



WEA President and former advisor to caretaker government Rokia A Rahman speaking after inaugurating its training programme at Garpara Union Parishad auditorium (left) and a partial view of the participants (right).

A good start in women's empowerment

WEA launches countrywide programme to train women entrepreneurs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The Women Entrepreneurs Association (WEA) has launched a countrywide programme to train women on different vocations and businesses for their empowerment.

As part of it, the WEA began a 11-day training programme at Garpara in Manikganj on Monday in co-operation with the Thengamora Mohila Sabuj Songha (TMSS), a local NGO.

WEA President and former advisor of the caretaker government Rokia A Rahman inaugurated the programme at Garpara Union Parishad Auditorium.

The programme code-named Women's Empowerment and Advancement by Learning and Training of Herself (WEALTH) is co-sponsored by the Fair and Lovely Foundation and Lever Brothers, Bangladesh.

The 11-day training includes five days' theoretical classes and six days' practical training on mini garments and tailoring, food processing, pickle making, confectionery, horticulture and nursery management, fishery, handicrafts and poultry farming.

A total of 30 educated women, most of them housewives, are taking part in the training.

WEA representatives Rubina Faruque, Khadija Afzal, Rokeya Rahman Bachehu, Rebeka Abedin, Rawshan Ara Mahmud, Nilufar Rahman, Garpara Union Parishad Chairman Nasirul Haque Khan Potol and TMSS representative Abdus Salam attended the inaugural function, among others.

Trainee Selina Akter Sheuly also addressed spoke at the function conducted by WEA official Farhana Akter.

Rokia Rahman urged the participants to come forward to learn different vocations and businesses for their empowerment and development of the country.

Islam does not bar woman from participating in business and improving their financial condition. Rather, the region encourages poverty alleviation, she said.

Islam prefers business than any other profession. After Manikganj, WEA will organise such programmes in 10 other districts including Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sylhet, Jessore, Khulna, Bogra and Joypurhat.

The programme will conclude in Joypurhat with a function on December 15.

The first training session was held in Dhaka from June 20 to 30.

Vow not to take dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Over 500 villagers at Kallankalas village in Galachipa upazila took oath at a public meeting on Monday not to take dowry during their sons or daughters marriages.

The meeting was held at Nesaria Madrassah field where Galachipa upazila nirbahi office (UNO) Mejbahuddin announced the village a dowry-free village while attending as the chief guest.

Union Parishad (UP) chairman Fakharuddin Khan was in the chair. Among others, Galachipa thana officer-in-charge (OC) Shilamoni Chakma, upazila livestock officer Dr Bipul Chandra Nag, assistant director Jubo Unnayan Department Nur-e-Alam Akter, journalist Khalid Hossain Milton, UP members Nasiruddin, Abdul Halim Pahlan, village leaders Abdul Khaleq Gazi, Abul Kalam Khan and M A Rab addressed the meeting.

Two dowry-free marriage ceremonies were held in the meeting. A schoolteacher, Elias Hossain married to Hasina Begum of Gajalia village, while Abu Hanif of the same village engaged in wedlock with Rumana Begum of Kamlapur village in Sadar upazila.

Presence of joint forces camp in Shaikupa demanded

A CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidha

People staged a demonstration in Kailagari in Shaikupa on Monday demanding continued presence of joint forces in the outlaw-infested area.

The joint forces team was withdrawn from there Monday morning. As the news spread, about 10,000 people from nearby areas thronged the camp and laid a siege to it demanding continuation of the camp, police and local people said.

They however left disappointed in the evening without any assurance.

Local people said law and order improved significantly after setting up of the camp at Katlagari eight months ago. Crimes in the area will increase now following withdrawal of the camp, they said.

Complainant faces death threat in Daulatpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishia

Armed robbers on Sunday issued death threat to a complainant and his elder brother for filing a case against them.

Complainant Firoz Khan of Rifayatpur in Daulatpur upazila filed the case with Daulatpur thana after a dacoity was committed in his house on Friday.

After the case, police arrested three persons named Rupchad, 24, son of Mohammad Mondol, Jahangir, 28, son of Munser Ali and Bulbul, 21, son of Alam Mondol.

Following their arrest, other cadres of the group threatened Firoz and his elder brother Sanjay to withdraw the case within two days or 'face death'.

Police was informed about the threat.

Valuables looted by wife!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Wife and brother-in-law of a man were arrested by Kotwali police on Monday for looting valuables worth two lakh taka from a house in Kawnia area here on Thursday.

The arrested are Hawa Begum, 38, and her brother Nur Nabi Masum.

They looted valuables of Moslem Ali and his family members by making them unconscious. Hawa happens to be Moslem's fourth wife.

Looted goods included 13 tolas of gold ornaments, according to police and eye-witnesses.

Hawa and Masum made Moslem Ali Mia, his son Shah Alam Kabir Milton and daughter-in-law Shamima Yasmin by feeding drug mixed food. After three days, the victims regained consciousness.

Shah Alam lodged a case with Barisal Kotwali Thana.

Hawa Begum confessed to police during interrogation that she had committed the crime in collaboration with her brother Masum who was arrested from his house at Barokota in Uzirpur upazila and recovered some amount of money from him.

Both Hawa and Masum told the investigation officer (IO), Faisal Zaman that they had deposited other looted items and money to one person named Dulal of Palashpur area of the city. Dulal is yet to be caught.

Help the hospital run

The lone modern eye hospital in Barisal division limping for fund crisis

MD SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Patuakhali BNSB Eye Hospital, the lone modern eye hospital in Barisal division set up by a German donor agency, is now limping after over ten years' laudable service.

It is now in financial crisis as the donor's period of assistance expired in 2002.

The 25-bed hospital was set up in Patuakhali town by Andhery Hillee in cooperation with the Bangladesh National Society for Blind (BNSB) and CARITAS in 1991. It started giving services in September, 1993. As per agreement, the Andhery Hillee bore all expenditure of the hospital for ten years.

Monthly establishment cost of the hospital about Tk three lakh but its average income is about Tk one lakh 50 thousand only, Mostaque Ahmed, its Honorary Secretary and pourasabha chairman told this correspondent. A 19-member executive body runs the hospital.

The rest of the expenditure is met from donations, which is uncertain.

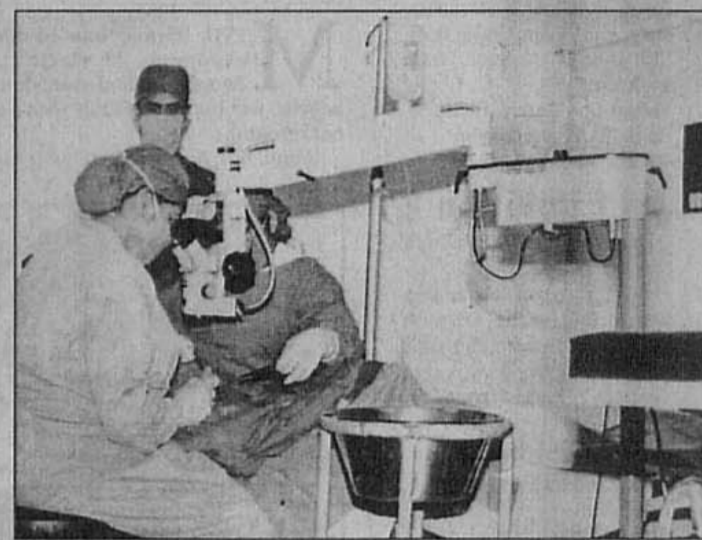
Thirty-four staff including consultants and surgeons work at the hospital, housed in a two-storied building at Kaler Pupurpur, constructed on 0.66 acres of land donated by the municipality.

Patients from different areas of Patuakhali, Barisal, Bhola, Barguna, Jhalokathi and Pirojpur came to the hospital for treatment. There are all facilities including those for operation at the hospital.

Sources at the hospital said about five lakh eye patients got treatment at the hospital since its establishment.

The hospital provides indoor and outdoor treatment, holds free eye camps and runs a free eye test programme in primary schools.

A patient can get outdoor treatment facility by paying Tk 20 only. Intra Ocular Lens (IOL) microsurgery costs Tk 4000 to 6500.



Intra-Ocular Operation being done at the Patuakhali BNSB Eye Hospital.

Traffickers have the last laugh

93 rescued only to be trafficked out

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Ninety-three people including women and children arrested on Friday while being trafficked to India have finally been trafficked after their release by a court.

Acting on a tip-off, BDR of 12 Rifles Battalion had caught 44 men, 30 women and 19 children Friday morning from a night coach in Jugbari in Kalaroa upazila.

The alleged traffickers were also held. They are Krishna Pal, Tarak Sinha, Dilip, Kamala Mondal and Bhagya Laxmi of Shariatpur district; Sayed, Jolu of Alipur in Satkhira Sadar upazila, Nawab Ali of Bagerhat and Pradip of Jessore. They had collected the people from different villages in Satkhira, Jessore and Sariapur districts.

BDR handed them over to Kalaroa police. A case was filed with Kalaroa thana.

Police produced them in a court Sunday morning. The court fined them Tk 50 each and released them, police said.

On Sunday night, BDR was informed that the people were kept a house in bordering Jugbari village

in Kolaroa for trafficking them to India.

BDR raided the house, but it was late. All were herded across the border before BDR personnel reached, according to BDR Captain Kazi Zahur.



No body knows when the massive structure will be utilised. The Bhola Fire Brigade station was completed about three years back, but not yet manned and equipped with equipment.

50 schools to be 'blacklisted'

BSS, Barisal

Fifty secondary schools under Barisal Education Board will be blacklisted for debacle in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) result, according to Board sources.

Not a single examinee passed from 14 schools in Bhola, 10 schools in Patuakhali, eight each in Barisal, Pirojpur and Barguna and two in Jhalokathi.

The Ministry of Education is likely to take action against teachers of the institutions and their salaries might be stopped soon.

SNAPS

Persian language course at JU

BSS, Savar

Jahangirnagar University (JU) has introduced Persian language course with financial cooperation from Iranian government.

A simple function at the university marked opening of the new course. It was attended by Vice Chancellor Prof Khandoker Mustahedur Rahman, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Enamul Haq Khan and officials of the Iranian embassy in Bangladesh.

Abducted girl yet to be rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natrakona

A teenage girl is yet to be rescued after one month of her abduction.

Basana Rani Sarker, 15, daughter of Amol Chandra Sarker of Doldola village in Purbadhala upazila was abducted allegedly by neighbours Azhar and five of his accomplices on June 2.

During abduction, Basana, a student of class ten was studying in her father's house, police and eye-witnesses. Abductors were equipped with sharp weapons while taking away her in presence of her parents and relatives.

Amol Sarker filed an abduction case with Purbadhala police station. But the whereabouts of her daughter is still untraced after one month of the incident.

On contact, Purbadhala officer-in-charge (OC) told this correspondent they tried hard to rescue Basana, but failed. Meanwhile, the Hindu-Buddho-Khristan Oikya Parishad condemned the incident.

New IU Dean

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Dr Mohammad Makhluur Rahman, an associate professor of Politics and Public Administration Department has been made Dean of the Social and Humanitarian Faculty of Islamic University (IU). Earlier, he served as departmental chairman and provost. He was also vice-president of Islamic University Teachers' Association (IUTA).

Deprived, depressed

Kushtia Harijan community denied of education facilities

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

The people of Harijan community (low caste Hindu who mostly work as cleaners) want to change in their life. But this is not easy for them because of social discrimination and lack of government response.

They now want education for their children, which was once beyond imagination. Education is becoming popular in the community day by day. But facilities are very limited.

"We want to see our children go school rather than cleaning dust", said Panna Lal Bashfor, the lone graduate from the community in the district. He is now studying L.L.B at Kushtia

Law College under National University. After taking the law degree, he wants to devote to services for development of his community.

"Civilized men had forced me out when I first went to school", Panna Lal told this correspondent.

"I am determined to continue the struggle for education for our chil-

dren".

Kaja Rani, who passed SSC (Secondary School Certificate) examination, is a teacher at the lone school for Harijans in Chaitannya Polli in the town, run by the municipality. There are about 50 Harijan children at the school. Another about 200 are out of school.

But she is not getting salary for the last five months. When contacted, the new municipal chairman said funds for salary will be released soon.

"Many of us are struggling for education, but all schools in the town are not allowing our children", she said.

In the recent past, some Harijan children got admitted to some non-government schools. But they were driven out when the school authorities came to know their identity, she regretted.

Only three children are studying at a non-government high school.

Only one school can not provide all of them with education facility Harijan leader Sangkar Lala said.

About 300 Harijan families live in Chaitannya Polli, Mill Line and Station Road areas of the town. Cleaning dust on roads is their ancestral profession.

FAIR, a local NGO, with the help of RIB (Research Initiative of Bangladesh), a research institution for backward people, at first took the initiative to make the Harijan community conscious.

FAIR recently organised a press conference at Kushtia Reporters Unity where the community leaders demanded government steps to provide education facilities for Harijan children.

Now Harijan people are thinking in their own way to develop themselves but the response from the authorities is very poor. Akheruzzaman later told this correspondent.

FAIR holds a weekly meeting with Harijan children to motivate them to go to school.

It also provides training to elders on different vocations including tailoring, sewing and livestock and poultry raising.



No table, no chair. Children of Harijan families taking lessons at the lone school for them at Chaitannya Polli in Kushtia town (left) and three girls learning sewing at FAIR office. The photos were taken recently.





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Reference No.	Description of goods	Earliest money	Price of tender documents	Closing/opening place, date and time	Source of finance
CO (I) /STRIPS-2500/2004	2500 MT/ton Hot Rolled Steel Strips (Quantity may be increased or decreased)	US\$ 33,000.00 or Tk 20,00,000/-	Tk 3000.00 (Taka three thousand) only (non-refundable)	Closing on: 5-8-2004 at 11:00 AM Opening on the same day at 11:15 AM Place: Comm. Department, NTL, Tongi and Purchase Division, BSEC, Dhaka	Cash/any unfinfied credit

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- 1) The Chief Accounts Officer, National Tubes Ltd, Tongi, Gazipur.
- 2) The Controller of Accounts, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, "BSEC BHABAN," 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

Md Habibur Rahman
General Manager (Commercial)
Phone: 9602737

Woman UP member held on murder charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal


A woman Union Parishad (UP) member was arrested by Uzirpur Thana police on Monday as a suspect of Jalla UP chairman Aboni Bhushan Baroi murder.

The arrested UP member is Jharna Roy, 40.

Murdered Aboni was also an active leader of Awami League (AL) and outlawed Sarbahara Party.

Police claimed, Jharna had enmity with Aboni. Her name was included as one of the six suspects of the murder.

Popular Aboni Baroi was elected twice the UP chairman of Jalla UP. An armed gang murdered him by chopping and gunshot on May 23 this year.



তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ

(পেট্রোলিয়ামের একটি কোম্পানী)

১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২১৫

জরুরি ফোন : ৯৫৬৩৬৭-৬৮, ৯৫৬৩৬৭০, ৮১১২১৩৫-৪২, ৮১১৯২১০

ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-২-৮১১৩০৩১

গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধের জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা নিম্নবর্ণিত এলাকার সম্মানিত গ্যাস গ্রাহকবৃন্দের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, গ্যাস সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থার উন্নতিকল্পে ডিআইটি ব্লক কালভার্ট রোড, আরামবাগ ও ফকিরাপুল এলাকায় বিভিন্ন ব্যাসের গ্যাস পাইপ লাইন স্থাপন করা হইয়াছে। এই সকল সদ্য নির্মিত পাইপ লাইনকে বিদ্যমান বিতরণ নেটওয়ার্কের সহিত সংযোগকল্পে প্রয়োজনীয় স্বল্পতম সময় ও ন্যূনতম সংখ্যক গ্রাহকের নিকট গ্যাস সরবরাহ সাময়িক বন্ধ/বিস্তৃতকরণ বিবেচনায় রাখিয়া নিম্নরূপ কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ করা হইয়াছেঃ

কাজের বিবরণ, তারিখ ও সময়	যে সকল এলাকায় গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকিবে	যে সকল এলাকায় গ্যাস সরবরাহ বিদ্যিত হইতে পারে
অপারেশনঃ	* নটরডেম কলেজ হইতে ফকিরাপুল বাজার পর্যন্ত ইনার সার্কুলার রোডের দক্ষিণ অংশ।	* ফকিরাপুল বাজার এলাকা।
০৭-০৭-২০০৪ বুধবার রাত্রি ১১ঃ০০ ঘটিকা হইতে ০২ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (মোট ৩ ঘণ্টা)।	* ফকিরাপুল বাজার হইতে বিজয় নগর পর্যন্ত ইনার সার্কুলার রোডের দক্ষিণ অংশ।	* নটরডেম কলেজের পশ্চিম অংশ।
	* নয়াপল্টন ও পুরানা পল্টন (আংশিক)।	* আরামবাগ, বিজয় নগর, পুরানা পল্টন ও নয়াপল্টন (আংশিক)।

* উপরোক্ত এলাকাসমূহ ছাড়াও পার্শ্ববর্তী কোন কোন স্থানে গ্যাস সরবরাহ সাময়িকভাবে বন্ধ/বিস্তৃত হইতে পারে। প্রতিকূল আবহাওয়ার কারণে উক্ত কার্যক্রম ০৭-০৭-০৪ তারিখ রাত্রিতে সম্পাদন করা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী রাত্রি একই সময়ে কাজটি সম্পন্ন করা হইবে।

* গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকাকালে চুলা/গ্যাস সরঞ্জাম বন্ধ রাখিবার জন্য এবং গ্যাস সরবরাহ পুনরায় শুরু হইলে চুলা/গ্যাস সরঞ্জামের স্থানে পর্যাপ্ত বায়ু চলাচলের পর গ্যাস ব্যবহার শুরু করিতে গ্রাহকবৃন্দের অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

* জরুরি অবস্থায় উল্লিখিত টেলিফোনসমূহে যোগাযোগ করা যাইতে পারে। সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য কৃতপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-১/০৪-০৫
জিডি-৪০৫

গ্যাস অফুরন্ত নয়। গ্যাসের চুলা কাজ শেষে নিভিয়ে রাখুন।