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PHOTO: STAR

# Pond on occupied railway land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Workers engaged by a local influential person have continued illegally digging a pond on 10 decimals of land belonging to Bangladesh Railway (BR) in Kamalganj upazila of the district.

A section of local musclemen having political clout are grabbing the land at Shamsheernagar railway station for over two months, said locals.

Senior Assistant Engineer Monirul Islam of Kulaura region at BR said they conducted drives in the area several times and stopped digging the pond but the grabbers resumed the work after the drive was over.

Abdul Mosabbir, former chairman of Shamsheernagar Union Parishad, took lease three acres of railway land in the area a few years ago, but he built a number of small tin-shed houses on the land illegally violating the terms of the lease, said the engineer.

During a recent drive, they demolished

the houses and recovered two acres of land from Mosabbir, he said, adding that they will conduct another drive soon to recover the rest land.

The railway tracks in Shamsheernagar may collapse during monsoon if the work of digging the pond is not stopped, said engineer Monirul.

Mosabbir bought several acres of government khas land with the help of local touts by making forged documents, he said.

Refuting the allegation of grabbing the railway land, Mosabbir said earlier a misunderstanding on the land was created between him and the railway department but it is settled now.

"Railway engineer Monirul Islam submitted a written complaint to us about the illegal occupation of the land," said Mohammad Ismail, sub-inspector of Srimangal Railway Police Station.

Necessary action will be taken after investigation, he said.

## Free medical camp on Amar Ekushey

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A free medical camp was organised at Hatibandha in Sakhipur upazila yesterday marking the International Mother Language Day.

Around 2500 patients from Sakhipur and outside the upazila got treatments as well as necessary medicines at the medical camp by the specialist doctors.

Moreover, around 300 eye patients were also scrutinised at the camp for holding their cataract operations and setting up lenses at free of cost.

Kidney Awareness Monitoring and Prevention Society (KAMPS) arranged the medical camp at Talimghar for the 14th occasions to pay homage to the martyrs of Language Movement of 1952.

Lawmaker from Tangail-8 constituency Joaherul Islam inaugurated the medical camp in the morning and also addressed a discussion on "Healthy kidney for all and everywhere" as the chief guest.

Deputy Commissioner Md Shahidul Islam, Prof Abdul Halim, principal of Kumudini Women's Medical College, former captain of Bangladesh National Cricket Team Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu and Nasrin Begum, managing director of KAMPS, among others, spoke.

KAMPS chairman Dr MA Samad, a prominent kidney specialist in the country, spoke at the discussion as the main speaker.

Around two crore people in the country are suffering from kidney diseases and some five kidney patients die per hour, Dr Samad said.

## Lawyers continue boycotting Meherpur court

It started after a judge's refusal to allow a large number of lawyers in courtroom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushitia

Lawyers of Meherpur District Bar Association yesterday at a meeting decided to continue boycotting the court of District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Gazi Rahman.

The lawyers started the court boycott programme since Tuesday as the judge had refused to allow a large number of lawyers to appear for an accused of a robbery case.

The sudden boycott disrupted activities at the court and created enormous sufferings to litigants.

Fixing Sunday for holding a general meeting on the issue, the bar association leaders during the meeting also said they would continue boycotting the court of the judge till further decision.

Advocate Ibrahim Shahin, president of Meherpur District Bar Association, said the situation of court boycotting was created after Judge Mohammad Gazi Rahman restricted the participation of large number of lawyers in connection with a case.

The judge denied hearing of the case when around 100 lawyers took part in favour of the accused, Shahin said.

"Judge prohibited the attendance of 100 lawyers in favour of the accused, although it has no certain rule or bar on how many legal aides can take part on any side of any case," the Bar leader said.

After the incident, all lawyers boycotted the court.

"We will take next step after reviewing what decision comes out on Sunday's general meeting," Ibrahim Shahin said.

Police filed the robbery case against one Abdur Razzak, son of a lawyer of the court, in September last year, court sources said.

## Lost his legs, not dignity



Dholuram Roy waters his vegetable field at Khalisha Poncha village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila. Right, Dholuram's wife helps him to wear artificial leg that enables him to walk.

PHOTO: STAR

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Twenty years ago, Dholuram Roy slipped while catching a running train and four months after that fatal accident he returned home with both his legs amputated from knees. He was 17 then.

A day labourer of a nondescript Khalisha Poncha village in Nilphamari, Roy turned to the elites of the village for advice so that he could maintain his poor family that included his mother, brother and sister.

"The village matbors (elites) were sympathetic but at the same time they told me to better resort to begging for a living. I was shocked to hear that but resolved to do whatever it takes to lead a dignified life," Roy recalled while reflecting on those turbulent days.

This Roy however is not a rags-to-riches story. Now 37, a proud father of a son and a daughter and a devoted wife beside him, this Roy is a story of human endeavour against many odds to uphold dignity and pride.

Standing on prosthetic limbs and with the support of a stick, Roy was watering his small vegetable garden when this reporter visited his paternal home on a four decimal land on January 30. Not far away, his wife Rani Bala was milking one of their two cows.

Roy said he took a six bigha land on lease where he cultivates paddy, potato and seasonal vegetables. He said disability hardly barred him from working on the field every day.

"I do various work like planting, weeding, harvesting potato and

thrashing paddy. The speed of my work is slow but that is understandable," said Roy, adding that he had to put off his prosthetic limbs while working on the field.

Roy also works as a sewing operator in a tailor shop to earn some extra money.

"My husband works all day in farmland to forget the agony of his physical disability. He also works in a tailor shop in the evening. By selling crops and working hard we have saved enough money to buy two cows and the leased land," said Rani Bala. They got married in 2010 and are blessed with two children.

Roy's 10-year-old daughter and seven-year-old son are enrolled in a local primary school.

Lost his father at a tender age, Roy went to adjacent Naogaon with a group of farm worker to cut Aman paddy in November 1998.

"The wage was high there. After one month of harvesting, we decided to return home. We reached Raninagar Station to catch the Nirphamari-bound train. All my colleagues boarded the train safely but I slipped and fell and both my legs crashed under the wheels of the train," Roy recalled.

He said he was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital after the accident and got treatment for one month over there before his elder brother Gonesh Chandra took him to Danish-Bangladesh Leprosy Mission Hospital in Nilphamari for further treatment for three more months free of cost.

The care in the missionary hos-

pital run by an NGO and the advice from a doctor of the hospital reignited Roy's self belief.

"The doctor advised me to buy a pair of artificial legs from the mission's workshop. Sporting those artificial legs I felt confident as I could move around," Roy said, adding that local lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor was kind enough to bear half the cost of the 10,000 taka artificial limbs.

"I requested a local landlord Animesh master to lease bighas of his farmland where I started cultivating Aman and Boro paddy and vegetables every year. My mother was with me at that time. Now I have a bigger family and bigger place work on," Roy said.

Along the way he also got interest free loan of Tk 25,000 from Kustho O Sadharan Protibondhi Unnayan Sangstha (KSPUI) as a member of it. Danish Bangladesh Leprosy Mission donates handsomely in KSPUI fund.

The money helped him to invest in his agricultural firm. Still a marginalised farmer, Roy has little to complain. He is happy that his struggle invokes respect from his community that once neglected him.

"Dholuram's struggle to live with dignity is an example. I have never seen him standing in the line for relief in UP (upazila parishad) office," said Montaz Ali, chairman of Polashbari union.

Sasikur Rahman Mondol, also echoed Montaz Ali.

"Dholuram Roy showed that disability isn't a barrier to succeed in life if there is strong willpower," Ali remarked.



Locals form a human chain on the old bridge over the Tangon river near Shilpakala Academy in Thakurgaon town yesterday demanding that the authorities take special measures to preserve the decades-old structure as a local heritage, changing the recently taken decision to demolish it.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'Punish Lipi's killer'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

People formed a human chain in front of Nasirnagar upazila Shaheed Minar in the district on Tuesday demanding arrest and punishment of the killer of Lipi Rani Deb, a four-month pregnant woman.

Lipi was killed by her husband Manik Kumar Deb, vice-chairman of Austogram upazila parishad under Kishoreganj district, on Friday, speakers said there.

"The primary inquest report of Brahmanbaria police found that Lipi was strangled but Austogram Police Station refused to record a case," said the victim's brother Chandan Deb.

## Ferry services resume after six hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Ferry services on Shimulia-Kathalbari route in the Padma river resumed after six hours of disruption caused by dense fog yesterday.

Md Salam Hossain Mia, assistant general manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation at Kathalbari, said After 11:00pm on Wednesday the density of fog started to rise gradually stranding eight ferries on the middle of the river. The ferry services were suspended around 12:00am to avoid accident.

The ferry services resumed around 8:00am after the fog disappeared, he said.

Around 500 vehicles remained stationed on both sides of the river, said Salam.

## Six year-old girl rescued five days after abduction

Alleged perpetrator arrested in Kalapara

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A six-year-old abducted girl was rescued from Kalapara upazila headquarters yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) also arrested Feroza Begum, 36, daughter of late Kadam Ali of Badurtali village, in connection with the incident.

The victim is daughter of Abdus Sattar Hawlader of Kailaghat area in Kamrangir Char of Dhaka,

said Major SK Nazmul Arefin Parag, company commander of Rab-8.

Feroza abducted the girl from in front of her house on February 16 and took her to Kalapara. The kidnapper later demanded Tk one lakh ransom from the victim's father over cellphone, said the Rab official.

On information, police raided the area yesterday evening and rescued the girl. They also arrested Feroza from the spot.



Rab rescues a kidnapped girl and arrests a woman in this connection from Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## College teacher stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A female college teacher was stabbed by snatchers in Rahmotpur area of Kalapara upazila town on Wednesday night.

Seriously injured Nasrin Sultana, 32, lecturer of Kuakata Khanabad College, is now undergoing treatment at Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Nasir Mahmud, chairman of Nilganj Union Parishad, said Nasrin stood on the road in front of her residence around 7:30pm.

At that time, a gang of four to five snatchers tried to snatch away the golden chain from her neck.

When she cried for help, the gang stabbed her and managed to flee the scene, said the chairman.