recent visit to the school, this correspondent found Uttam teaching 63 students of pre-primary and Classes I and II at the same time in one room.

The school is run in two shifts. The first shift runs from 9:30am to 12:00 noon and the second shift runs from 12:00 noon to 4:15pm.

In the first shift, students of pre-primary, Class I and Class II sit in one room and the lone teacher takes classes in all the subjects, while Classes III, IV and V are held together

in the same room in the second shift.

Md Faysal, a Class II student, said they have to attend classes with students of other classes at a time.

Runia Akhter, a Class V student, said they cannot pay attention as the classroom is too noisy and crowded.

"Although there is shortage of teachers, I send my daughter to the school as it is near my house," said Nazrul Islam, father of Runia.

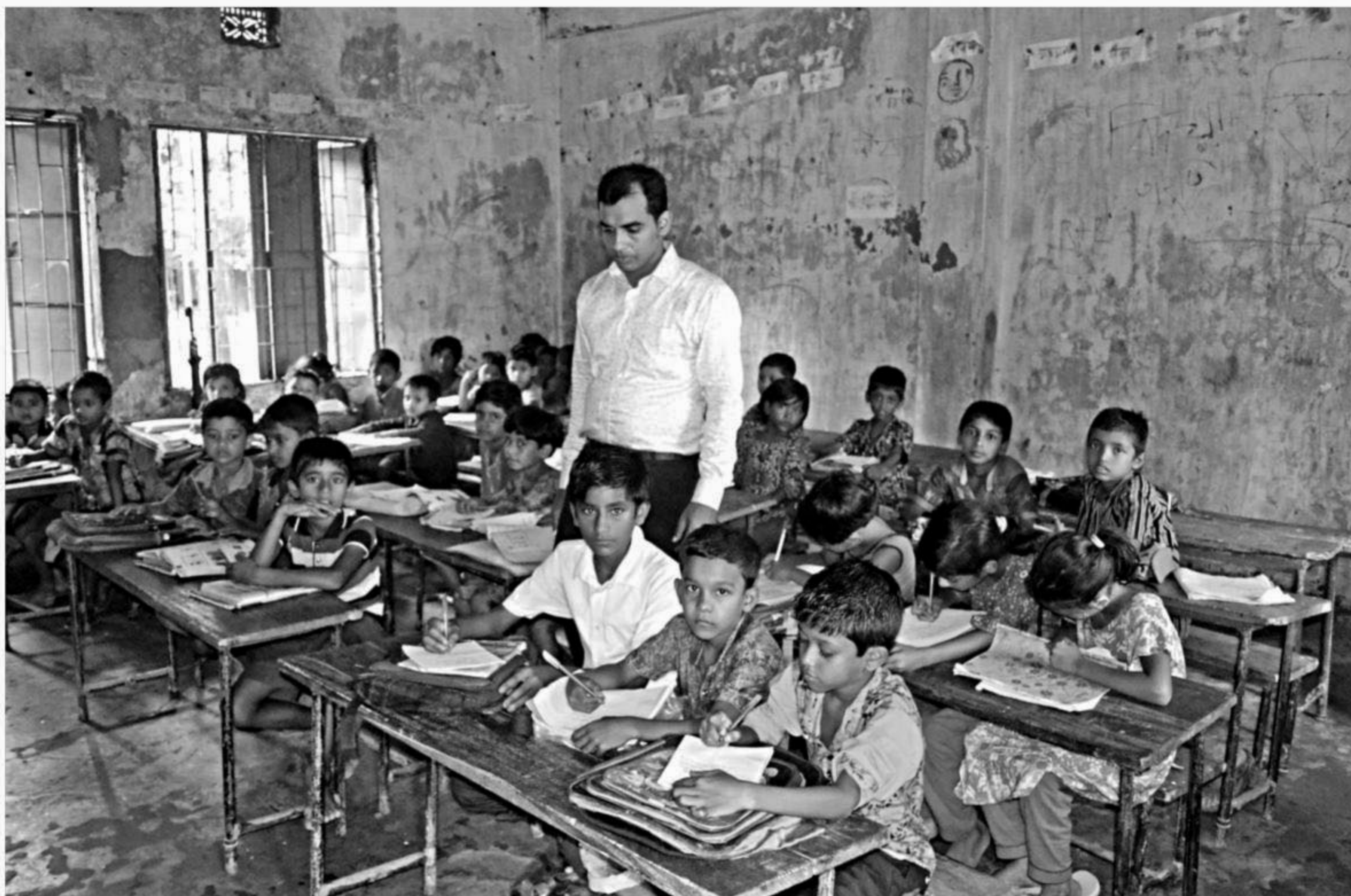
Uttam said he joined the school in 2016 as a pre-primary teacher, but has been running the school's activities, including conducting classes and doing official works, since the then headmaster died on November 13 last year.

"I have to close the school when I need to go to the upazila or district town for official purposes," he said.

School Managing Committee Chairman Md Nizam Pahloan said teachers do not want to go to the school as it is situated in a remote area.

"I informed the higher authorities about the situation several times, but no steps have been taken yet," he said.

Galachipa Upazila Primary Education Officer Md Mizanur Rahman said he has learnt about the matter and more teachers will be appointed to the school very soon.



There is only one teacher and one classroom for teaching students of six classes at Bolaibunia Government Primary School in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali.

PHOTO: STAR

Help recover school land

Primary kids demand as Asaduzzaman Noor passes by school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Around two hundred students of Joichondi Government Primary School at Sonarai union of Nilphamari Sadar upazila yesterday stood on the way of Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor and sought his interference to recover their school land from an influential grabber.

The minister, also the local law-maker, was going to attend a meeting in another place after addressing a roadside meeting near their school around 11:30am.

As Noor smilingly came near them, the kids complained that they cannot play or loiter happily as a man occupied most of the school field, encircled it with corrugated iron sheets and his men asked them not to go near the area.

The students accompanied by a few teachers requested him to take step to recover the land.

The minister assured them that he will sit with both the parties on October 2 and try his best to solve the problem.

"Sonarai union BNP president Nurul Islam illegally occupied 30 decimals of school land three months ago with the blessing of his elder brother Abdul Mannan Mannu, president of the same union unit of ruling Awami League (AL)," Sankar Kumar Roy, president of the school management committee, told journalists.

Kazi Ziaul Huque, headmaster of the school, said, "After investigation, the upazila administration ordered the occupier to vacate the land but the latter ignored it, even manhandled our

two female teachers."

At the same spot, sexagenarian Bhaggodhar Roy of Joichondi village and his wife also sought the minister's help to recover their 49 decimals of land allegedly occupied by the union AL president's youngest brother Abdul Hakim, an ex-leader of Chhatra League.

Abdul Mazid Shah, president of No 8 ward unit of AL in Sonarai union, said the union AL president's brothers are forcibly occupying others' land with his consent, tarnishing the party's image.

Contacted, union AL President Abdul Mannan Mannu refuted the allegation of forcibly occupying lands by his brothers and said, "We bought the properties from genuine owners. We will abide by the court orders as the issues are now under trial for settlement."



Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor listens as students of Joichondi Government Primary School in Nilphamari Sadar upazila seek his interference yesterday to recover their school land from an influential grabber.

PHOTO: STAR

3 drug peddlers get life in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Netrakona court on Sunday sentenced three drug peddlers to life imprisonment in Purbadhala upazila of the district.

The lifers are Sarker Shahriar Alam, 40, Nazmul Haque, 38, and Rafiqul Islam, 45.

District and Sessions Judge KM Rasheduzzaman Raza also fined them Tk 50,000 each, in default to suffer one year more in prison, said Md Ziaul Haque, court inspector of Netrakona.

According to the prosecution, on information, police arrested the three convicts with 500-gram heroin worth Tk 50 lakh from Purbadhala Chowrasta area on June 6 in 2015.

Later, Sub-inspector of Purbadhala Police Station Md Rafiqul Islam filed a case against the trio under Narcotics Control Act.

After investigation, police pressed a charge sheet against the three on August 11 the same year.

After examining witnesses and evidence, the court found them guilty and pronounced the verdict.

Stop sexual harassment

Speakers tell Pabna human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

People from all walks of life joined a human chain in the town yesterday protesting recent incidents of sexual harassment in the district.

Network for Preventing Sexual Harassment, Pabna, organised the human chain and a protest meeting in front of Pabna Press Club in the morning.

A 15-year-old schoolgirl of Sujanagar municipality area in Pabna was gang-raped while an 11-year-old girl was sexually harassed by a neighbour on Thursday.

Criminals also gang-raped a housewife in Sujanagar upazila on Wednesday night.

The incidents sparked agitation among locals.

"Many of the victims are sexually harassed by their known people. It means women in our society are not safe even within their own surroundings," said Kamrunnahar Joly, president of Network for Preventing Sexual Harassment in Pabna.

All the people in the society have the responsibility to ensure an environment where women can safely move in the society alongside the males, she said.

Speaking on the occasion, Hasina Akter Rosy, headmaster of Selim Nazir High School, said the criminals dare to commit the crime repeatedly as offenders often go unpunished.

"Social awareness is a must to ensure the safety of women. If we fail to do so, we won't be able to get a healthy society," Rosy said.

She demanded exemplary punishments of the rapists. Among others, NGO personality Abdur Rob Montu, theatre artiste Kobad Hossain and journalist Kamal Ahmed Siddique spoke on the occasion.

They urged for combined efforts to stop sexual harassment for the sake of social security.

Students from different educational institutions joined the protest programme.

25 DEATHS IN PANCHAGARH ROAD CRASH SINCE JAN

Call to ensure safe road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

People from all walks of life took part in a rally in Panchagarh town yesterday, protesting recent deaths in road accidents.

Panchagarh Nagorik Committee organised the rally at Sher-e-Bangla Park and surrounded the deputy commissioner's office, demanding steps for ensuring safe roads.

They submitted a memorandum, listing seven demands, to the deputy commissioner of Panchagarh and warned of launching a tougher movement if the demands are not met within seven days.

The demands are arrest of the driver of the truck that killed Dulal, fresh investigation of each incident of road accident, stopping haphazard parking on roads, banning drivers without licenses, banning plying of improvised three-wheelers on highways, and stopping illegal toll collection and

plying of overloaded vehicles on roads.

Lawmaker of Panchagarh-1 constituency Nazmul Haque Prodhan, Vice-President of Jagpa central committee barrister Tasmia Prodhan and Panchagarh Press Club President Shafiqul Alam addressed the rally.

Nagorik committee President Basirul Alam Prodhan presided.

Mirza Abul Kalam Dulal, 65, former district unit commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Panchagarh, was killed and two other freedom fighters were injured on September 13 when a truck hit their microbus in Bypass area on Panchagarh-Debiganj Highway in Boda upazila of Panchagarh.

At least 25 people were killed and about 50 injured in road accidents in the district from January, but only six cases were recorded with police stations.

Huge hemp seized, 3 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a raid seized about 88 kilograms of hemp in Kalihati upazila of the district yesterday.

During the drive, the law enforcers also detained three drug peddlers and seized a private car, five mobile phones and cash from their possession.

The arrestees are Mamun Mia, 28, of Cumilla, Md Riad, 37, of Jhalakathi, and Rubel Hossain, 27, of Barishal.

Commander of CPC-3 of Rab-12 Major Rabiul Islam said they stopped a private car in Narandia area and found huge quantity of hemp in the vehicle.

During primary interrogation, the arrestees said they had been supplying hemp in different areas including Tangail for long, he said.

Youth jailed for killing parents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court yesterday sentenced a youth to life imprisonment for killing his parents in Puratan camp area of the town in 2015.

The convict is Manjurul Hasan Shanta, 32, son of Md Mizanur Rahman of the area.

The court also fined him Tk 10,000. In default, he is to suffer three months more in jail.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Anisur Rahman handed down the verdict in a crowded courtroom in presence of the convict.

According to the prosecution, Shanta hacked his father Mizanur Rahman, 65, with a sharp weapon at their house on March 23 in 2015. Seeing this, his mother Sultana Begum came forward to save Mizanur and came under an attack.

Critically injured Mizanur and Sultana later died at Panchagarh Sadar Hospital.

After the incident, locals caught Shanta and handed him over to police.

Later, Shanta's elder brother Akhtaruzzaman Sagor filed a murder case with Panchagarh Police Station.

Police pressed charge sheet accusing Shanta on July 31 the same year.

Examining witnesses and evidence, the judge handed down the verdict.

Youth stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A youth was stabbed to death in the district town on Sunday night.

The deceased was Imamul Islam Sunny, 20, son of Merajul Islam Dalim of Balubari area.

Police said hearing screams of Sunny, family members rushed to Pilkhana ground in the area around 10:00pm and found him in a pool of blood on the spot. However, criminals managed to flee the scene.

He was rushed to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries later.

Jubo Dal leader held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kustia

Police arrested a Jubo Dal leader with a firearm and a bullet from Meherpur town on Sunday night.

The arrestee, Rajon Ahmed, 30, joint general secretary of Jubo Dal, Meherpur district unit, was produced before a court that sent him to jail yesterday.

Officer-in-Charge of Sadar Police Station Obaidul Rahman said a police team, acting on a tip-off, raided College More area around 11:00pm when a group of Jubo Dal leaders and activists were holding a secret meeting.

Police caught Rajon and recovered a pistol and a bullet from his possession while the rest managed to flee the scene, he said.

Rajon is wanted in at least six cases, including attacking police in 2014, the OC said.

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After investigation, police pressed a charge sheet against the three on August 11 the same year.

After examining witnesses and evidence, the court found them guilty and pronounced the verdict.



Cross section of people join a human chain in Pabna town yesterday demanding stern action against offenders to prevent sexual harassment and violence against women.

PHOTO: STAR