

SNAPS

Diarrhoea claims two children

CU CORRESPONDENT

Two minor girls died of diarrhoea in Banshkhali upazila on Friday. The dead victims are Jesmin aged 11 months and Jannat Begum, 6. Twenty-six diarrhoea patients are taking treatment at the upazila health complex. The patients suffer due to dearth of physicians and lack of medicine.

Youth dies at Ctg hospital

CU CORRESPONDENT

A local youth who was injured by miscreants in Puichhari Prem Bazar in Banshkhali upazila a few days back, died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) on Friday. The dead is Fazal Kader, 26. Miscreants allegedly led by Shabuddin beat him over a previous feud and poured poison in his mouth.

Workshop held for better education

BSS, Barisal

Speakers at a workshop here on Thursday suggested introduction of national evaluation examination system for students of class five to enhance the quality of education and creating competitive attitude among students as well as teachers. They also suggested preparation of question papers centrally aiming at checking leakage of question paper and stoppage of copying in examinations. Primary and Mass Education Ministry and Divisional Primary Education Department organised the workshop titled 'Evaluation Examination on National Basis at the End of the Lessons of Class Five' at BRAC Training and Research Centre on Thursday. Barisal divisional commissioner Abdul Kuddus was the chief guest. The workshop was chaired by M Mokhesur

Woman killed in hotel in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A woman was killed in a hotel in Bhaina area in the district town on Saturday. According to the hotel register, the victim is Rubia, 30. Police quoting hotel manager said Barkat 35, son of Abdul of village Halsha under Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga district came to the hotel along with a woman on Friday night. He introduced her as his wife and hired a room. On Saturday morning the man locked the room with a new one and left the hotel secretly. On suspicion, the manager informed the matter to the local police station at around 3 pm. Police entered the room by breaking upon the lock and found the body in the attached bath room at around 5-30 pm. Police picked up hotel manager Shariful Islam.

Girl rescued after 17 days of abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An abducted schoolgirl was rescued from village Trimohini of Sharsha upazila in Jessore district on Saturday after 17 days of abduction. The rescued girl is Safia Khatun, 16, daughter of Sadaruddin of village Dahakula under Sadar upazila in Satkhira. Police rescued her from the house of the relative of an abductor, Abdul Hamid, son of Samiruddin of the same village who was also arrested. The victim was abducted by a group of miscreants led by Abdul Hamid on May 5 while she was going to her private tutor's house, according to police.

Freed from hazardous jobs for schooling

More 846 children taken out of Daulatpur bidi factories, provided with books by an NGO

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

After taking out 200 children from a Bidi factory on May 10, SETU, a local NGO, freed another 846 from hazardous jobs in tobacco industries and handed them books on Saturday.

It was a simple but solemn occasion that will change their life and be an eye opener to many in eliminating child labour in the country.

"I am very happy", a delighted 12 year-old Uzzal Ali told this correspondent after receiving a packet of books and other education articles from lawmaker Reza Ahmed Bachhu Mollh at the function.

"I was compelled to go to Bidi factory as my father was unable to bear my education expenses.

"Now problem is gone. My father bought a 'Nasiman' (an automated vehicle fitted with an irrigation machine engine) with loan from SETU", said Uzzal, son

of Kanai Mollah of Dafadarpara village in Daulatpur upazila.

A similar feeling was expressed by Nazmul, 8, son of Habibur Rahman of Charsadipur; Bithi Khatun, 11, daughter of Saheb Ali of Koldiar and Rozina, 12, daughter of Pacha Sheikh of Sonaikundi.

The function held at an auditorium at Daulatpur upazila was attended by parents of the children.

It was addressed by, among others, Daulatpur Upazila Education Officer Tosaddek Hossain, ILO Social Monitor Jagannoy Projesh Biswas, Bangladesh Trade Union Centre (BTUC) Assistant Programme Coordinator Ahsan Nabab, SETU Executive Director M M Kader, teacher Abdus Siddiq and Abu Bakar Saiddiq, Executive Director of Achal, another local NGO. Teacher Arzun Kumar Sarkar was in the chair. SETU organised the function.

The NGO will provide the children one-year free education with assistance from ILO (International Labour Organization) and IPCL (International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour).

In March, SETU did a laudable job by taking out 200 children from Nasir Bidi Factory and providing them with books and their parents with soft loans for income generating activities.

According to survey made by SETU, there are about 3000 child labourers in eight bidi factories in the district.

Earlier, the NGO took out 1752 children from Bidi factories and got them enrolled at schools after orientation at pre-school centres run by it.

It runs 28 pre-school centres in the district to make children prepare for school.

Teenagers of 13-17 age group, taken out of bidi factories and tobacco processing units,

are trained in different vocations like tailoring, paper bag making, nursery raising, electrical work. SETU has rehabilitated at least 1054 teenagers so far.

"We have also taken initiatives to bring 1551 poor parents of the children under income generating programmes," M A Kader told this correspondent. Tk18, 57,000 loans have been distributed among 466 of them, he said.

ILO Social Monitor Jagannoy Projesh Biswas said, to create awareness against hazardous jobs in tobacco industries, they have formed 53 'mother groups' and holding regular meetings. These groups have accumulated Tk 3,53,220 savings, he said.

SEPU is also holding discussion meetings with Bidi factory owners and local people, organising street drama and distributing leaflets to create awareness, Jagannoy said.



Bithi will no more work in a bidi factory. She will go to school with books handed to her by Reza Ahmed Bachhu Molla MP at a simple function held at an auditorium at Daulatpur on Saturday.

A rural school with a difference

Amena-Baki Residential Model School at Chichirbandar upazila excels in academic performance, extra-curricula activities

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

It is a school with a difference at a upazila where children are brought up with a vision to make them worthy citizens and good professionals.

Computer education is compulsory at Amena-Baki Residential Model School at Chichirbandar, about 10 miles from the district headquarter.

Besides excellent academic result, students undertake environmental study tour and join tree plantation and awareness-creating campaign led by teachers. The school managing committee encourages such activities.

Last year, the school secured

four talent pool scholarships out of eight in Dinajpur district.

Cultural and sports programmes are a routine affair. The International Mother Language Day, Independence Day, Victory Day and such other national events are observed in a befitting manner, which earned appreciation from people of all walks of life in the area.

At the Independence Day art competition held at the district town this year, students of this school won the first, second and third prizes. Such achievements are common for them.

Opened on January 29, 2001, the school became reputed in the district only in three years. Former Chief

Justice ATM Afzal had opened the school.

It has 400 students on roll from class one to seven, 60 per cent of them boys. Eighty of them are resident students.

Classes up to ten will be opened soon, the school authorities told this correspondent during a recent visit.

"We face heavy rush of admission seekers every year but we can not take in students till we expand the facilities", its principal Mizanur Rahman said.

The school is run by Amena-Baki Foundation, set up by freedom fighter and orthopaedic surgeon Prof Dr. Amjad Hossain after his father and mother. Prof Hossain is the head of

Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery Department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Health Advisor to Bangladesh Freedom Fighter Welfare Trust.

"This has become possible due to dedicated service and joint efforts of 19 teachers led by the Foundation's Education Director Shamsul Haque and the school's principal Mizanur Rahman", Prof Dr. Hossain told this correspondent. Shamsul Haque is former vice-principal of Dhaka Residential Model School and College.

Prof Hossain explained the teaching method. Students of a class are divided into groups, having 19 to 25 in each. One teacher is responsible for

academic and extra-academic performance of one group. Teachers devote extra time for students who are weak in any subject. The school authorities supply free food to students and teachers during coaching in the evening.

The syllabuses from class one to seven include the usual national curriculums and other things to make those close to international standard, he said.

Students are taught cleanliness and sanitation. The result was seen on the spruced up campus. All the students were tidily dressed.

The school management gives special emphasis on communal harmony.



Students of Amena-Baki Foundation Residential Model School at class (Left), at playground and on an excursion (Right).

SC stays Jhalakathi poura chairman polls result

Winner is loan defaulter, writ alleges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Supreme Court on Saturday stayed publication of Jhalakathi municipality chairman election result for three months, according to official sources here yesterday.

The SC also issued an order on Abdul Halim Gazi, who own the polls, and on the Returning Officer to show cause why the election result would not be declared cancelled.

The order followed a writ petition filed by Afjal Hossain Rana challenging eligibility of Abdul Halim Gazi to contest the election.

Gazi is a bank loan defaulter and owed Tk 25 crore to Janata Bank, Rana alleged in the writ.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Jainul Abedin and Justice Sharifuddin Chaklader issued the order.

The order also asked relevant officials not to administer oath to Halim Gazi.

Abdul Halim Gazi, a rebel BNP candidate contested the polls with 'candle' symbol.

Rana, a rebel Awami League candidate, ran second in the race with 'umbrella' candidate.

Tornado lashes Koira: 3 fishermen missing

Boro crops on over 1,000 acres in 6 unions damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three fishermen are missing after a violent tornado which lashed Koira upazila on Friday.

At least 60 persons were injured.

The tornado which lasted for only four minutes destroyed over 100 academic institutions, upazila nirbahi officer's (UNO) office and washed away over 200 shrimp enclosures, according to the UNO.

The natural calamity hit six out of seven unions in the upazila. More than 100 fishing boats capsized in the river Kobadak.

Hundreds of people rendered homeless by the tornado, the UNO further told. It also damaged

at least 6,000 kutcha and tin-shed houses including four union parishad (UP) buildings. The entire upazila plunged into darkness as many electric poles were uprooted.

The UNO further disclosed that the calamity caused an extensive damage to standing boro crops on over 1,000 acres of land. Hundreds of trees including mango and jack-fruit trees were uprooted.

He urged the deputy commissioner (DC) to allocate 100 metric tons of rice on emergency basis for distribution among the victims and all logistic supports to conduct relief operation and a medical team.

MEETING AT MANIKGANJ TOLD

Local govt leaders virtually 'jobless'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Speakers at a meeting here on Saturday said the local government leaders are virtually jobless as they have nothing to do but to issue nationality and birth certificates only.

They told this at a meeting titled "Role of Mass Media in Strengthening Local Government"

Local newsman MA Monnaf Khan presided over the meeting where journalists, local government representatives and civil society took part.

Among others, Atigram UP chairman Nargis Akter, Bachcha Jagir UP chairman Shamsul Alam, Nabagram UP Chairman Nurul Islam, Betila-Mitora Up chairman Saifuddin Ahamed Firoz, Garpar

Tiger kills fisherman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A fisherman was killed by a Royal Bengal tiger in the Sunderbans on Saturday.

Eye witness said the victim Mujibur Rahman, 35, son of Bahar gazi of village Kalinchi in Shyamnagar upazila was fishing in the Kalindi in the Sunderbans when the man eater swooped on him. The tiger dragged him in deep forest.

Later, villagers recovered the body.

4x3



BCDJC organised an exchange of view meeting on strengthening local government at Manikganj on Saturday.

held at local press club. The Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) organised the meeting while it was supported by the US AID-funded Local Government Initiative (LGI) and implemented by the ARD inc.

The participants suggested an immediate end to political interference in local government institutions.

UP chairman Nasirul Hoque Khan Potol, Dighi UP chairman Nurul Islam Nuru, local newsmen Golam Sarwar Sanu and Kalyan Shaha, Sabbirul Islam, Manikganj Girls' High School teacher Kashi Nath Sarker, social activists Iqbal Hossain Kochi addressed.

Earlier, BCDJC assistant editor Mahfuza Jasmine welcomed the participants.

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