

## College girl killed in boiler blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A college girl was killed and two others were injured as a boiler of a rice mill exploded at Pashchimpara in Sadullapur upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Sharmin Khatun, 17, daughter of Shafiqul Islam of the village, and a second year student of Joyenpur Adrasa College.

Injured Ful Mia, 23, and Uzzal Mia, 30, labourers of the rice mill, were rushed to the upazila health complex.

Police and locals said Sharmin went to a nearby tube-well for washing her clothes. The boiler of a rice mill of one Ali Khan was very close to the tube-well.

All of a sudden, the boiler exploded due to overheating, leaving the trio injured, said Borhanuddin, officer-in-charge of Sadullapur Police Station.

Critically injured Sharmin later died on way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, said the OC.

## Woman found dead in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The body of an unidentified woman was recovered in Laxmiganj Bazar area beside Netrakona-Madan road in Netrakona Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police sent it to Netrakona Sadar Hospital for autopsy, said Md Borhan Uddin Khan, officer-in-charge of Netrakona Model Police Station.

The identity of the victim, aged about 25, could not be known.



One hundred and thirty nicely built houses are ready for handing over to as many families who lost their home due to land acquisition for building Payra Thermal Power Station at Dhankhali in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali.

PHOTO: STAR

### LAND ACQUISITION FOR PAYRA POWER STATION

# 130 families get new houses Saturday

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

One hundred and thirty families who lost their home due to land acquisition for construction of 1,320MW Payra Thermal Power Station at Dhankhali under the district's Kalapara upazila are now happily waiting to get their new houses.

Construction of all the houses is complete and the prime minister is scheduled to open the rehabilitation site and hand over keys of the houses to the recipients on October 27, said Md Motiul Islam, deputy commissioner.

One thousand acres of land was acquired for setting up the power station at Payra and 130 families became homeless

in the process, said Md Shipon Ali, sub-assistant engineer of North-West Power Generation Company Limited (NWPGL) that is building the station.

"For rehabilitation of the families, we built 130 new houses in the 16-acre site at a cost of Tk 50 crore. Each house contains three bedrooms, a kitchen, a store, two baths, a dining space and a yard where fruit trees are planted," he said.

Talking with this correspondent, several families expressed happiness due to the arrangement.

"I am very happy as I am going to get a new house, which will enable my five-member family to live in a better environment," said Ziaur Rahman, 30, whose 2.5

acres of land was acquired for building the power station.

"Earlier we didn't think we will get such a nice house to live in. Our three sons will get better environment in the house with electricity and other modern equipment," said Zia's wife Salma Begum.

Nasu Hawlader, who became landless after losing all of his 2.40 acres of land due to the acquisition, said, "I thank the government for taking the step to rehabilitate us in a safe and nice environment. Now I am going to get a new house where I can live with my family of six."

"Of the houses, 82 each with 1,200 square feet (sft) accommodation have

been built for the families who lost house covering more than 20 decimals of land and 48 other 1,000 sft ones for those who lost home covering less than 20 decimals of land," said engineer Shipon.

"A mosque, a playground, a kitchen market, a community centre, a community clinic, and seven shops have been built at the site. Besides, 42 deep tube-wells have been set and two ponds dug," he said.

"The Rural Electrification Board has already given power connection to the site and 2.10km paved road, 4.20km drains and 1.20km boundary have been built to ensure sanitation and safety for the families," he added.

## Buddhist temple destroyed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Criminals destroyed Jatobon Buddhist Temple and a seven-foot-tall Buddha statue at remote Kukichara village in Guimara upazila on Monday night, a day before the Probarana Purnima ceremony.

Following the incident, grievance and panic gripped the local Buddhists who were making preparations to celebrate the important religious ceremony.

Chathowai Chowdhury, chairman of Hafchari Union Parishad, said he cannot say who were involved in it.

Seeking anonymity, a resident of Kukichara village said some Bangali settlers committed the crime.

The Buddhist temple and the Buddha statue were constructed six months ago.

Gias Uddin, officer in charge of Guimara Police Station, said, "We heard the incident and police visited the spot."

## Committee to probe suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A three-member probe committee has been formed to investigate the suicide of a woman along with her four-day-old newborn by jumping from the rooftop of a hospital in the town.

Sadar Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Masum Iftekhar is head of the committee, said Civil Surgeon Nisit Nandi Majumder.

The committee has been asked to submit its report within three working days.

# A mother's struggle for her challenged kids

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Rahima Begum is making all efforts to fulfil her dream of educating her three physically challenged children so that they could lead their future life smoothly.

Moreover, the tragic road accident of her rickshaw-puller husband Abu Bakar a couple of months ago has increased her responsibility further.

Thinking of her three challenged kids' future, Rahima, a resident of Purbo Tangbhanga village in Hatibandha upazila, often cries when she is alone as she cannot provide the necessary support her children need.

Among her three kids, elder son Rubel Islam, 16, a student of Hatibandha SS High School, reads in Class VIII, while her two daughters Runi Khatun, 10, and Moni Khatun, 8,

read in Class II and Class I respectively at a local primary school.

Rahima earns her livelihood by working as a farm labourer at the village and has a house on three decimals of land. About a year ago her tin-shed house was partially damaged in a hailstorm.

"As a farm labourer my daily wage is only Tk 200, which is not sufficient to maintain my four-member family," Rahima said, adding that she can't even provide pen, books or other necessary items to her children.

"Rubel could not attend his school regularly as he cannot move without support," she said.

Rubel said he can't move without help of a stick and he can't even sit, so he always had to stay on his feet.

"We do not have lights while reading at night as our parents do not have the money to get electricity connec-

tion," Rubel said.

With a hope of getting support under the government's different safety net programmes Rahima tried to meet State Minister for Social Welfare Nuruzzaman Ahmed at his Kaliganj residence on several occasions in the last six months, but got no response.

As part of her continued efforts, Rahima with her three challenged kids, again went to the minister's house and finally got a chance to meet him on October 3.

"After three hours of long wait the minister could not assure me of any help, except promise," Rahima said.

Lalmonirhat Social Welfare Department Deputy Director (DD) Mosharrof Hossain said his department will provide all out support to ensure education of Rahima's challenged children.



Rahima with her three physically challenged kids is seen in front of the house of State Minister for Social Welfare Nuruzzaman Ahmed in Lalmonirhat recently. Inset, the three siblings read lessons at their Tangbhanga village home.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

# Self-reliant through quail rearing

## Once frustrated, the DU post-graduate is now a successful man

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

There's a wise saying: Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.

Meet Mahbubul Alam Naeem, a post-graduate from Dhaka University, who has set an example for jobless youths. He had to go through the typical ups and downs of life after completion of his formal education but nothing can bring him down.

Once frustrated, Naeem now can earn about Tk 48,000 a month by rearing quails. The 35-year-old is now the inspiration for many jobless young people of his locality.



Mahbubul Alam Naeem takes care of his quail farm in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

The tranquil journey of his struggle began with two quails, said Naeem, a resident of Shikder road area in Kalapara upazila headquarters.

"After completing my Masters in Information Science and Library Management in January 2016, I joined an international non-governmental organisation. As it was a project-based job, I worked there for about 16 months," he said.

After the project was over, he became very frustrated over getting new job and, at one stage, he returned home, said Naeem.

"One day, I bought two quails from local bazar and started rearing them out of curiosity. Later

on, the idea of quail farming business struck my mind. I set up a farm at my home compound and started the business with 600 young quails spending Tk 50,000 in the mid of 2017, and since then I have not looked back," he said.

"At present, there are 1,200 quails in my farm and I earn over Tk 40,000 every month from there. Apart from the expenses, my net income is now Tk 20,000 to Tk 25,000 per month," said a smiling Naeem.

He gets at least 800 eggs a day from 1,200 quails. He sells each egg at Tk 2 and earns Tk 1,600 daily. Apart from this, he sells each full grown quail at Tk 70 to Tk 80.

A quail lays at least 320 eggs in a year and that is very profitable, Naeem said, adding that besides quails, there are ducks, hens and pigeons in his farm. He also cultivates fish.

"There's a kind of pleasure in business as I'm now self-reliant. Besides, it is very good for me as I am earning better than a job," he said.

There's a huge demand for quail's eggs and its meat in the local market as it is nutritious, said Naeem.

Local youth Forkanul Islam said Naeem's success really inspired a number of jobless youths. Many young men of the locality have already decided to rear quail after seeing his success.

Upazila Livestock Officer Md Habibur Rahman said, "Naeem often comes to us and we provide him technical support."

Quail rearing is popular in the area considering its local market demand, he said.

## Thousands

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says Valerie Mueller, senior research fellow, IFPRI.

However, the study does not specify the exact year when the relocation would begin but rather points out the worst case scenario, said Drew Sample, IFPRI's international press officer, when contacted.

Due to a rise in soil salinity, Chittagong and Khulna districts, home to Bangladesh's second and third largest cities, may witness the highest intra-district migration, estimated between 15,000 and 30,000 migrants per year.

Districts without large cities, like Bagerhat, Bhola and Feni, would expect smaller flows within their districts, with the migrants' numbers estimated between 5000 and 15,000, but more people may leave the areas and head for the capital Dhaka.

However, it warned that with the country's five largest cities in the saline belt, migration would not reduce vulnerability to sea-level rise in the long run.

Additionally, soil salinity would also bring forth further problems.

The study found increasing soil salinity would likely reduce the financial capacity of the people, decreasing international migration. Internal migration, on the other hand, might rise nearly 25 percent.

"Financial constraints limit poor households from moving over longer distances, signaling a trapped population dynamic, raising concerns that the most vulnerable households may be the least resilient in the face of climate change," adds Chen.

According to the study, the total annual crop revenue of a family living in the coastal belt would fall by up to 21 percent each year if the salinity level increased from mild to a

moderate level.

As the salinity level increases in the coastal area, households are moving towards aquaculture, to offset the loss of income from crop production.

"As soil salinity increases from low to high salinity levels, we see a nearly 57 percent increase in share of revenue from aquaculture," says Mueller.

The study suggests that the government take up a two-pronged approach: a compensation-based resettlement programme and development strategies aimed at taking advantage of the labour surplus and promoting modern economic activities such as manufacturing, in less populated areas.

The study analysed socio-economic data from the country's Bureau of Statistics' Sample Vital Registration System and agricultural production data from Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, covering nearly half a million coastal households in a year.

## Girl 'raped', man held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A schoolgirl was raped allegedly by her boyfriend at Haripur village in Baliadangi upazila yesterday.

Police arrested accused Monoram Paul, 24, son of Sushen Paul of the village.

The victim's father said the ninth grader went out of their Uttar Baliadangi house to visit a private tutor's home.

Around 9:00am, from an unknown caller, the father came to know that a bike rider picked up his daughter.

Over two hours after the incident, he found his daughter in the local T&T office compound in an unconscious state.