

Ethnic Musahar kids' lone school closed for two years

Row over managing committee caused the stalemate at the primary school in Dinajpur's Khansama upazila

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Children of indigenous Musahar community living at Subarnakhuli village on the border of Nilphamari Sadar upazila and Dinajpur's Khansama upazila are deprived of schooling as their lone institution Subarnakhuli LSS Primary School has remained under lock and key for the last two years.

The situation has arisen due to conflict between the community-run school managing committee (SMC) and another one comprising people 'from outside' when process is on tonationalize the school with 120 students.

Shanti Bhuyan Rikhiason, 62, president of the SMC run by the Musahar community, said they terminated school headmaster Dharani Mohon Roy, 55, in 2017 on charge of irregularities.

"But Dharani, a man of Bangali community, formed another SMC, made a new list of teachers and is trying to get the school nationalized with him as headmaster. Some men in Khansama upazila education office are cooperating with him."

"We appointed Pandob Chandra Bhuyan Rikhiason, 30, of our community as new headmaster and he went to the upazila education office to submit relevant documents with list of genuine teachers for nationalization with him as headmaster. But no staff at the office received the papers as we are poor and cannot give them money," he said.

"Following complaint submitted



In this recent photo, children belonging to indigenous Musahar community and their guardians are seen in front of the closed office room of Subarnakhuli LSS Primary School in Dinajpur's Khansama upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

by Pandob Chandra, Dinajpur deputy commissioner ordered the then Khansama upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) to look into the matter. The UNO then directed the upazila

education officer (UEO) to investigate but there is no development," he added.

Pandob Chandra said, "We sought permission from the UEO for two consecutive years to allow our students

to sit for the Primary Education Completion [PEC] examinations but he declined and instead, allowed students hired by terminated headmaster Dharani Mohon."

"As the Musahars protested the conspiracy to grab their school, Dharani Mohon and Abdul Latif, president of the SMC formed by Dharani, with their hired goons locked the school in August 2017," he continued.

Ramdas Rikhiason, an elderly Musahar, said, "As schools in the nearby area declined to admit our children, we set up the school on the community's land in 1981 and paid teachers' salary with small monthly subscription from each family."

Later a man from the Netherlands helped construction of its building in 1998, he said.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found the school locked while many Musahar children were engaged in menial labour. Some girls were married off at an early age.

Moneswar, a student of Class V, said measures should be taken to re-open their school soon as many children like him want to continue schooling.

Contacted, Dharani Mohon Roy said upazila education office recognizes him as genuine headmaster.

Khansama UEO Habibur Islam said they recommended for the school's nationalization with Dharani Mohon and the teachers listed by him as his students regularly appear in the PEC examinations.

Khansama UNO Ahmed Mahbub ul Islam said, "I visited the area and tried to settle the dispute but the situation is complicated."

4 kids drown in three dists

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Four children drowned in Kishoreganj, Jamalpur and Lalmonirhat in the last two days.

Twins drowned in a water body at Hironpur Mirakandi in Itna upazila of Kishoreganj yesterday, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

The victims are four-and-a-half-year-old Jewel Mia and Sohel Mia, sons of day labourer Md Alim Uddin of the village.

Quoting family members and neighbours, Officer-in-Charge of Itna Police Station Mohammad Morshed Zaman said the twins accidentally fell into the water body while playing near the water body in the morning and drowned.

Later, family members and neighbours recovered the bodies from the water body.

On information, police visited the spot.

In Jamalpur, a three-year-old boy drowned in a ditch at Tarakandi Uttarpara village of Sarishabari upazila in the morning.

The deceased is Imon, son of Rubel Hossain of the village, reports our correspondent.

Imon accidentally fell into the ditch while playing on its bank and drowned, said police.

Later, family members recovered the body from the ditch near their house.

Meanwhile, a four-year-old boy drowned in a river at Purbo Sinduma village in Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila on Wednesday, reports our correspondent.



Roads and Highways Department is setting up a Bailey bridge replacing a concrete bridge that tilted due to the impact of surging floodwater on Gaibandha-Sundarganj highway at Kadomertola in Gaibandha town. PHOTO: STAR

Man kills brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man stabbed his elder brother to death allegedly over a family feud in Kishoreganj's Pakundia upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Chandan Rabidas, 38, son of Chand Rabidas of Rabidas Colony.

Quoting the victim's family members, Officer in Charge (Investigation) of Pakundia Police Station SM Shafiqul Islam said slain Chandan and his younger brother Ananda Rabidas locked in an altercation over family issues around 2:30pm.

At one stage, Ananda stabbed Chandan, father of three children, with a knife indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot.

Villagers caught Ananda while he was fleeing the spot and handed him over to the police, he said.

Seventh grader gang-raped in Bhola, another raped in Bagerhat

STAR COUNTRY DESK, Jhalakathi

Two girls have been allegedly raped in Bhola and Bagerhat districts.

A seventh grader was gang-raped by a gang of drug addicts in Bhola district on Saturday night, reports our Jhalakathi correspondent.

Family members alleged that a gang of eight to nine drug addicts, led by Golam Arif and Sohan of Bhola Sadar upazila, forcibly took the girl to a house in the area and raped her the whole night.

On information, the family members rescued the girl from the house on Sunday morning and sent her to Bhola Sadar Hospital, said police.

Later, the victim's father filled a case, accusing Arif, Mehedi, Sohan and some other people, said Md Sagir Hossain Mia, officer-in-charge of Bhola Sadar Police Station.

But police are yet to arrest any accused.

The victim's mother said the gang picked her daughter from near her school on Saturday and later raped her in Arif's house.

Informed by locals, they rescued her from the house. She was later sent to the hospital for medical test, said the mother.

In Bagerhat, a seven-year-old girl was raped allegedly by a 52-year-old man in Sadar upazila on Monday, reports our correspondent.

Altaf Paik, 52, son of Md Alim Uddin Paik of Kartikadia village, lured the girl with some food and took her to his house. Altaf later raped her and fled the scene, said the victim's father.

His daughter was found bleeding profusely after the incident, he said, adding that she was later sent to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital.

The girl is now out of danger, said the hospital authorities.

A case was filed, accusing Altaf, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bagerhat Model Police Station Mohammad Mahtab Uddin.

On information, police visited the spot, said the OC.

The law enforcers are raiding different areas to arrest the accused, said the police official.

Canada
Manusher Janno Foundation
Women's Voice and Leadership- Bangladesh Call for Proposals
Application Deadline: 14 September 2019 (by 11.59 PM)
Women's Voice and Leadership- Bangladesh is a project of Manusher Janno Foundation (MJF) funded by Global Affairs Canada. MJF is pleased to request Proposals from Women's Rights Organizations (WROs), Women Coalitions, Women Networks working to advance the empowerment of women and girls, promote gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls. The project will directly reach WROs and networks in Bangladesh through multi-year funding.
Interested applicants are requested to submit their proposal by 14 September 2019 (by 11.59 PM). Please download the Multi-year Funding Guideline (English, Bengali version), Proposal Submission Template (Word File), Budget Template (Excel File) from Bjobs/MJF link
<http://manusherjanno.org/index.php?Key=-1¬ice=46>
<http://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/mjf/mjf73a.htm>

Man to die for killing niece after rape
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur
A court here yesterday sentenced a man to death in connection with a case filed for murdering his niece after rape in 2010.
Judge Mohammad Mijanur Rahman of Pirojpur Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal handed down the verdict in presence of the convict Nur Mohammad, 40, son of Abdur Rashid Sheikh of Nali Tulatali village in Mathbaria upazila.
According to the case statement, on March 21 in 2010, Nur Mohammad tactfully took his 14-year-old niece, then a Class VIII student at a local high school, to a bamboo cluster and raped her there.
Later, the culprit killed the teenage victim and dumped the body in a nearby canal.
The following day, some children found the body floating in the canal water and informed the villagers.
Later, deceased's mother filed a case with Mathbaria Police Station accusing Nur Mohammad.

World Health Organization Bangladesh
VACANCY NOTICE
World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position:
- NPO (Emergency Immunization Coordinator) - (1902643)
For further details on the terms of reference and deadline for applications, please visit our website: <http://www.searo.who.int/bangladesh/about/employment/en/>.
Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.
WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

World Health Organization Bangladesh
WANTED OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
The World Health Organization (WHO) requires a suitable and highly secured office building with 20,000 square ft (approximate) for net internal usable space and parking space for 20 to 25 Station Wagon type vehicles on a rental basis (for multiple years) in Gulshan-1, Gulshan-2 or Baridhara areas. Preference will be given to Standalone/individual building premises or shared premises with individual entrance.
Proposed spaces/building must be in "ready to use" condition with all required amenities such as Electricity, Gas, Water and Sewerage, emergency exits, guard posts and provision for cafeteria, drivers room etc.
Interested Property Owners/Real Estate Companies meeting the above basic requirements are requested to submit their proposals as per the Expression of Interest (EOI) template, which can be collected from the Reception desk of WHO Country office for Bangladesh or downloaded from website <http://www.searo.who.int/bangladesh/procurement/tender/en/>. The deadline for submission of proposals along with duly completed EOI template in sealed envelopes is 14:00hrs 28 August, 2019 in the Tender box addressing to **WHO Representative to Bangladesh** in the following address:
The World Health Organization United House (ground floor to 3rd Floor) 10 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka 1212
Please note that only shortlisted proposals will be called for price quotations after the review of the EOIs applications by WHO. Any Interested Property Owner or Real Estate Company may submit applications for more than one property. In such cases, they shall use separate application for each property.
Any attempt to persuade any WHO Official/any unauthorized negotiation with WHO or any type of canvassing will lead to disqualification of the submission from the bidding process.