

Three fake DB men arrested  
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

# A laudable step to end trouble of retiring teachers

Jashore edn officer arranges retd benefit letters in 30 minutes

AZIBOR RAHMAN, back from Jashore

It may sound unreal that the retiring primary school teachers are getting their grant letters within the stipulated timeframe and in about 30 minutes after appearing at their respective upazila education offices. But this initiative, somewhat novel in our culture, has been taken by Sheikh Ohidul Alam, District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) of Jashore, since he joined the southwestern border district in January 2018.

In the last one year, 85 primary school teachers have gone on retirement and 42 teachers on post retirement leave (PRL) from different schools of the district, according to the Jashore DPEO.

Alam made sure all the teachers got the necessary documents – the PRL order for the 42 teachers and the pension sanction documents for the retired 85 – on time and more importantly without any hassle.

Not only that, he made necessary communications including phone calls to make sure the teachers got their documents on a given date.

"I received a phone call on March 7. The upazila education officer at the other end while reminding me of my retirement date asked me to turn up to his office the next day. I went to the Keshobpur upazila office the following morning and signed on a few papers in presence of the DPEO. It took only 30 minutes to complete all the formalities before I walked out with my pension documents," said Wajed Ali, an assistant teacher of Awalgathi Government Primary School who



Jashore District Primary Education Officer Sheikh Ohidul Alam at his office. PHOTO: STAR

went on retirement from March 8. It was also a presently surprising experience for Nur Islam and Bishnu Pada like Ali.

"I will go on PRL from March 13 and I got the documents from the Jhikargachha upazila education office on February 28," Islam, the headmaster of Nabinagar government primary school, told this reporter.

Bishnu Pada, an assistant teacher of Majlauri Government Primary School, said that he also got a phone

call from DPEO Alam and received his PRL papers on the same day from Monirampur upazila education office.

The whole experience was refreshingly different for them. They called Alam a man of great heart and an honest officer.

The trio also said that before the teachers had to go to the offices concerned several times and had to pay bribe to get their documents. Siddiqur Rahman, an assistant

teacher of Hingerpara Government Primary School in the district, went on PRL on December, 30, 2016 and retirement after one year.

"To get my PRL letter I had to wait for one month while it took 20 more days for retirement grant letter. I had to go to the district and upazila education offices five to six times and had to pay some money in those offices for what is popularly called payment for sweetmeat treat, Rahman said.

People working at the district primary education office and its six upazila branches said Alam visits each upazila offices every two months and collects the list of the imminent retired teachers. He also complete all the necessary paper work in time and remains present on the scheduled date at the upazila education offices and delivers pre and post retirement grant letters to the retired teachers.

Asked, Alam said, "After their long service teachers should get their PRL and retirement letter in time without any harassments and obstacles. But sometime they suffer harassment for some unethical and unscrupulous officers. Thinking their misery and harassment I have taken this initiative."

The Jashore primary education's chief officer said he has also introduced a diary for the teachers called 'one day one word'.

"I have directed each teacher of the district to teach the students a new word every day and write it down in their diary. Upazila assistant education officer supervises the diary," Alam said, adding that it would tremendously benefit the 2,58,080 primary students of the district.

# Woman killed over dowry

Mother-in-law, brother-in-law arrested  
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A woman was killed allegedly by her in-laws for dowry at Aramgonj village in Kalapara upazila of the district yesterday.

Police arrested the victim's mother-in-law Fahima Begum and brother-in-law Ripon Matabbor in this connection, said Ali Ahmed, officer-in-charge (inquiry) of Kalapara Police Station.

The deceased was Fatima Begum, 24, wife of Jewel Matabbor of the village. She was the mother of two children.

The victim's uncle Md Solaiman said Jewel's family members often tortured Fatima for dowry.

On information, they went to Jewel's house yesterday and found Fatima dead. Fatima was tortured to death by her in-laws, said Solaiman.

Jewel was outside the house when the incident took place, he said.

Injury marks were found in the victim's neck, said the OC, adding that action will be taken against the accused after investigating the incident.

# UNO hurt in drive against jatka netting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Baufal upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and two employees of the UNO's office were injured in an attack by criminals when they were conducting a mobile court drive against catching jatka in the Tentulia river on Monday.

The injured are UNO Pijus Chandra Da and two employees of his office Md Ashraf and Md Abdullah.

Of them, Ashraf and Abdullah were admitted to the upazila health complex while the UNO given first aid.

A mobile court, led by the UNO, went to the river by a trawler and seized some current nets. The current nets were seized after the fishermen fled the spot sensing the presence of the mobile court, said OC Khondakar Mostafizur Rahman of Baufal Police Station.

The UNO and his employees came under attack by a group of around 50 men when they were returning from the drive. The attackers threw brick bats on the mobile court team and police fired point-blank shots to bring the situation under control.

Action will be taken in this regard after proper investigation, said the OC.



Coconut fibre is kept for drying on the premises of a mill at Kanthipara village in Bagerhat's Morrelganj upazila. Inset, piled up fibre bundles. PHOTO: PARTHA CHAKRABORTY

# Coconut fibre turns money earner

Worker electrocuted  
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Various products from the item are exported abroad  
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The fibre from coconut husk processed in Bagerhat for making floor mat, mattress and kayta (a kind of rope) has become popular at home and abroad.

The fibre and the mattress are being exported to China, Korea, Japan and India, said Krishna Pada Mallick, deputy manager of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation in Bagerhat.

Sadar and Morrelganj upazilas have three coconut fiber mills, which have created employment opportunities for many villagers.

Ranojit Das, a technician at a coconut fibre mill at Kanthi Para village in Morrelganj upazila, said "At first we collect

husk from coconut sellers of different areas and then put those into the machine and finally get the fibre and powder as well after processing."

Farmers use the powder as organic fertiliser on their crop field, he said.

Another worker at the mill Shibu Saha said they can produce 2.5 maunds of fibre from 1000 coconuts. The price of fibre is Tk 1,200 to Tk 1,400 per maund.

He gets Tk 9,000 wage a month from the mill owner while his female colleague gets Tk 6000 per month, said Shibu.

Tarapada Saha, owner of the mill, said traders from Gopalganj and Pirojpur come here to buy fibre. Goods produced from the fibre are also being exported to China and India.

A worker was killed and his co-worker was injured as they came in contact with a live electric wire at Tirail village under Baraigram upazila of Natore yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Sabuj Hossain, 30, a resident of Dhupoil village under Natore's Lalpur upazila.

Sabuj and one of his assistants were injured while working at an under construction building at Tirail village, said Dilip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Baraigram Police Station.

They were taken to Baraigram Upazila Health Complex where the on-duty doctor declared Sabuj Hossain dead.

40,000 yaba pills seized  
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

# BGB FIRING IN THAKURGAON Court orders Haripur OC to submit report on April 11

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The judicial magistrate's court in Thakurgaon yesterday ordered the officer in charge (OC) of Haripur Police Station to record the complaints filed by the family members of the three villagers, killed in a BGB firing in Thakurgaon, as cases, if any other case was not recorded with the police station in this regard earlier.

Judicial Magistrate Farhana Khan also asked the OC to submit the report in this regard on April 11.

Following a scuffle on February 12, members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) opened fire on residents of Baharampur village in Haripur upazila that left three villagers dead and at least 16 others injured.

The deceased were identified as Md Nabab, 29, Sadek, 50, and Md Joynul, 12.

On February 24, three complaints were lodged with the judicial magistrate's court against seven BGB men for killing the three villagers, plaintiffs' lawyer Nurul Islam said.

Nabab's father Nazrul Islam, Joynul's father Nurul Islam and Sadek's elder brother Abdul Baset lodged complaints against Lt Col Tuhin Mohammad Masud, 33, Nayek Subedar Ziaur Rahman, 35, Nayek Sabullah, 32, Nayek Delwar Hossain, 30, Sepoy Habibur Rahman, 30, Sepoy Mursalin, 32, and Sepoy Bayrul Islam, 28.

On February 14, BGB filed two separate cases against some 275 dwellers of Baharampur village, including the two dead, in connection with the incident.



Welcoming the spring, Santal women in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila perform traditional dances, wearing colourful clothes and ornaments. PHOTO: KM REZAUL HOQUE

# Santals celebrate Baha festival

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Santal community people in Gobindaganj upazila yesterday observed the Baha festival (flower festival) with their colourful traditional cultural events.

Organised by Baha Parob Udjapon Committee, the festival, locally known as 'Baha Parob' was held at Katabari Union Paishad premises and continued till night where hundreds of Santal men, women and children took part.

Baha Parob, the second largest festival of the Santal commu-

nity, is observed every year welcoming the spring.

The community people observe the day with traditional songs and performing dances, wearing colourful cloths and ornaments.

They also decorate their houses and even the venue with colourful papers and festoons.

On the occasion, a discussion meeting was held at the venue where Gaibandha-4 Lawmaker Monwar Hossain Chowdhury was present as the chief guest.

Following the discussion, Rumila Hembrom, member secretary of

Baha Parob Udjapon Committee, handed over a memorandum to the lawmaker inscribed with demands of returning their forefathers' land and justice regarding the killing of three Santal men during an eviction drive at Shahebganj cane farm on November 6, 2016.

Presided by Philimon Baske, convener of the committee, among others, Gobindaganj Municipality Mayor Ataur Rahman, UNDP representative Shankar Pal, Adivasi Bangalee Sanghati Parishad Convener Advocate Sirajul Islam Babu, spoke on the occasion.



This freshwater turtle (scientific name batagur baska) laid 32 eggs at Karamjal wildlife breeding centre in Chandpai Range of the Sundarbans in Bagerhat on Monday. The eggs have been kept in sand for natural incubation and hatchlings will come out in 60 to 65 days, said Azad Kabir, officer in charge of the breeding centre. PHOTO: PARTHA CHAKRABORTY