



Hearing impaired Munni performing a dance (left) and physically disabled Arif rendering a song at a function at the School for Disabled in Ghatal.

PHOTO: STAR

The blind torchbearer

Blind Rafiqul Bari runs a school for disabled children at Ghatal. Six local youths render voluntary service as teachers

AMINUL ISLAM, back from Ghatal, Tangail

Mymensingh: Blind Rafiqul Bari had a mission—to do something for physically handicapped people like him.

His success has surprised all. He has proved that if treated with care and affection, physically and intellectually retarded children can learn and perform like others.

After a sports programme in the morning, students of the School for Disabled at Ghatal set up two years back presented a cultural programme that awed a big audience including officials and public representatives.

Dance performance by Rozina Akhtar and Munni and a song by 13-year old Arif drew applause from the audience. There were other performances also.

Moved by their performance, Tangail Deputy Commissioner Abu Saleh Md Zakaria declared that he would take steps for allotment of a

plot of land for the school, now run at a rented house at the upazila headquarter. He also announced a grant of Tk 20,000 for construction work.

The DC was the chief guest at the function, also attended by other officials and Ghatal Municipal Chairman Abdur Rashid Miah. Assistant Commissioner (Land) Md. Kayesul Islam was in the chair.

It was a happy day for the disabled children, playing, singing and enjoying the company of other children, enjoyed by a big enthusiastic crowd. The programmes were arranged last week on a field adjoining their school.

"It is a happy day for us. It helped us communicate with other children", said hearing impaired Dulal, 14.

"More such programmes should be held", he said talking to this correspondent.

Rozina said they read textbooks and also take part in extra-academic activities at the school.

"Our teachers are very good. They

take care and love us", she said. Bari's initiative also inspired some young men in the area. Six teachers from among local youths teach the 80 students voluntarily.

Tribeni, a local cultural organisation, is giving all out support to the disabled students in cultural activities.

Morsheda Khatun, headmistress of the school, said, "I have no words to express my happiness. A large number of people enjoyed and praised their (disabled students) performance. It is a great encouragement for us and the disabled children".

Another teacher, Mukul Hossain, said if given facility, disabled children can also be trained like others and lead normal life.

Rafiqul Bari, now 36, lost his eyesight at the age of two. He set up the school in 2003 without taking any financial assistance from others.

Of the 80 students on roll, four are blind, 20 physically disabled, 22 hearing-impaired and 34 are dis-

abled in intelligence. The students do not pay any tuition fees.

The school is run at a two-room house, rented at Tk 1000 per month. One room is used as classroom and the other for office. The school has to pay Tk 150 as electricity bill per month and Tk 12,00 for transporting the students to and from homes in three-wheeler rickshaws.

"Disabled children are our sons and daughters", Bari said. "We should not think that they are liabilities. If educated and trained properly, they can also lead normal life".

Bari said the young teachers are doing a great job by helping the students. Their contribution is also appreciated by all in the area. "Local people cooperate with us in all ways".

The school has also programmes to create awareness among students about health and sanitation, dowry, tree planting and environment.

Jhenidah Jailor faces case for 'torture' of inmate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A case was filed with Jhenidah District and Sessions Judge's court on Tuesday accusing the jailor, one Havildar and two jail guards of Jhenidah district jail for physically torturing some jail inmate.

The judge directed the jail authorities to produce the victim before court within 24 hours.

Victim Rabiul Islam's father Israyel Munshi filed the case.

Israyel alleged that Rabiul and his fellow inmates Limon and Akash were beaten severely by one Havildar and jail guards Alim and Miraz as they denied to pay Tk 300 which they used to pay earlier per month for allowing food into the jail from outside.

When inmates Sohrab, Chand, Shahin, Saiful and Raza came to save the victims, they were also clubbed indiscriminately, he alleged in the case.

The jailor could not be contacted despite repeated attempts. Assistant jailor Rezaul Haq said the allegations are not correct. "Some inmates were slapped", he said but avoided when asked why they were slapped.

Two suspected members of 'woman suicide squad' sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two suspected members of a suicide squad consisting wives of nine outlaws were sent to Khulna District Jail on Tuesday.

They are Rashida Begum, 30, wife of outlaw Lengra Nazrul and Rina Begum, 26, wife of outlaw Jinnat Shaikh. They were arrested from a house at Sonadanga Residential Area on Sunday night.

The nine-member suicide squad was formed recently to avenge killing of top leaders of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP).

They were arrested along with Janajuddha city operation commander Didarul Islam Palash alias Shyamal. He was killed in a 'crossfire' behind the truck terminal during a drive launched to recover arms on Monday.

The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sonadanga Police Station prayed to the Chief Metropolitan Police (CMM) for granting seven days' remand for their questioning. Meanwhile, Didarul's wife is still being grilled by police officers for more information on the women's suicide squad. Her name was not revealed by police on a plea of investigation.

Quoting Rina and Rashida, a senior Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) officer told that the suicide squad were assigned to carry on destructive activities in the city and the entire district.

Mass awareness against repression on women stressed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two NGOs organised a joint rally at Abader Hat football ground in Sadar Upazila here on Tuesday.

The NGOs are Steps Towards Development and Sodes.

Speakers at the rally expressed their great concern over the increasing trend of violence against women. They stressed the need for creating mass awareness to resist such repression.

The theme of the rally was 'Resist Repression Against Women' while its slogan was 'We Are United to Resist Violence Against Women'.

Schoolteacher Bazul Rahman presided over the rally while Agardar Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Abdur Rahman and Prof Abu Saleh were present as chief guest and special guest.

Among others, Sodes Executive Director Madhab Datta, Shibpur UP member Halima Khatun, Agardar UP member Anawara Khatun, Abdus Sabur, Sirajul Islam, Moulana Nazrul Islam, Gopal Chandra Ghoshal, marriage registrar Moulana Kazi Abdul Hamid, Toyeba Khatun. Abul Kalam Azad conducted the meeting.

UP chairman faces 'no-confidence' in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Union Parishad (UP) chairman faces 'no-confidence' by all the 12 members of the local body for neglecting his duty.

He is Sahed Ahmed, chairman Mostafapur UP in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

The UP members took the resolution at a meeting held at the UP office on Monday. They submitted a memorandum containing their demand to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

In the resolution, the UP members stated that Sahed Ahmed went to London (UK) three weeks back without permission of the authorities.

No fresh attack by 'unidentified' disease in Tangail since Saturday

Four die in 12 days: Civil Surgeon says bats could be the carrier of virus

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Tangail

Netrakona: There has been no report of any fresh attack by the 'unidentified' disease or death from it in Mirzapur and Bashail upazilas in Tangail district in the last 96 hours ending yesterday morning, according to Tangail Civil Surgeon Dr Dewan Abdul Latif.

This correspondent visited the affected areas yesterday and the day before and talked to victim's families and health officials.

Six year-old Afroja, attacked with the disease, is now improving at Kumudini Hospital in Tangail, said doctor Dulal Podder at the hospital. He said he is treating the minor girl with anti-virus medicines. But three of her relatives died from the disease at the hospital, the doctor said.

The Tangail Civil Surgeon said the disease could be caused by a Nipah-like virus, probably carried by bats, according to experience gathered this year and last year. Any body taking a fruit eaten by bat may be attacked with the virus.

Health workers told people in the areas to be cautious about bats and not to take any fruit of a tree where bats roost, he said.

He said those treated at Tangail Sadar Hospital have shown signs of

improvement. They are being treated on the basis of international clinical guidelines for such unidentified diseases, he said.

The Civil Surgeon said the disease killed 14 people in 12 days in the two upazilas since its outbreak in the first week of January this year.

Last year also, there were 10 deaths in the two upazilas from a disease showing the same symptoms seen in victims this year, he said. Five of them died in Mirzapur and five in Bashail, he said.

A strange matter is that this year and last year, the disease broke out in the same period, he said.

In all the cases, the symptoms were high temperature, headache, pain in body and convulsion, the doctors said.

Relatives of some of the victims while talking to this correspondent alleged that members of the medical teams set to the areas were often reluctant to attend the patients out of fear.

At Mohara Gonapara village in Mirzapur a young housewife alleged that health workers did not come to her house despite being informed. Her husband Nurul Islam died from the disease on Friday last.

Neighboring Ali Hossen also alleged that health assistants were informed but they did not come to

see the patient. Pagla Sheel of neighbouring Chawali village died on the same day.

Harash Shikder of Baikola village in Bashail upazila said he informed doctors at Bashail Upazila Health Complex when his son Anwar Hossen was attacked with the disease. But they did not take any step. Anwar Hossen, 25, died.

When contacted, Bashail Upazila Health Officer Dr Mohammad Rezaul Karim said the affected village was in a remote area and there was no additional arrangement when the disease broke out first. Two medical teams are working in the area now, he said.

The Civil Surgeon however denied the allegation, saying the area was very big for a handful of medical assistants.

Panic about the disease still prevails in the areas. People were seen rushing to health centres even in common cold fever and taking medicines.

The Health Directorate in Dhaka on Monday sent samples of human tissue, blood and urine collected from patients to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, USA for test, the officials said. Health officials from Dhaka visited the affected areas on Sunday last.

Mother, son missing in trawler capsizes, road mishaps kill 3

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three people were killed and 15 injured in accidents in Brahmanbaria and Patuakhali yesterday and in two previous days.

In another incident in the district, a mother and her son are missing when two trawlers collided on the Meghna river near Hossain Shah Chat in Joykhalipur village in Bancharampur upazila on Tuesday.

The persons missing are Farhin Akter, 30, and her son Md Suman, police said. They were among over 30 people boarding the trawler. All were rescued by other boats but the mother and her son are missing as the trawler sank.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reports: One person was killed and 10

others were injured, seven of them seriously, in a road accident on the Patuakhali-Kuakata Road yesterday.

The dead is Nizam Gharani, 40,

son of Joyal Gharani of Garabunia village in the Sadar upazila. The injured persons are Shah Alam, 35, Shahidul, 19, of Kalikapur, Babul, 22, of Baidyapur, Abdul Halim, 25, of Auliapur, Abul Basar, 25, of Madarbania village in the Sadar upazila and Sabuj, 20 of Mazidbaria village in Mirzapur upazila.

The accident occurred when a truck carrying construction goods hit three riskaws in Hattalia area at about 8.30 am on the spot, according to police, hospital and local sources. Nizam, Imam of a local mosque died on the spot.



PHOTO: STAR

A team from UN Habitat on Tuesday held a meeting with Rajshahi City Corporation officials on poverty alleviation and accommodation in the city.

SNAPS

Old man meets unnatural death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An elderly night guard met an unnatural death while warming himself during a cold spell here on Monday night. The victim, Muhammad Ali, 60, was the night guard of Mathbaria Bandar. He sustained serious injuries as his clothes caught fire. He was sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in a critical condition where he died on Tuesday.

Workshop for journo held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A four-day workshop on Democracy Reporting for Journalism conducted at Brahmanbaria Nursing Institute here Monday night. Farid Hossain, Bureau Chief AP (Associated Press of America) in Bangladesh; Hasan Shahriar of Daily Ittefaq; Samim Ahmed, Chief Reporter of UNB; Rezaul Karim, Programme officer of News Network and Farhana Akter, Assistant Editor of News Network spoke at the workshop. Twenty-six local journalists representing national dailies and local newspapers attended the workshop. Farid Hossain later distributed certificates among the participants.

Tk 2 lakh fish looted from farm

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Fish worth Tk two lakh were looted from an enclosure at Chhotoshiba village in Char Kaziul Union of Galachipa upazila on Monday.

About 15 to 20 miscreants began to catch fish forcibly from the enclosure at about 7 pm on Monday. When the owner of the enclosure, Ibrahim Khan lodged his protest, they tied him up, according to sources in the enclosure.

Ibrahim Khan created the enclosure by taking lease two acres of land from Galachipa Upazila Land Office in 2003. He cultivated different species of fish such as shrimp, Trout Carp, prawn and flat bodied fish in his enclosure. But a group of miscreants had been trying to occupy his enclosure time and again.

However, Ibrahim fled from captivity at midnight and came to Galachipa upazila headquarters where he filed a case against seven persons on Tuesday.

Patuakhali SP (Superintendent of Police) told The Daily Star, proper action would be taken after an investigation.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon addressing a meeting of high school teachers and guardians of students at Nilphamari Government Women's College.

Schools with bad results to lose MPO: Milon

None passed SSC last year from 9 Nilphamari schools

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon has said political pressure for opening new high schools and lobbying for appointment of teachers are obstacles to improving standard of education.

He was addressing a big gathering of high school teachers and guardians of students at Nilphamari Government Women's College on Tuesday, arranged to discuss possible steps to improve standard of secondary education.

At the meeting, the state minister asked headmasters of nine high schools to explain why no student passed the SSC examination last year from their schools.

The headmasters apologised publicly and promised to take steps to improve their performance.

Milon said, henceforth, MPO (monthly payment order) of any school doing bad in examination will be suspended.

Teachers will be appointed through Teachers Recruitment Pool to check corruption in recruitment, he said.

At the meeting, some of the headmasters of schools with no pass record last year have strange information, which annoyed the minister and surprised all.

Headmaster of Jadur Hat High School in the Sadar upazila, Md Rawshan Ali, said his school had 11 teachers for six SSC candidates last year. But no one passed.

Headmaster of East Chhatnai Girls High School Abdul Matin said

there are 12 teachers at his school. Eight students including four girls were supposed to appear at the SSC examination. But four girls were married. Two candidates deferred and finally, only two appeared, but none passed.

It is also learnt at the meeting that there are two high schools at a distance of about one kilometre in Balapara village in Dimla upazila. No one passed from the two schools.

Speaking at the gathering, some of the headmasters said they are often compelled to allow students for SSC examination on pressure from local elite and political leaders.

They also blamed primary schools low standard of education.

In reply, the state minister said test would be introduced and made mandatory for all high schools for admission in class six.

He said Tk 150 crore is spent every month on salary of the high school teachers and so negligence will not be tolerated.

He also called upon teachers to cooperate with the administration completely eliminate cheating in examinations.

The Deputy Commissioner presided over the meeting, addressed by education department officials.

Peaceful election held in Patiya Poursabha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Election to Patiya Poursabha was held on Tuesday.

By and large, the election was held peacefully barring a few incidents.

Police arrested 10 madrasah students from the Primary Training Institute (PTI) School centre while they were casting false votes in favour of ruling BNP-backed candidate Nurul Islam Sarkar.

The madrasah students were hired from other madrasahs on the previous night, according to their statement to the journalists.

'Ruling BNP men hired us for casting votes to their candidate,' according to Mohammad Arif of

Hathazari Madrasah, Mahib Ullah of Boalia Madrasah in Anwara and Jamal Uddin of Barasat Nagar Madrasah in Anwara.

Hindu voters at Suchakradandi centre alleged that they had been barred from casting votes for three hours.

'Goons obstructed us from casting our votes,' alleged Nilu Datta and Tapashi Biswas.

According to local people, the actual fight for chairmanship will be between three candidates. They are Nurul Islam Sarkar of the BNP, Badiul Alam of the Awami League (AL) and Shamsul Alam Master of the Jatiya Party led by Ershad.

Dhaka Water Supply & Sewerage Authority

WASA Bhaban

98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue

Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

PABX: 8117829-31/8120223-27, Fax: 880-2-9146049, e-mail: ssadwasa@banqla.net

Invitation for Tender (2nd Call)

1.	Tender name	: Supply of Computer Hardware and Software.
2.	Source of fund	: Dhaka WASA Revenue Fund.
3.	Invitation for tender's ref & date	: 5/2004-2005 dated 26-12-2004.
4.	Brief description of goods	: Supply of 10 Clone PC, Networking (Lot A), 1 Multimedia Projector, 1 Screen (Lot B), 10 sets Computer Chair & Table (Lot C).
5.	Time for supply of goods	: 21 (Twenty-one) days from the date of signing of contract.
6.	Eligibility of tenderers	: Firms having minimum two (2) years of experience in computer business.
7.	Price of tender document	: Tk 400.00 (Taka four hundred) only.
8.	Amount of tender security	: Tk 20,000.00 (Taka twenty thousand) only.
9.	Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	: 1. Janata Bank, Kawran Bazar Corporate Branch, Fakirapool Branch, Posta Branch, Mohammadpur Branch, Mirpur Section No 1 Branch, Mohakhali Corporate Branch. 2. Agrani Bank, WASA Branch. 3. Uttara Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch. 4. Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp., Gulshan-1 Branch, Motijheel Branch, Dhanmendi Branch. 5. One Bank Ltd, Kawran Bazar Branch.
10.	Name and address of the office(s) receiving tenders	: Computer Centre, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban (7 th Floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
11.	Last date of selling tender document	: Date: 27-02-2005.
12.	Last date and time for submission of the tenders	: Date: 28-2-2005 Time: 02:00 PM.
13.	Date and time for opening of tenders	: Date: 28-02-2005 Time: 02:15 PM.
14.	Venue of opening tenders	: Conference Room, WASA Bhaban (3 rd Floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
15.	Special instruction	: 1. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any tender and reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. 2. Procurement will be conducted under Public Procurement Regulation, 2003.

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