



Work for a railway line has started just in front of two schools (one not in picture) beside Ishwardi-Rooppur road at Sara Gopalpur village in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna, giving rise to safety concerns among teachers, students and guardians.

PHOTO: STAR

## Teachers, students worried as rail line to be set beside schools

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPI, Pabna

Construction of a railway line in front of two schools along the Ishwardi-Rooppur road in Pabna has made teachers and parents of more than 800 students worried.

Since the line is in front of Sara Gopalpur Government Primary School and Sara Gopalpur High School in Sara Gopalpur village, teachers, students, parents and locals demand a level crossing there.

Authorities completed the land development process for the rail lines last week and the students are worried about their safety.

"After completion of the railway lines, it will become a risky area," said Ashraf Islam, a student of class-V at the primary school.

Md Rahul, a class-IV student of the same school, said, "We often play outside the school after class. If a railway line is built there, then it will become a restricted area.

How will we play then?"

Bangladesh Railway is building the 26.52-km line with a 4.50-km loop to transport necessary materials to the site of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the country's first nuclear power plant in Ishwardi with a production capacity of 2.4 gigawatts.

Md Ishhaque Ali Chowdhury, a villager, said, "As it is a requirement for the government project, the line must be protected. A special gate must be set up as the students use this road every day."

Mir Shahanaz Dorin, headmaster of the primary school, said the local primary education office had been approached over the matter. In a letter, the school authorities have asked for funds to build a boundary wall to ensure students' safety.

"If they approve, we will build a wall around the schools," Dorin said.

"We have nothing to say about the construc-

tion because the land belongs to Bangladesh Railway," he added.

When contacted, Md Masud Rana, head teacher of Sara Gopalpur High School, said a railway line had been lying unused in front of the schools since the British era. The new line is being built there.

"We have requested the authorities to set up a level crossing and appoint a gateman for the safety of the students," Masud said.

Md Ariful Islam, Bangladesh Railway divisional engineer in Pakey, said the railway authorities were concerned about the safety of the students. "We have a plan to set up a level crossing in front of the schools so that the students can safely cross the lines and there will be a gateman as well."

Ruhul Quddus, in-charge of the Rooppur plant's site office, said the line would be used for the plant only. "No other train will run on this track, so there is nothing to be worried about."

## Brutal vengeance or wicked pleasure?

30 mango trees, 250 pumpkin plants cut at night

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Miscreants cut down at least 30 mango trees and 250 pumpkin plants of an orchard at Rangali village in Birganj upazila of the district on Saturday night.

"I don't know who has caused the harm as I have no enmity with anyone. The mango trees were three-year-old while the pumpkin plants had started flowering in my 2.5-bigha orchard," Md Khokon Ali, owner of the orchard, told this correspondent over phone yesterday.

A maize field beside the orchard was left damaged by the criminals, he added.

He filed a complaint with Birganj Police Station yesterday, stating that unidentified

"I don't know who has caused the harm as I have no enmity with anyone. The mango trees were three-year-old while the pumpkin plants had started flowering."

criminals axed the mango trees and pumpkin plants from stumps at his orchard on Saturday late night.

Condemning the barbaric act, Lal Mia, a ward member of Shatogram union parishad, demanded punishment for the perpetrators.



The orchard of Md Khokon Ali at Rangali village in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur lies ravaged as miscreants destroyed 30 mango trees, 250 pumpkin plants there on Saturday night.

PHOTO: STAR



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Students form a human chain in Indurkani upazila town of Pirojpur yesterday demanding action against Anwar Hossain, a veterinary surgeon at the upazila livestock office, who had seized approved calculators from SSC candidates at Setara Smrity Girls' High School centre during the mathematics examination the day before. The official, then on duty at the exam venue, returned the calculators to the students after a few minutes when the invigilators were able to convince him that the calculators belonged to the categories approved by the education board.

## Jubo League man hacked dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Jubo League activist was killed while another injured in an alleged attack by their rivals on Saturday night in Jamrultala Sheikhati area of Jashore town.

The dead, Mamun Hossain, 30, was a member of Jubo League's Ghop Central Road ward unit.

The injured is Arif Hossain, a member of the executive committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of the same ward.

Rowshan Iqbal Shahi, president of BCL in Jashore, acknowledged the incident and claimed that the nearly 10 to 12 men took part in the attack, led by one Sagar Hossain.

Mamun was pronounced dead around 9:00pm after he was taken to Jashore Medical College Hospital in a critical state. Arif is currently undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police station said they were conducting raids to arrest the assailants.

## Saudi national's body handed over to embassy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The body of the Saudi national, who was found dead at a house in Mymensingh's Gouripur upazila early Friday, was handed over to the embassy authorities of Saudi Arabia yesterday.

The body of Nasser Faleh Al Dawsari, 48, was handed over around 8:00am to Yasin Md Abdus Shahid, secretary to chargé d'affaires of Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Dhaka, said Dr Subas Chandra Biswas, deputy commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh.

The body was taken to Dhaka in an ambulance from the mortuary of Mymensingh Medical College, said the DC.

According to police, Dawsari had been living at the house of his friend Abu Sayeed Sanny in Douhakhola village of Gouripur since November 9 of last year. On Friday morning, he was found dead with his body bearing no injury mark.

Quoting locals and family members of Sanny, Shaker Hossain Siddique, additional superintendent of police (Gouripur Circle), said the two knew each other for the last 20 years when Sanny worked at a hotel in Dhaka's Gulshan and Dawsari visited Sanny's house on several occasions over the last couple of years.

After the incident, police detained Sanny in a drunken state and later showed him arrested in a case filed on Friday night with Gouripur Police Station under the Narcotics Control Act, said Abdullah Al Mamun, OC of the police station.

On Friday afternoon, Sanny was sent to jail after he was produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Mymensingh with a prayer for seven-day remand, said the OC. Ishtiaq Mosharrif, a medical officer at Gouripur Upazila Health Complex, said the cause of the death would be known after the autopsy report is received.

Sanny's younger brother Abdur Rashid told this correspondent that five years ago, Sanny bought five decimals of land adjacent to Douhakhola School Bazar. With financial support from Dawsari, Sanny constructed a three-room building where the latter used to live.

## QUESTION LEAK 3 teachers jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A mobile court on Saturday sentenced three teachers to 15 days' imprisonment each for leaking the question of English 1st paper in this year's Dakhil examinations, in Kasba upazila of the district.

The court sentenced a photocopy shop owner to two years' imprisonment for copying and keeping the shop open during the exams.

The convicts are Abdul Kaiyum, 42, Nurul Amin, 40, and Hafizul Islam, 25, teachers of Mehari Obadiya Dakhil Madrasa in the upazila, and photocopy shop owner Mohsin Rifat.

Informed through a phone call that question of English 1st paper and answer sheets were being photocopied in a shop beside the exam centre, a mobile court, led by UNO Hasina Islam raided the shop, arrested its owner and the three teachers with the question paper and handed them over to Kasba Police Station.

Shop owner Mohsin Rifat said the three teachers provided the question and answer sheets, said the officer.

## Damage high at Dinajpur brickfields after sudden rain

Operators worried as Met office forecasts more rain within week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Brick kiln operators in Dinajpur have incurred heavy losses in sudden rain on Friday and Saturday during the dry season when the sale of bricks reaches its peak.

The meteorological office said in Dinajpur, they recorded 19 millimetres of rainfall that started on Friday night and continued till late night on Saturday.

There are 265 brick kilns in 13 upazilas of the district, according to office of the deputy commissioner.

Abu Bakkar Siddique, manager at Home Bricks in Dinajpur Sadar upazila, said Friday's rain damaged around 7,00,000 pieces of unbaked

bricks in the brickfield. "We tried in vain to protect a large quantity of the bricks with coverings of polythene sheets," he said.

As many as 32 brick kilns in Birganj upazila saw the heaviest damage as around 1 million bricks were damaged there due to the unexpected rain.

Naresh Chandra Roy, a worker at FBM Bricks in Birganj upazila, said he along with other workers were struggling to cover the raw bricks with polythene sheets.

During a visit to the brickfield yesterday, this correspondent found the workers cleaning up the damaged bricks.

Shahidul Islam, manager of NHB bricks in Birganj upazila,

said around 1.5 million bricks in his field were damaged during the rain.

He said they faced a similar situation last year. "Brickfield operators in the district face huge losses for such sudden rain."

Mohammad Rokonzaman, owner of Abrar Bricks in the same upazila, said they also had around 1.5 million bricks damaged by the rain in the brickfield.

"It'll take at least one month to make the same number of raw bricks that were damaged," he added.

Although yesterday was dry and sunny, the Met office forecasts that more rain is on the way in the region during the rest of the week.



A large quantity of raw bricks lie badly damaged on the premises of a brick kiln in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur following Friday and Saturday's unexpected rain in the northern region during the ongoing dry season.

PHOTO: STAR