



Vehicles and passers-by remain highly vulnerable to collision with an approaching train as there is no cross bar at a level crossing in Rajbari town. As many as 68 level crossings out of 88 in the district, are without any gatemen for long.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

## PIROJPUR-3 CONSTITUENCY UZ chairman resigns to contest JS polls

*Ex-AL MP, BMA leader also in the race as independent candidates*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Mathbaria upazila parishad chairman Ashrafur Rahman, also a member of Pirojpur district unit Awami League (AL), yesterday submitted his nomination paper to compete in the 11th Jatiya Sangsad (JS) polls as an independent candidate from Pirojpur-3 constituency consisting Mathbaria upazila.

The polls are scheduled to be held on December 30. Earlier on Sunday, Ashrafur handed over resignation from the chairman post, to the local administration for forwarding it to the secretary of the public administration ministry.

Two other high profile AL men -- Dr Anwar Hossain, who was elected lawmaker from the constituency in December 2008 polls, and Dr Nazrul Islam, a leader of Bangladesh Medical Association, are also contesting as independent candidates in the constituency.

There is strong possibility that present lawmaker Dr Rustom Ali Farazi will get nomination from the AL-led alliance, party insiders said.

He was elected independent lawmaker in the 10th JS polls by defeating the then AL candidate.

Rustom Ali, who was also elected lawmaker from Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) in 1996 and BNP in 2001 from Pirojpur-3, again joined JP this year.

Ashrafur and several other AL leaders of the upazila had demanded nomination of a candidate from the party, claiming that Rustom did not evaluate AL men during the last five years and proper development works were not done in Mathbaria.

## One killed, 25 hurt in AL clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man was killed and 25 others were injured in a clash between the supporters of two local Awami League (AL) groups at Sajan village in Lakhai upazila of Habiganj on Tuesday.

The deceased was Iqbal Hossain, 40, son of Mansur Miah of Sharifpur village in Kishoreganj.

Supporters of Enayet Hossain, AL's Habiganj Sadar union general secretary, and Maraj Miah, Habiganj district AL executive member, locked in a clash over establishing supremacy in the area in the afternoon, locals said.

The two groups, armed with locally-made sharp weapons, swooped on each other, leaving Iqbal and 25 others injured.

Iqbal succumbed to his injuries on the way to Habiganj Sadar Adhunik Hospital while 11 of the injured are undergoing treatment there.

The rest were given first aid at local dispensaries.

"The bloody clash continued for around one and a half hours. Police detained 15 people from the spot and additional police force has been deployed in the village to avert any unwanted situation," said Md Emran Hossain, officer-in-charge of Lakhai Police Station.

## Poacher held with electric trap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Moulvibazar Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department authorities arrested a poacher with an electric trap from Tilagaon area of Madhabpur under Kamalganj upazila on Saturday.

The arrestee is Abdul Malek, 60, of the area, while his son fled from the spot.

Malek and his son catch wild animals, including barking deer, red jungle fowl and other birds from the forest using an electric trap, said Assistant Conservator Forests of Moulvibazar Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department Anisur Rahman.

He said Malek was arrested, however, the main person (son of Malek) could not be caught.

Malek said he is doing this to save their crops.

## 3 fined for selling adulterated Boro seeds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A mobile court in separate drives fined three seed traders a total of Tk 55,000 for selling adulterated Boro seeds, wrapped in packets of branded companies.

Afsana Parvin, assistant director of Rangpur regional office of Directorate of National Consumers Rights Protection, led the court jointly conducted by the department and District Seed Certification Department.

The court first raided Sonali Beej Bhandar at Baro Bazar in the town and seized huge amount of adulterated seeds from the shop and realised Tk 30,000 as fine from the owner Jamiar Rahman.

The court then raided another seed shop named Reza Traders at Palashbari Market and fined shop owner Joynal Abedin Tk 10,000 for selling seeds for double the price than the actual one and warned of dire consequences if he does the same in future.

Finally the court conducted a raid at Fazlu Traders in Ramganj area, about ten kilometres from the district town, and fined shop owner Fazlul Huque Tk 15,000 after the consumers present there complained of realising higher price by the trader.

District Seed Certification Officer Abul Ala Moududi said they would continue launching such drives frequently to create awareness among both the traders and the consumers.

## Aman growers upset for additional cost

*Lalmonirhat farmers had to use underground water for irrigation*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Growers of Aman paddy in the district are upset because lack of sufficient rain raised the production cost of the crop as they had to use underground water for irrigation.

Production has also fallen due to lack of rainwater.

Farmer Dinanath Barmon, 67, of Uttar Gobdha village in Aditmari upazila, said this was the first time in his life that he used underground water for irrigation.

"We got 12 to 15 maunds of paddy per bigha of land last year, but 10 to 12 maunds this year," said Hemanata Chandra Roy, 65, of the village. They spent additional Tk 1,200 to Tk 1,500 per bigha for irrigation, he added.

Delowar Hossain, 58, of Sreekhata village in Kaliganj upazila, said he got 104 maunds from eight bighas spending Tk 26,000 last year, but he got only 81 maunds spending Tk 38,000 this year. "We got only 20 percent rainwater and had to use the rest 80 percent from underground water, spending extra money," he added.

"We are selling Aman paddy at Tk 500 to Tk 550 per maund, while it was Tk 550 to Tk 600 last year," said Nurul Islam, 52, of Kulaghat village in Sadar upazila.

Lalmonirhat Department of Agriculture Extension Deputy Director Bidhubhushon Roy said Aman was cultivated on 84,845 hectares of land in five upazilas this year, while it was 84,130 hectares last year.

Aman growers are unhappy over additional production cost and less production this year, but they are satisfied over the high prices of paddy straw, he said. "Many farmers get nearly 50 percent of Aman production cost from selling straw," he added.

## Jashore tech univ admission starts Dec 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Admission of undergraduates to Jashore University of Science and Technology will start on December 2.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting of the dean's committee with Vice-Chancellor Professor Anwar Hossain in the chair.

The students in the merit list from 1 to 1,500 in A, B and C units, 1 to 300 in D unit, and 1 to 120 in F unit (Science), 1 to 277 (Business Studies) and 1 to 39 (Commerce), have been asked to fill up their choice forms. The last time for filling choice form is 12:00 noon on November 29, according to a press release.

The list of the examinees selected for admission will be published in the university website at 12:00 noon tomorrow.

## Sorrow of bookworms

Kulaura library closed for 2 yrs, 4000 books getting damaged

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Bookworms are being deprived of reading due to closure of Kulaura Public Library beside Independence Monument in the municipality for the last two years.

There is none to save the rare books in the library lying in an abandoned state since 2016, thanks to the authorities' negligence.

Mohammad Sirajul Islam, the then Kulaura upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), inaugurated the public library having a reading room and an office room on June 26 in 1984. After inauguration, it became very popular among the book lovers. Kulaura's Sonali Bank branch has an account in the name of the public library.

Former UNO Mohammad Nazmul Hasan and ex-upazila primary education officer Shariful Islam were the president and the general secretary of the Library Management Committee. Shariful

ran the library successfully for one year since 2012. After his transfer, activities of the library almost came to a halt, said incumbent UNO Mohammad Ashekul Haque.

Local writer M Mosabbir Ali, 50, fifth member of the library, said he used to read rare books of noted authors by paying Tk 30 every year. Those books are difficult to find elsewhere. But at present, he cannot read books due to closure of the library. There are around 4,000 books but many of them got damaged due to lack of maintenance.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found some furniture traders selling tables, chairs, etc at the library's veranda.

The concrete floor of the library has turned muddy due to lack of maintenance. Every corner of the room is covered with spider webs. Newspapers in the library are scattered randomly in the inner table. There are layers of dust on 30 chairs in the reading room.

Kulaura's young writer Md

Jahirul Islam said a library can play a vital role to increase readers. There is no alternative to reading books for acquiring knowledge. To gain knowledge, the best way is the public library but it has now turned into a garbage centre.

Former librarian Khurshid Ullah said "I along with ex-assistant librarian Shamsuddin ran the library for six years since 2010. In the meantime, we got Tk 1,200 each as honorarium for three years since 2010. We did not get any honorarium after 2013. Retired headmaster Md Alauddin Ahmad of Rabeya Adarsh Government Primary School worked as a librarian for some time in 2015 when Shamsuddin fell sick. Shamsuddin died last year."

UNO Mohammad Ashekul Haque said "I will visit the public library soon. Collective initiatives will be taken from the upazila parishad and upazila administration to make the public library better."



Kulaura Public Library in Moulvibazar has been lying in an abandoned state for two years.

PHOTO: STAR



Bhubanjoy Government High School in Rangamati's Jurachhari upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

## Schooling of 666 uncertain

*Many students leave the school for shortage of teachers*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The only government school in Jurachhari upazila has been facing an acute shortage of teachers for over seven or eight years, hampering academic activities greatly.

Bhubanjoy Government High School is running with only three teachers, including its headmaster, so classes cannot be held regularly.

The school was established in 1970. In 1986, it was upgraded to government high school. Chattogram Education Board recognised it the same year and gave permission for running humanities, science and business groups. At that time, the school had the required number of teachers, but now there are only three teachers against 11 posts.

Although two teachers were appointed recently, one of them was transferred elsewhere while the other has not joined yet.

In the absence of teachers, many

students have left the school and the future of 666 students is uncertain.

Some parents said the quality of education is not improving because there is no subject-matter teacher. The result in the last Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations was the worst for the school, they added. They demanded appointment of teachers soon.

Rasel Chakma, a student of business studies, said there are no teachers for the course, but they have to study it. "I cannot afford to study in Rangamati town or outside. I don't know what will happen in my life," Rasel added.

Priti Purno Chakma, 45, a guardian, said her son could not study properly due to teacher shortage, so he faces an uncertain future.

For the last eight years, there has been no teacher for biology, mathematics, higher mathematics, trade, chemistry, and physics. Seventh graders Purna and Sumonti Chakma said one teacher taught all

the subjects in their class.

Headmaster (in-charge) Shantimoy Chakma said teachers of different subjects are teaching other subjects. "I have submitted several letters to the higher authorities for appointment of teachers, but to no avail," he added.

Teachers said they have to take seven to eight classes per day, and it is not possible to teach properly in this situation.

Jurachhari upazila Secondary Education Officer Abul Kalam Azad said results in JSC and SSC examinations are likely to be very poor if the teacher crisis is not resolved quickly.

Jurachhari Upazila Parishad Vice-Chairman Riton Chakma said there is shortage of teachers although it is the only government school in the upazila. The government should appoint teachers as soon as possible, he added.

Jurachhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Muhammad Mahfuzur Rahman said he will submit a letter to the education ministry soon for solving the problem.