

Helping fight deluge

FROM PAGE 16
reputation and service," said Runa.

THE HOSPITAL

Rahmat Ali was waiting for the doctor's call outside the eye clinic anchored at the Fakir char in Sundarganj upazila of the district. He came from Ghagua of sadar upazila for the treatment of cataract.

"I cannot work in the field as I cannot see the grass. I have been jobless for the last one year. I heard about the cheap and good treatment of this hospital. So, I have come here," said Rahmat.

Friendship goes from char to char with its satellite clinic service every three months, said hospital staff Enam. Around 50 physicians and surgeons come to the hospital every year to volunteer, he told journalists sitting in the river ambulance on Tuesday.

When a patient is found in a critical condition, the river ambulance—a powerboat—is used to bring the patient to the hospital.

There are as many as 150 chars in the seven districts the Jamuna river is flowing through—from bordering Kurigram to Sirajganj where thousands of people are living without minimum facilities of healthcare and education.

OTHER PROGRAMMES

In 2006, Friendship established 10 schools in 10 chars and 960 children are now receiving education at these schools. However, hundreds of kids are still deprived of education due to lack of schools.

"As many char people move from one char to another every year, we

Arms, bombs seized in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Detective branch of police seized a pistol, three cocktails, some bomb-making materials and 11 bottles of phenylidyl from Chatra Bazar under Parganj upazila on Thursday night.

Acting on a tip-off, the detectives raided the house of Farman Ali at Chatra Bazar at about 9:00 pm and recovered the gun, bomb-making materials and phenylidyl.

They also arrested three people including a union parashad (UP) member. The arrestees are Farman Ali, Harun-or-Rashid and Abdur Rahim, member of Chatra Union Parashad.

Prothom Alo

FROM PAGE 1
news paper's office by removing barricades put up there by the law enforcers. The police action left 20 Hizbut Tahrir activists injured, five of whom were treated in Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

As the dispersed marchers tried to regroup, police charged batons again dispersing them completely in only 15 minutes.

During the melee vehicular traffic on several nearby roads remained suspended causing sufferings for commuters.

Activists of the five organisations had started to gather at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque after the Juma prayer yesterday carrying banners and leaflets and chanting slogans.

The demonstrators also burnt several copies of the Prothom Alo, and effigies of its editor and the publisher.

After holding a brief rally at the entrance of the mosque, activists of the Islamist organisations marched through the roads of Purana Paltan and Baitul Mukarram Mosque area for some time, after which the activists of four organisations, except Hizbut Tahrir, dispersed.

Hizbut Tahrir activists however started to march towards the newspaper's office calling pedestrians over the bullhorns to join them.

The march was trailed by a long traffic jam stretching from Paltan via the Press Club to Shahbagh intersection.

Since early morning security measures had been heightened surrounding the offices of the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star. Police were deployed at several strategic points circling the offices, and barbed wire police barricades were set up at several points. Additional police were also deployed at the entrances of the offices.

Rapid Action Battalion members were seen patrolling the roads surrounding the two offices on motorbikes.

An tense situation had prevailed in the area until the Juma prayer ended and the fasting Muslims returned home in peace.

Vehicles going towards Bangla Motor from Farmgate used alternative roads as police had blocked the stretch of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue between Karwan Bazar intersection and Bangla Motor intersection during the skirmishes at Shahbagh.

"We have gathered here to lay a siege to the office of the Prothom Alo as the cartoon hurt the religious sentiments of the Muslims," said Saleh Uddin, who was injured in the police baton charge.

International Khatme Nabuwat Movement brought out a march in the Tejgaon industrial area while Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Mufti

Both BNP groups

FROM PAGE 1

In another development, Hannan yesterday alleged that Bhuiyan has gone to Singapore to scheme something evil in the name of treatment.

"Friendship is presently working in 30 chars. But Runa said, "We are planning to expand our work to some more areas. We have a programme to build 1,300 houses in different chars this season."

Friendship also took initiative to improve the economic condition of the char people.

The NGO formed a committee comprising char dwellers and gave them each Tk 5 thousand without any interest. With the money the char dwellers grew crops on khas land and repaid Friendship's money. They have even some savings now, said a char dweller.

"After the floods in 2004, we had almost nothing for around three days. Now we are better off," said Md Rafiqul Islam, secretary of Friendship Char Develop Committee of Khamar Kamarjanchar.

"We do not do micro-credit and we do not make profit. What we do is sharing risk with them and the result is really amazing," said Runa.

This year Friendship distributed relief among the people who did not receive any government or non-government relief.

Friendship is going to launch a rural social education programme with the help of another NGO, Manusher Jonno, to teach the char people about their rights.

have satellite school programme. When people move from one char to another, our school also moves with them," said a staff.

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Ammo haul

FROM PAGE 1

Russell Sangma, an indigenous man, was arrested in this connection. Russell was produced before a Sherpur court on September 14 and the court placed him on the remand.

He was sent to jail September 18 after the five-day remand he was placed on expired, police sources said.

Russell is the son of Bhupen Sangma, an Indian national hailing from Patna in Ratnagar district of Assam, police sources added.

Sources say police are yet to identify the main guilty party, as Russell did not confess his involvement with the ammunition stockpiling or name anyone during interrogation.

Russell was arrested at the house of late Khatun Marak. When the ammunition was recovered, his widow Khatun Marak was not present at the house as she stays with her son in Dhaka, police sources said. Russell had been living at the house for a year.

Muslim and his two sisters, who were not affected by the poison of the fish, came to DMCH as they were packed.

A DMCH doctor said they had collected blood samples of the patients to test the kind of poison.

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