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SHAH CEMENT

A beacon with books for all

Student spends hard-earned money in new concept of library

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A schoolboy who started a library in his village with only 10 books back in 2014 now supplies books to 30 salon-based mini-libraries in two upazilas with money earned from part-time jobs.

Jamal Hossain set up Sarpukur Jubo Forum Pathagar (Youth Forum Library) in the Tipar Bazar area of his village Sarpukur, in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat.

In this remote village, books were few and far between.

The library, a tin-shed room measuring 10 feet by 12 feet, has now become a centre of learning for students and teachers, as well as for other villagers, with around 6,500 books.

It has books on science, history, agriculture, and technical matters, among others, as well as two national dailies, a regional daily, and a job magazine.

But Jamal did not just stop here and came up with the unique idea of salon-based libraries. What could be a better place for locals to have access to books than the salons which are often the liveliest spots of village markets?

Jamal's work has spread to other villages in Lalmonirhat Sadar and Aditmari upazilas this past year.



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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Nine-year-old Zinia smiles graciously as she gets back to selling flowers on the streets around Dhaka University's TSC. She went missing on September 1. Her disappearance caused quite a stir among hundreds of people, including students, who frequent the area and know her. Detectives found her nine days later in Narayanganj and arrested a woman on charges of abduction.

N'ganj blast survivors improve

Docs say they're not out of danger; CID DIG promises thorough probe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Deputy Inspector General of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Md Mainul Hasan has said everyone responsible for Narayanganj mosque blast will be brought under a speedy trial based on statements and evidence collected during the investigation.

"We will complete the investigation with the highest professionalism and skill," he said yesterday while talking to media after visiting Pashchim Talla Baitus Salat Mosque in Narayanganj where a deadly explosion took place on September 4.

At least 39 people were

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Erosion halts ferry service in Shimulia

STAR REPORT

Ferry services at the Shimulia ferry terminal point have completely been halted since Friday night as river erosion has taken a devastating turn.

At least 10 acres of land, a shop and some other structures were devoured by the Padma between Friday night and yesterday morning.

Villagers hit by erosion were seen moving to safe shelters for their survival.

Around 20 families, along with their belongings and valuables, have had to move said Hazrat Ali Sheikh, a resident of Shimulia village.

Locals and officials concerned said the ferry terminal is facing the risk of destruction due to erosion.

Normally, 15 ferries ply on Shimulia-Kathalbari route -- one of the major gateway of southern district. But the services were facing disruption over the last couple of months due to strong currents and navigability crisis.

Amid such a situation, authorities concerned were forced to shut down the services since September 3 for the same reason.

Later on Friday afternoon, the services were resumed but the ferries were facing difficulties while plying.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Mujib-Indira summit tomorrow

September 13, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

TALKS WITH INDIRA WILL COVER PAKISTAN AND CHINA ISSUES

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will arrive in New Delhi tomorrow morning and will leave for Dhaka after a three-hour stopover. Talks between the Bangladesh prime minister and the Indian prime minister will be held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan during the stopover. The talks according to Indian sources will be mainly related to political matters of mutual interest, Pakistan's attitude towards Bangladesh and the situation which has developed following the Chinese veto denying Bangladesh its place in the United Nations are likely to figure prominently in the talks between Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indira Gandhi.

TK 72CR SPENT ON ECONOMIC REHABILITATION Relief and Rehabilitation Minister AHM Kamaruzzaman says in Dhaka today that the government has already spent Tk 72 crore for the economic rehabilitation of the people who had suffered badly during the days of occupation of Bangladesh. The money has been spent by way of house building grant, GR cash, and in education and housing programme.

Addressing a press conference, the minister says that the government has also allocated about Tk 1.43 crore maunds of foodgrains for free distribution among the affected people. He further says that the acute unemployment in rural areas just after

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



The Padma is rapidly eroding its banks near Shimulia ferry terminal in Munshiganj, devouring at least 10 acres of land in less than a day. Ferry services have completely stopped with residents scrambling to get their movable belongings to safety. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

INDIA-CHINA BORDER TENSIONS

Five Indians detained near Tibet released

AGENCIES

China yesterday released five Indian nationals it detained in a region bordering Tibet, the Indian army said, days after the two sides agreed to dial down tensions on their disputed frontier.

The men, who the Indian side said had accidentally strayed into Chinese territory, were escorted back across the high-altitude frontier by the People's Liberation Army to the border town of Kibithu.

"After quarantine of 14 days for Covid-19 they will be handed over to family members," an Indian defence spokesman said on Twitter.

There was no official confirmation of the release from China, but the state run Global Times tabloid claimed the men were "Indian intelligence staff who had disguised themselves as hunters".

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DHAKA-DELHI CONNECTIVITY

Positively impacts Bangladesh, North-East India

Says Indian foreign secy Shringla

UNB, DHAKA

Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has said Bangladesh-India connectivity directly and positively impacts both India's North East and Bangladesh.

He said four of the six pre-1965 rail links between the two countries have been made operational, and work is underway on the remaining two.

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7 saved from child marriage in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The local administration has saved seven minor girls from being the victims of child marriage in Sirajganj's Belkuchi upazila.

A mobile court led by Belkuchi Upazila Nirbahi Officer Anisur Rahman conducted several drives in different parts of the upazila from Friday noon to night and aborted the marriages.

It fined a total of Tk 70,000 from the parents of the children and made them promise that they would not attempt to marry off their daughters until they reach the legal age.

Anisur has stopped more than 250 early marriages in Sirajganj in the last three to four years.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Viking chess!

Rare complete set of a 1,000-year old board game found in UK



MAIL ONLINE

A rare complete set of Viking gaming pieces has been put up for sale after being discovered in a field by a metal detectorist.

Retired miner Mick Bott, 73, made the find at a site in Torksey, Lincolnshire, where the Vikings formed a winter camp in AD 872.

The camp was used as the Vikings' defensive and strategic position during the winter months as they prepared to conquer England.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Daily deaths not dropping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-four Covid-19 patients died and 1,282 more people tested positive for the virus in 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday.

The total number of deaths from the virus in the country rose to 4,702. The

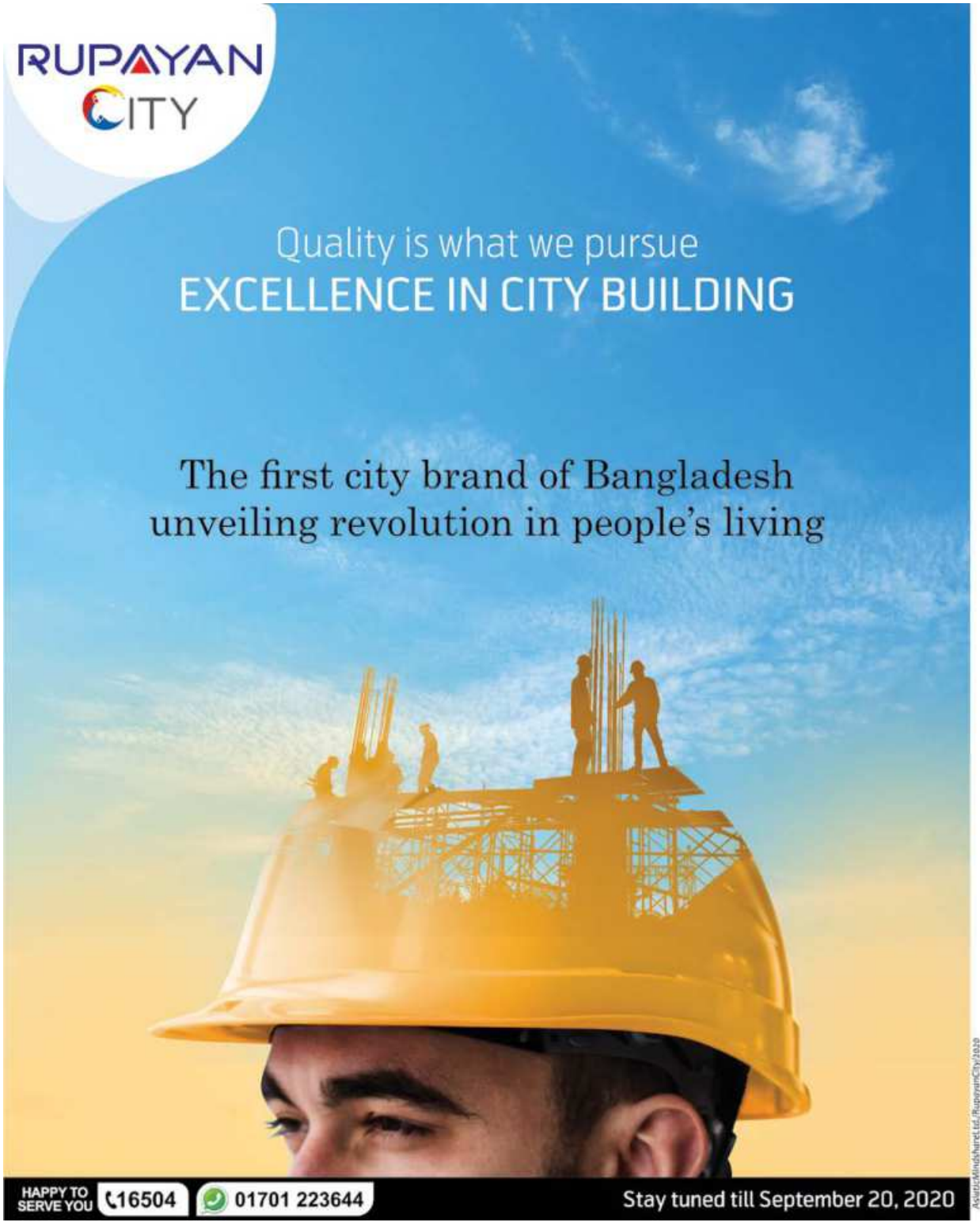
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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:14 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:17 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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Stay tuned till September 20, 2020