

GOVT SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMMES

## 120-yr-old woman finally gets coverage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The government's Old Age Allowance card was finally handed over to 120-year-old Chan Banu in Dalbuganj union of Kalapara upazila on October 23.

The Daily Star on October 9 ran a report, headlined 'Govt social security programmes: 120-yr-old woman still out of coverage', about Chan Banu being left out of social security schemes of the government.

After the publishing of the report, departments concerned took necessary steps to bring her, a resident of Sukhdugi village, under the social safety net.

Mizanur Rahman, social welfare officer in Kalapara upazila, said, "Soon after we found out about the elderly woman, we recently issued the card [in her name] to bring her under the coverage of the Old Age Allowance."

On Wednesday, they called in her eldest son Aiyub Ali to the office and handed over her card to him.

Chan Banu will start receiving the Tk 500 allowance in her bank account, effective from the month of October and the chairman of Dalbuganj Union Parishad has already given Aiyub her birth registration certificate, with which she will be able to open a bank account, Mizanur also said.

After her day labourer husband died 30 years ago, Chan Banu became a dependent of their three sons and three daughters. But all these years, she was left out of the government's Widow Allowance scheme.

Being a dependent elderly woman, she had been drifting from one place to another, including the capital Dhaka, to stay with a son or a daughter.

As Chan Banu could not live in her home village, in Neelganj under Neelganj union of Kalapara upazila, during most part of the time, she was also left out of Old Age Allowance -- another social security scheme of the government.

Three years ago, she moved to Sukhdugi village in neighbouring Dalbuganj union in the same upazila to stay with her day labourer son Aiyub.

Now 80, Aiyub is too old to provide for his family as well as for his mother. His siblings do not have the financial solvency to support their mother either.



Chan Banu



Abu Taleb at his bean field at Dakkhin Dhumaitari village in Gaibandha's Sundarganj upazila.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HOQUE

## Early variety bean brings good profit to growers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Cultivation of early variety bean has helped Abu Taleb of Dakkhin Dhumaitari village in Sundarganj upazila to overcome poverty as the item sell for much higher prices than the ones grown during the usual season.

Seeing his success, over 20 farmers of the area have started growing early variety of bean and other vegetables and earning much better than traditional agriculture products like

paddy, wheat and jute.

"As I failed to get desired profit, sometimes even the production cost, from paddy and jute, I started growing early variety of beans on my two bighas of land five years ago. It brings much better return against relatively low production cost," said Taleb.

This season he started plucking beans from his garden and it is selling at Tk 100 per kg, as consumers are taking it eagerly, as the season's first yield.

It will reduce to Tk 30 in the peak season

just after a month, he added further.

Despite hike in labourers' wage and price of agriculture inputs, vegetable farming is still much profitable, said Taleb.

"Witnessing the success of Taleb Bhai, I started vegetable cultivation last year and got good profit," said Alam Mia of the same village.

"This year I cultivated bean and other vegetables on two bighas of land. However, it requires much efforts to prepare the field for growing early variety vegetables, as the land remain swampy even after the end of

rainy season," said Alam.

Shamim Mia, a vegetable trader of Sundarganj Bazar, said now bean is selling at Tk 100 to Tk 120 per kg, but it will come down to Tk 20 only after a month.

Like bean, other early variety vegetables are costly now.

Syed Reza-e-Mahmud, upazila agriculture officer in Sundarganj, said, "Early variety vegetables bring good profit but its cultivation is difficult in flood-prone areas. High lands and homestead areas can be used for the purpose."

## 3 housewives killed

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two housewives were murdered allegedly by their husbands over family feuds in Mymensingh and Moulvibazar on Friday while another was found dead in Manikganj yesterday.

A man allegedly strangled his wife to death over a family feud and dumped the body into a nearby river in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh early Friday, reports our correspondent.

The victim, Rina Khatun, 28, was wife of Rubel Mia, 31, a garment worker.

Being informed by locals, police and firemen recovered Rina's body from the bank of Khiru river near Chalerghat area around 10:00am on Friday morning.

Deceased's father Murad Mollah, a resident of Khanpur village in Magura Sadar upazila, lodged a case with Trishal Police Station on Friday evening accusing Rubel and some other unidentified people.

According to the case statement, following a love affair, Rina, who used to work at a readymade garment factory in the capital, married one of her co-worker Rubel about four years ago.

After three years of the marriage, Rina came to know that Rubel married another woman earlier and concealed the matter which led to a family feud between the two.

About eight months ago, Rina sought divorce from Rubel and had been living in Dhaka since then.

On Thursday, Rubel met Rina in Dhaka and asked her to accompany him to Kishoreganj so that they can mitigate the crisis between them.

But on their way back, Rubel might have killed Rina and dumped the body

on the river, police said, quoting the case statement.

Meanwhile, a woman was killed allegedly by her husband over a family feud in Habiganj's Madhabpur upazila on Friday night, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

The victim, Nipa Akther, 28, mother of a baby boy, was wife of Sharif Mia of Bengaduba village.

Sharif married Nipa, daughter of Ahad Mia of Chaportola village, in 2016.

Quoting locals, police said the couple often locked in altercations over different family issues for the last couple of months.

Failing to find any response on Friday morning, neighbours peeped through the windows and found Nipa lying unconscious on the floor and informed the police.

Officer in Charge (Investigation) of Madhabpur Police Station Golam Dastagir said the cause of the death will be known after the autopsy.

Away in Manikganj, police recovered the throat-slit body of a housewife from a paddy field in Singair upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased, Hasina Begum, 55, was wife of Abdur Rahman of Paril Khumuri village.

Quoting the deceased's family members, Officer in Charge (OC) of Singair Police Station Abdus Sattar said Hasina went out of her house on Friday evening and remained missing since then.

Villagers spotted her throat-slit body in a paddy field near yesterday morning and informed the police, who recovered the body and sent it to the hospital for autopsy.

## Grabbers feast on govt primary school

*Local Jubo League men construct clubhouse grabbing a portion of the school land*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Occupying a portion of Andulia Government Primary School's land in Jashore Sadar upazila, local Jubo League men allegedly constructed a clubhouse.

On Friday, they started construction of the clubhouse grabbing 1.5 decimals of land of the school playground at Andulia village and completed it yesterday amid widespread protests from local people.

Grabbing the school land, Rafiqul Islam and Al Amin, activists of Narendrapur union unit of Jubo League, built the house, said Babul Akhter Babur, a member of the school managing committee.

The two hail from Narendrapur village in the upazila, he said.

According to multiple sources, Rafiqul and Al Amin introduced themselves as the leaders of the newly formed ward Jubo League.

Headteacher Hazrat Ali said the school was established on 80 decimals of land in 1969. Some locals donated the school land.

When they tried to resist the land grabbers, they received threat from them, said the headteacher.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent



Some local Jubo League men built this shed grabbing a portion of Andulia Government Primary School land in Jashore Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

could not reach the two Jubo League men for their comments on the issue as they did not receive the phone calls.

Md Sumon, officer-in-charge (OC) of Jashore

Kotwali Police Station, said they are yet to receive any complaint in this regard.

Immediate action will be taken against the miscreants after getting the complaint, said the OC.



Tangail district police and community policing committee bring out a procession in the town yesterday on the occasion of community policing day-2019.

PHOTO: STAR

BURIAL OF FF WITHOUT STATE HONOUR

## Two bodies start investigation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two probe committees have been formed to investigate the accusations, made by a freedom fighter at his deathbed, against the Dinajpur deputy commissioner's office.

Ismail Hossain, 75, of Jogibari village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila, breathed his last on Wednesday at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur, and the next day he was laid to final rest without state honour, as per his final desires.

The dying freedom fighter rejected the state honour following termination of his son, who worked as a daily wage-based driver at Dinajpur deputy commissioner's (DC) office.

Md Zakir Hossain, Additional Divisional Commissioner of Rangpur, head of the one-member body formed by the Divisional Commissioner of Rangpur, yesterday visited the family of the freedom fighter, Assistant Commissioner (AC-Land) Ariful Islam and DC Mahmudul Alam of Dinajpur, said KM Tarekul Islam, the divisional commissioner.

Dinajpur district administration formed another one-member probe body comprising Additional District Magistrate Shariful Islam and asked him to submit the report by Sunday.

"It is unfortunate that a freedom fighter was buried without state honour. I could find out a solution if I the DC informed me when the deceased's family rejected the state honour," M Iqbalur Rahim, lawmaker from Dinajpur-3 and Whip of Jatiya Sangsad, told this correspondent over phone yesterday.

This correspondent tried to contact DC Mahmudul Alam, but he did not receive the phone calls.

"My father accused the DC administration in his letter," said Nur Islam, son of deceased freedom fighter who lost his job from AC Land Office, employed under no-work-no-pay condition in 2017.

After the death of the freedom fighter and his burial without state honour, DC Mahmudul Alam said, "Such an untoward incident could have been averted if I was informed before. My

office has returned the job to Nur Islam."

But, in the letter addressed to lawmaker Iqbalur Rahim, freedom fighter Ismail Hossain mentioned that his son attempted to meet the DC to inform him of the trouble he was facing in job, but he was not allowed.

Rejecting state honour, he said, "After my death, I do not want the salute of those AC Land, UNO, ADC and DC, who made my son jobless."

"My son Nur Islam was a driver of Ariful Islam, AC (Land) of Dinajpur Sadar upazila, under no-work-no-pay condition but he was sacked illogically on October 9. The AC and his wife also forced my son to do household works," he mentioned in the letter.

AC Ariful Islam denied the allegation and said, "I did not feel safe when Nur Islam drove the vehicle as he was a drunkard."

Terming the claims of the AC as false, Nur Islam said, "My father and I went to the DC, ADC (Revenue) and AC (Land) after I lost the job, but they did not meet with us. Every word of my father's letter is true."