

# An ideal home for nation builders

## A primary school at remote village takes the lead in achieving academic feat, teaching discipline

SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

The school is known for excellent results. But more heartening things awaited this correspondent during a visit last week.

The academic atmosphere at the North Ibrahimpur Government Primary School in a remote village in Nabinagar upazila will raise hope in any visitor. Besides studies, children also learn discipline, cleanliness and good manners at school.

The discipline comes from teachers. They come to school by 9:30 am, half an hour before school hours. They meet at the dilapidated teachers' room, discuss problems, if any, and fix the day's programme.

Guardians from different areas of the upazila vie to get their children admitted to the school. But many are disappointed, it was gathered.

This year, seven of its students got Talent Pool Scholarship in Class V out of 15 allocated for Nabinagar

upazila. Another got general scholarship. This is an enviable achievement compared to those of four government primary schools and two kindergarten schools at Nabinagar upazila headquarter.

This is no exception for the school. From 1976 till last year, it got 99 scholarships.

During a visit by this correspondent, chairman of the school governing body, Noor Ahmed, a retired army Subedar, was also seen sitting

at the office room.

Right at 10 am, a whistle blared and all students came out of classrooms in lines for 'assembly' on the small premises. The discipline was noteworthy. The children looked tidy with clean dresses.

Noor Ahmed said the school runs well only because of sincerity of teachers and hard labour of headmaster Md. Abul Hashem, who is at the school since 1968.

The headmaster said the school has earned the reputation due to joint efforts by teachers and guardians. Besides academic activities at school, motivation of guardians is also very important because they are the teachers at home.

Asked about the method of teaching and the result, the headmaster said discipline and regularity are most important. "Guardians should also know what their children are doing".

The teachers come to school before 9:30 am and stay up to 4:30 pm, he said. They take lunch at teachers' room to save time for students.

Besides regular class tests, special coaching for students of Class V starts from February. The coaching is held at school.

"They (teachers) follow the Teachers Guide", the headmaster said.

After publication of scholarship results this year, many officials and guardians visited the school, the headmaster said. It is about three hours' journey from Brahmanbaria town.

But the school building gives a different look, not befitting to the

result and atmosphere.

There are 839 student including 412 girls at the school. As per rule, there should be one teacher for 50 students at primary level. But there are only nine teachers including seven women at the school.

Due to lack of teachers, the school is now being run in two shifts, the headmaster said.

The students huddle in only seven classrooms at the tin-shed dilapidated school building. There are two sections in Class V for 125 students.

Three of the seven rooms were seen virtually unfit for use. The walls are old and smudged.

"We can do better if the authorities give us two more teachers and construct a two storied building for this school", the headmaster said.

When contacted later, Sunil Kumar Roy, Acting Upazila Education Officer (UEO) said, "Headmaster Abul Hashem is a pride for the district. The school (North Ibrahimpur Government Primary School) is at the top position due to his hard labour, sincerity and good administration. He has been selected as the best teacher in the district".

Sunil Kumar said he has sent papers to higher authorities for money for construction of a two storied building at the school.

The eight students and nine teachers of the school will be accorded a reception by Nabinagar Upazila Education Office at the upazila headquarter on May 11, officials said.



Emon, Pavel and Apu (all with cross mark, sitting from right in the front row) seen along with others in police custody. The photo was taken on Monday.

## Traumatised talents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

They were taken aback. The four brilliant students faced the first hard reality in life.

Apu, Nayon Pavel and Emon were lazing about after appearing at the SSC examination from Barisal Government Zila School. The examination ended recently.

On Friday in the evening, they were caught by police from a tea stall near the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital and huddled in custody. But they did not know their fault.

Apu used to get the second position in merit list at school. Nayon Pavel and Emon are also brilliant students. "I hope Apu will get Grade Point Five (in SSC)", headmaster of the school Namita Sarkhal said talking to this correspondent later.

Teachers of the school and their

guardians protested the arrest and harassment.

Apu's father is an employee of SBMCH. The four were gossiping after having tea at a stall near Apu's SBMCH staff quarter.

All of a sudden, a police van stopped in front of the stall. Some policemen came out, caught and whisked them into the van and sped away. Two of them came in bicycles. They requested police to let them inform their fathers to take the uniforms. But the grumpy men in uniform were unmoved.

The four then found themselves inside Barisal Kotwali hajat khana with the many other victims of 'mass arrest' in the city.

Being informed, their guardians went to the Kotwali thana. Nayon was released allegedly after payment of bribe. But the guardians of three others could not satisfy police.

Emon's father is dead and Pavel's

father is a retired serviceman. Next day (Sunday), Apu, Pavel and Emon were produced before court under Section 34 of CRPC. The magistrate granted them bail till May 2 and ordered them to appear before the court on that day.

The four talked to newsmen after they came out of court on bail on Sunday.

They looked dejected.

"It is unjust, disgraceful", Apu said.

This is a terrible experience for such teenagers, their parents said.

Namita Sarkhal and human rights activists condemned the incident and demanded punishment of the persons responsible for this.

Nurul Alam, officer-in-charge of Barisal Kotwali thana, admitted mass arrests on orders from higher authorities and said the students were taken to custody as suspects.



PHOTO: STAR

Life starts with a lesson on discipline... Students at the assembly before classes at North Ibrahim Government Primary School. The photo of its headmaster Abul Hashem is in the inset. The snap was taken last week.

## SNAPS

### Tension eased along Tentulia frontier

BSS, Panchagharh

The tense situation along the Tentulia frontier has been eased following withdrawal of additional deployment of the Border Security Force (BSF) of India. According to the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources, the tension mounted along Majhipara border under Tentulia upazila in Panchagharh when dozens of Indian labourers started planting tea saplings illegally along the zero line of the international border on Saturday morning.

The BDR instantly took position and hoisted red flag and strongly protested the BSF bid. At one stage, the BSF was forced to withdraw their labourers by the evening. Both the BDR and the BSF resumed their routine patrol along the frontier.

### Imam murder case:

#### Hearing shifted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Khulna

The date for hearing on the charge sheet of Awami League (AL) leader Advocate Manjulul Imam Murder Case was shifted again from April 24 to May 2.

The court ordered the complainant of the case, Abdullah Al Mamun Jami to turn up on the next date of hearing.

### Boy killed in road mishap

JU CORRESPONDENT

A minor boy was killed in a road accident at Aminbazar bus stand on the Dhaka-Aricha highway on Sunday.

Sumon, son of Hanif Miah, was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound BRTC bus at around 2:30 pm on the day.

## BCL leader held for attack on Hasina's motorcade

### More involved, attack aimed at creating an issue says Barisal Kotwali thana OC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police have arrested Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader Imrul Ahamed Uzzal in connection with the attack on Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's motorcade in Barisal on February 26.

Uzzal is a member of the convening committee of Barisal city BCL, student front of opposition AL.

He was caught in a raid on his residence in the city Sunday midnight and produced before court yesterday. The court sent him to jail, rejecting his bail prayer.

While producing him before court, the investigating officer (IO) in his

report claimed that evidence of Uzzal's involvement in the attack on the motorcade was found.

Officer-in-charge of the Kotwali thana Nurul Amin said, "Names of some more BCL leaders are surfacing in investigation.

"The attack was made to create an issue".

The motorcade of the Leader of the Opposition came under attack at Char Kawa ferry terminal while she was returning to Barisal from Bhola.

Shaukat Hossain Hiron, convenor of Barisal city AL and Talukder Mohammed Yunus, office secretary of the district AL yesterday said Uzzal was arrested under government

pressure to divert the case.

Dr Moklesur Rahman and former Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, president and secretary respectively of Barisal District AL, condemned the arrest as an "act of political repression". They demanded Uzzal's immediate release.

After the attack, Kamrul Hasan, an AL leader from Gopalganj who accompanied Hasina, had filed a criminal case, saying that the motorcade was attacked by activists of BNP, its youth front Jubo Dal and student front Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). But he did not name any of the attackers.

## 10 held for looting relief goods

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Netrakona police on Sunday arrested 10 persons on charge of looting relief materials at Modanpur in Sadar upazila.

Police and witnesses told this correspondent a group of miscreants looted the relief materials worth five lakh taka belonging to Imam Saw Mill, Motorjan Samity and Small Traders' Association of Nandail from 98 tempos at Modanpur on the Netrakona-Kendua Road. The culprits damaged the tempos and injured five persons. The injured were admitted to Netrakona Sadar Hospital.

Being informed police rushed to the spot and arrested 10 miscreants. The arrested are Motahar Hossain, Harun, Rafiqul, Syed, Abul Kashem, Sadek, Ujjal, Lal Mia, Faruk and Emdadul.

## Democracy festival held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A two-day Democracy Festival organised by local unit of the Democracy Watch concluded at the local gymnasium on Friday.

Presided over by the Democracy Watch founder executive director Taleyia Rehman, the concluding session was addressed by local member of parliament (MP) Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu as chief guest.

## Polls: AL candidate held at Kaliganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Jhenidah Police on Sunday arrested a candidate of the upcoming Kaliganj municipality election.

Police told this correspondent they arrested Awami League (AL) leader of Ward No 5 Sahabuddin Khokon, 35, a commissioner candidate of the ward as an accused of two pending cases filed with Kaliganj police station.

However, family sources said to this correspondent that police want to harass during election period in a pretext so that he can not come out winner in the polls.

## Manikganj Jatiya Chhatra Dhara body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A 19-member convening committee of Manikganj district unit of Jatiya Chhatra Dhara, student wing of Gono Forum, was formed at a meeting held at Khan Bahadur Awald Hossain Khan College here on Thursday.

Dewan Mizanur Rahman was made convenor and Masudur Rahman Masud, Nurun Nahar Begum were made joint convenors.

Other members are Kabir Hossain, Shahinur Rahman, Helal Khan, Pronoy Kumar Sarker, Jewel Rana, Dilal Khan, Moyna Akter, Zahangir Alam, Tania Afroj, Sanchita Saha, Ratan, Rokeya Begum, Biplob, Dewan Masud, Taposh Ghosh, and Alamgir Hossain.

Gono Forum central leaders Mofijul Islam Khan Kamal, Pankoj Bhattacharya, Engineer Abul Kashem, local leaders Dr Chittaranjan Saha, Kofiluddin Master, Meer Abul Kashem, Iqbal Hossein Kochi, Jatiya Chhatra Dhara central committee President Mohfuj Akram, Eden College unit convenor Sharmin Islam Shapla, Dhaka University unit vice-president Shahin Hossein, among others, addressed at the meeting which was presided over by Dewan Mizanur Rahman.



PHOTO: STAR

Women entrepreneurs at a two-day training, organised by the Jatiya Mohila Sangstha at its Manikganj office. Twenty women took part in the training that concluded recently. After training, participants were given business loans between Tk 30,000 and Tk 1,50,000.

## Outlaws raid Satkhira shrimp enclosures

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Outlaws are conducting raids to different shrimp enclosures here for toll.

On April 19, outlaws poisoned two shrimp enclosures belonging to Atiar Rahman and Abdul Karim in Munshiganj area of Shyamnagar upazila for their failure to meet up the demand for toll amounting to two lakh taka.

On April 20, miscreants tortured three shrimp enclosure owners Rezaul Islam, Halim and Kader of Dhalbaria village in Kaliganj upazila as they did not pay toll amounting to 50,000 taka each.

On the same night, toll collectors looted cash and valuables worth 12,000 taka from an enclosure owner, Afiluddin of Shukderpur

village in Assasuni upazila. They also beat up his staff.

On April 22, miscreants numbering 15 to 20 armed with deadly weapons raided the shrimp enclosures of Mizanur Rahman, Kawsar Ali, Nurul Islam, Wahidul Islam, Shahar Ali, Niranjan Mondal, Kartik Sarkar and Mahinuddin at Rawtara village in Assasuni and demanded toll. As they failed the criminals looted shrimp worth about 2 lakh taka from the enclosures.

On April 23, outlawed operatives looted 50,000 taka in cash and shrimp worth 10,000 taka from two enclosures of Abdur Rashid and Abu Bakkar at Gabura-parshemari in Shyamnagar upazila as each of them failed to pay toll amounting to one lakh taka.

## Blood-written memo to PM

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Teachers and staff of non-government educational institutions submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister (PM) through the district administration here in an exceptional manner on Sunday.

The memorandum containing their eight-point demands was written by their blood.

Barisal unit of Jatiya Shikkhak Karmochari Oikya Front, national teachers-students unity front, organised the programme.

The occasion was marked by a protest procession and a rally in front of Barisal Aswini Kumar Hall.

Their eight-point demands include fulfillment of Prime Minister's pledges, payment of cent per cent basic salary from public fund, unitary pay scale and separate service commission for education sector and bringing nationalised and denationalised educational institutions' parity.

## Relief for tornado victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Various organisations distributed relief materials among the tornado-affected people of Mymensingh and Netrakona.

Muslim AID, an NGO, distributed 17,000-kilogram of rice, 7,000-kilogram of potato in Haluaghat here and Netrakona district on Friday.

The NGO also treated about 2,500 distressed families and distributed medicine free of cost, SM Rashiduzzaman, Muslim AID Country Director told this correspondent. It will also rehabilitate 200 severely affected families.

## Zahida rape, murder case takes new turn

### Probe reveals involvement of one youth

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

College girl Zahida rape and murder case here has taken a new twist after the Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) nine-month investigation.

The CID investigators got new clues on alleged involvement of only one youth in the murder who is yet to be arrested.

"Investigation revealed that only one youth was involved in the cruel incident. But he was not brought to book earlier mistakenly as Sazzad and Tariqul of Dariapur village misguided the investigators through confessional statements under Section 164", investigation officer (IO) CID inspector Nazrul Islam told The Daily Star.

"The killer youth proposed to marry her. On refusal he became furious and strangled her after failing to rape her," IO told further.

Earlier, four youths were accused and charge-sheeted in the case.

The case was transferred to CID for further investigation and submission of a fresh charge-sheet following a 'naraji' (no confidence) petition to the Home Ministry by plaintiff who is the victim's elder brother Royecheuddin.

Daughter of a poor farmer Raihanuddin Joarder at Borichara village in Sreepur upazila, Zahida Khatun, appeared at the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC)



examination in the Humanities group from Dariapur College last year. She secured first division in the examination, but she could not know her result as she was strangled on July 5, 2002, a few days after the examination.

Zahida was returning home from her friend's house at daytime when she was dragged into a jute field and killed.

Local administration, at a meeting on August 27, 2002, put the case on the list of 'sensitive' cases and sent it to DB (Detective Branch) police for investigation.