

SNAPS

New school opens at Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra
The Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) Foundation opened an English medium school at Nashindara in the town on Friday.
The school has been established without any government help.
Tazmilur Rahman, an octogenarian former teacher, inaugurated the school as chief guest.
The inaugural function was presided over by former education secretary and Director General (DG) of BIAM Foundation Mohammad Shahidul Alam. Among others, newly elected chairman of Bogra Poursavah AKM Mahbubur Rahman, Additional Divisional Commissioner Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner Rofiqul Mohammed, Director of National Training and Research Academy for Multilingual Shortland (NTRAMS) Mozibur Rahman and Additional District Magistrate (Education and Development) Monirul Islam addressed.

Abducted housewife rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
A housewife abducted one and a half months back was rescued from a house at Mandarbaria village in Assasumi upazila on Friday.
Police said, Mazida Khatun, 25, wife of Sadek Ali of Kulla village and mother of two children was abducted allegedly by Jehar Ali, Abdul Wahab and Jahangir of Mandarbaria village on April 5. She was missing since then.
Tipped off, Sub-inspector Abdus Salam of Assasumi thana rescued her from the house of Abdul Wahab but could not arrest any of the culprits.

Drug addict son handed over to police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
At least, a father handed over his drug-addict son to Debhata police on Friday.
Police said, Saiful Islam, 30, son of Golam Rabbani of Shimulia village in Debhata upazila, was handed over to police by his father as he failed to check him from taking drug.

Border conference with India begins today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria
A two-day Deputy Commissioner level Bangladesh-Indian border conference begins at the VIP rest house of Zia Fertilizer Factory here tomorrow.
The conference, a follow-up of a met in West Tripura last year, will discuss setting up and preservation of border pillars to stop border conflict and checking cross-border smuggling and trafficking, official sources said.
Brahmanbaria Deputy Commissioner Md Yunusur Rahman will lead a 10-member Bangladeshi team. The team will include Superintendent of Police, Commanding Officer of BDR 7 Battalion, Brahmanbaria PWD Executive Engineer and Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) of bordering upazilas.
The 10-member Indian team will be led by Tripura District Magistrate Ashutosh Jindal. It will include the Police Superintendent, BSF Commanding officer and other officials.
The Indian team will enter Bangladesh through Akhaura check post at 8:30 am. The conference will begin at 11 am.
The Indian team will return on May 25.

A gateway to higher rice production

BARI hybrid rice seed gives 15 pc more yield than imported seeds: RDRS to multiply seed through contract growers, market

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
Experimental cultivation of a BRRI-evolved hybrid rice seed at farmers level in Thakurgaon this year has opened up a gateway to higher rice production in the country.
The BRRI Highbred Rice-1 used by farmers at three places in the northern region under the supervision of Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), an NGO, has given around 15 per cent higher yield than hybrid seeds imported from China and India.
The paddy grown by farmers at Debipur in Thakurgaon for the first time in the just concluded IRRI-Boro season was harvested on May 20 in presence of officials of BARI, IRRI and RDRS.

"It is really a great achievement for Bangladesh", said Dr MA Hamid Miah, IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) official and former Director General of BARI (Bangladesh Rice Research Institute).
"The seed will give higher yield and save time and money for farmers", he said while addressing as chief guest the officials and farmers on the occasion of a 'field day', organized by Debipur RDRS Union Federation (a federation comprises over 200 farmers).
RDRS had supplied mother seeds to farmers under an agreement with the BARI.
RDRS officials said they will have another agreement with

BARI and multiply the seed through contract growers and market it throughout the country.
Experimental production of the seed by RDRS Zoldhaka Union Federation in Nilphamari and Mohendranagar Union Federation in Lalmonirhat also gave similar yield, RDRS officials at the simple ceremony said.
They said the climate of Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, and Nilphamari districts is favourable for cultivation of the highbred rice seed.
Talking to this correspondent, RDRS Senior Programme Manager (Agriculture) Mrinmoy Guha Neogi said the BRRI hybrid seed will give at least 15 per cent

more yield than imported hybrid seeds and other high yielding varieties now being used and reduce farmers' cost.
RDRS will be able to supply the seed at not-more-than Tk 50 per kilogram against its import price of Tk 100 per kilogram now, he said.
The seed will be multiplied through contract farmers under buy-back arrangement, he said.
Another RDRS agriculturist, Zeaul Hoque, said the maximum yield from the BARI hybrid seed was 10 tons per hectare and the minimum was six tons. This is higher than from seeds imported from India.
China and other countries, he added.



Indigenous mother fish being released in a sanctuary in a floodplain in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Fish sanctuaries set up in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

The District Fishery Department has declared five waterbodies as fish sanctuaries to increase natural production of fish.
None will be able to catch fish at the one-acre sanctuaries at Alykhal Beel at Nabinagar and at Kalibari, Gukarna, Shitarampur Gushaipur areas in Titas river basin.
Forty more sanctuaries will be set up in the eight upazilas of the district gradually, District Fishery Officer ASM Jahangir told this correspondent while demarcating a sanctuary in the river basin area recently. A survey has already been completed for the 40 planned sanctuaries, he said.
The sanctuaries will be protected so that mother fishes of indigenous varieties can grow and breed fries, he said. The four sanctuaries will initially cost Tk 25,000.

Some fishermen this correspondent talked to also said they are not opposing setting up of the sanctuaries because fish resources in the riverine district have almost depleted because of indiscriminate netting.
Brahmanbaria has vast flood plains, covering about 70 area of the districts, which are suitable for natural growth of fish, Jahangir said.
According to District Fishery Office sources, 34 small rivers criss-cross the district with 110 large natural waterbodies covering 3,484 hectares of land which remain under water for over seven months in a year. Besides, there are 19215 ponds covering 4180 hectares.
To encourage natural growth of fish, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on August 12 last year released fish fries at Dharaniti Akashi Beel in

Sarail upazila, marking the Fish Fortnight-2003. But that produced no result due to indiscriminate netting of fish throughout the district, Jahangir said.
He said fish production can be easily doubles from around 30800 tonnes now if all the waterbodies are brought under planned fish cultivation.
The fish sanctuaries will allow natural growth of delicious indigenous fish varieties Koy, Magur, Kalibous, Rita, Boicha, Khalisa, and Chital, which are going to be extinct.
The district, once rich in fish resources, can not even meet its own demand for 42900 tonnes now, he said.
The fishery officials said they trained 8644 youths and fishermen in scientific fish cultivation last year and gave them Tk 73,9500 loans. More 4,533 people will be trained this year.

SEMINAR IN SATKHIRA TOLD

Quality edn for all still a far cry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a seminar at Tala upazila on Friday expressed their fear that Quality Education for All by 2015 might not be achieved.
The seminar was jointly organised by Tala upazila Primary education department and a local NGO, Uttaran, funded by Commonwealth Education Fund to commemorate the Dakar declaration on "Quality Education for All."

Speakers told that most of the people still live below the poverty line and they are yet to attain the minimum standard of living. The government too did not succeed in alleviating poverty and only 4 to 6 per cent of revenue from the national budget is allotted in the education sector, they lamented.
Speakers opined that the seminar might have been much more effective if the awareness level of teachers and guardians could be

raised to ensure quality education. They stressed involvement of people of all strata of life for improvement of quality education. 'Formulation of an official action plan is a must for alleviation of poverty which is a prerequisite to ensure the quality of education,' they emphasised.
Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar presented the key note paper.
Tala upazila primary education officer Abdus Sobhan presided over the function while Principal Sheikh Abdul Wadood, Satkhira district primary education officer AKM Safayet Alam, Uttaran director Shahidul Islam, Satkhira district BNP general secretary Syed Iftekhar Ali, Awami League leader S M Nazrul Islam, Workers' Party leader advocate Mostofa Lutfullah, 'The Satkhira Chitra' editor Anisur Rahman, Prof Abu Ahmed, Prof Shamima Nargis, and Mohor Ali were the main discussants.
The World Education Conference was held at Dakar, the capital of Senegal in 2000.
The Dakar Declaration was made in 2001 with a promise to ensure education for all. Bangladesh was signatory to it.



PHOTO: STAR

A partial view of the seminar on quality education held at Tala upazila in Satkhira on Friday.

Workshop for changing law of succession right

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A day long workshop on 'Development of Indigenous Hajong in Bangladesh' was held at the Agriculture Extension Department Training Centre in Kalmakanda on Friday.
Hundreds of indigenous Hajong leaders coming from different areas attended the workshop aimed at changing the law of right of succession.
Pari Development Trust, an international Non-Govt Organisation (NGO) organised the workshop presided over by Hajong leader Nikil Hajong and addressed, among others, by Subhas Hajong, general secretary of Sherpur District Tribal Welfare Association Rakhesh Hajong, president of Bisamberpur Upazila Tribal Welfare Association, Sunamganj, Jamindra Barman, Hajong leader of Bangladesh Hajong Samity, Sarashati Hajong, a Hajong leader and Profulla Hajong, programme co-ordinator of Pari Development Trust.

Students demand removal of RU women hall provost

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Begum Khaleda Zia Hall of Rajshahi University (RU) on Friday ransacked the office of hall provost Dr Anjuman Ara Begum and demanded her removal for her alleged misbehaviour with students and failure to solve their problems.
They are demanding withdrawal of guest charge, reduction of seat rent and solution of other problems.
Women police have been deployed at the hall to stave off further violence.
After the incident, some resident students told newsmen that they went to meet the provost earlier on the day to discuss their problems. But she misbehaved with them.
RU Proctor Prof Shamsul Alam Sarker visited the hall after the incident.
When contacted Dr Anjuman Ara Begum denied the allegations.

UP chairmen protest demand for Gobindaganj UNO's removal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Seventeen Union Parishad chairmen of Gobindaganj upazila at a press conference protested the demand made by lawyers for removal of Gobindaganj UNO.
The lawyers are demanding his removal because of a misunderstanding between him and a Senior Assistant Judge at the upazila headquarter, they claimed at the press conference, held at Gaibandha Press Club on Friday. Shahrul Huda, Chairman of Nakai UP, read out a written statement signed by all the chairmen.
The statement said lawyers at an earlier press conference demanded removal of UNO AKM Mizanur Rahman as he asked the Senior Assistant Judge for vacating the upazila rest house, occupied by him since his joining.

They said the misunderstanding cropped up when the Public Works Department started construction of a boundary wall around the Upazila court complex, allegedly without prior permission from the Local Government Division. The Upazila Parishad protested this and asked the contractor to stop it. The contractor filed a case against the seven chairmen, UNO and Upazila Engineer with the Senior Assistant Judge's court.
The judge asked the UNO to appear before his court in person in connection with an election case.
The UP chairmen claimed that the 5.25 acre land including the Upazila court compound was recorded in the name of Upazila Parishad (plot No 5 1534). The PWD had started construction of the boundary wall without prior permission of Upazila Parishad, they claimed.

Police officer's punishment demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The leaders of four political parties including the ruling BNP and the Opposition Awami League (AL) have demanded punishment to a police officer here for his 'misbehaviour' with the family members of a prominent politician. They have demanded an administrative action against the Sub-Inspector of police of Manikganj town, Saheb Uddin for 'misbehaviour' with JSD joint secretary Iqbal Hossain Khan's family members at his house here on Thursday night.
Other political parties include the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) and the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).
The demand came from a joint meeting of the parties held at Manikganj district office of JSD-Inu on Friday afternoon. Former member of parliament (MP) and BNP senior leader advocate Abdul Wohab Khan, BNP leaders Golam

Mohiar Khan Shepar, Masudul Mamrul Haq Masud, AL leaders advocate Abdus Salam, Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim, Sudev Shaha, JSD leaders Iqbal Hossain Khan, Abdul Salam Bulu, Jebesh Chakrabarty, Afjal Hossain Khan Joki, CPB leaders Principal Azharul Islam Arju and advocate Mizanur Rahman Hazrat addressed the meeting.
The leaders submitted a memorandum to Manikganj deputy police superintendent Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan. They also handed over a copy to Manikganj deputy commissioner (DC) Mohammad Abdul Bari.
In the memorandum, they said Sub-Inspector Saheb Uddin on Thursday threatened JSD leader Iqbal Hossain Khan, also a freedom fighter over telephone. Later he along with some constables went his house and misbehaved with his mother and wife in his absence.

WDB dam washed away in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

With sudden swelling of the Brahmaputra, at least 250 metres of the old Water Development Board (WDB) flood control embankment have been washed in the last seven days, threatening the Kamarjani river port.
This correspondent during a visit on Friday saw unabated erosion along the west bank of the river. At least 150 families have become homeless there and the densely populated Karibari village is now being threatened.
About 10,000 families residing

on the flood control embankment since 1988 is being hit by erosion again, said Solaiman Hossain Kachu, Chairman of Kamarjani Union Parishad.
WDB sources here said they had taken an initiative to control erosion by dumping sand bags in the area from from Kalitola bridge to Karaibari as a temporary measure but this can not be done due to fund crisis.
Meanwhile, a programme to rehabilitate erosion victims by building a model village at Kamarjani shoal is yet to be implemented, said the UP chairman.



PHOTO: STAR

Blind Abul Kalam at his grocery.

Blindness no problem for grocer Kalam

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Fingers are 'eyes' for blind Abul Kalam Biswas. He can feel almost everything, even currency notes of different denominations with his fingers.
A strong determination made him give up begging and become self-reliant. He now earns Tk 3000 to Tk 4,000 a month from a grocery set up near his house at Binodpur village in Mohammadpur upazila.
Kalam 36, son of late Sabdul Biswas, became blind four years back due to an unknown disease, he said.
Landless Kalam had no alternative to begging for survival of his family with two daughters.
As days passed, their sufferings increased.
"My wife Seema Begum had to work as a maid at others' houses in

the village," Kalam told this correspondent during a visit.
Fortune smiled on them about two years back when some officials of Action on Disability and Development (ADD), an NGO working for the disabled, came to the village.
They gave him Tk 5,000 interest-free loan and suggested him to do anything other than begging.
He started a grocery at a tin-shed room adjacent to his house.
Kalam is grateful to the villagers. Most of the villagers are sympathetic to him and purchase goods from his shop, Kalam said.
"Now I earn Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000 a month and can feed my family members," a smiling Kalam said.
He said he got his eldest daughter married to a man of his choice this year with his savings.

5x3

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