STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

The situation on Jaintapur border started returning to normalcy yesterday with the villagers of Dibir haor, Ghilatail, Fulbari and Assampara, who fled their houses during the BDR-BSF gunfight on Sunday, coming backhome.

BDR and BSF officials at a flag meeting in the evening reached a consensus for maintaining status quo on the borders. Disputes would be resolved at higher-level meetings, they agreed.

After the meeting, neither BSF men nor Indian Khasia tribesmen intruded into borders on the troubled Dibir haor and Kendri beel areas.

Classes were held at Ghilatail Government Primary School after two days with thin attendance.

Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Golam Rabbani and Deputy Commissioner Sazzadul Hasan, BDR Sector Commander Col Neamul Islam Fatemi and Battalion Commander Lt Col Khondaker Zahirul Alam talked to BSF officials near zero line on Dibir

haor border.

Later, BSF men also talked to BDR men and inhabitants on the frontier villages and asked them to face things with courage. The situation on the Jaintapur

border became tense with the firing between BDR and BSF and Indian Khasia tribesmen on Sundayafternoon. Seventeen villagers were injured by the BSF gunshots that

day after Indians attempted for erecting 'border post' inside Bangladesh territory. Prior to that, BSF men

intruded into 100 yards inside Bangladesh territory and dug 25 bunkers on the much-talkedabout Padua-Protappur border on Friday night.

However, the Indian border guards retreated the following day after another flag meeting.

Unrest on the Jaintapur border has been going on since early February.

Killings and abductions of Bangladeshis and other offences committed by BSF men inside Bangladesh territory along Sylhet borders went unabated during the last few months despite repeated Indian assurance to end such incidents.

Jaintapur border situation normal School for whom, cops or students?

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

The students of Baniakhali High School in Dumuria upazila are forced to attend classes under the open sky while police have been using three big classrooms of the institution for six years to run a police camp.

Besides, academic activities of the school are being hampered greatly due to presence of policemen, according to local sources.

Over 100 students left the 44-year old high school due to panic in last two years as one of the classrooms is being used to resort to torture on arrested persons during interrogation, said SK Nasir, headmaster of the school.

He said police beat arrested persons black and blue even at daytime during class hours, creating panic among the students.

"Police have virtually grabbed

three, out of nine classrooms, of the school. We wrote letters several times to the district administration, police and education departments for shifting the camp elsewhere from the school. But no step has been taken yet," said Moni Mohan Chakrabarty, chairman of ninemember managing committee of the school.





PHOTO: STAR

Police camp, left, has been set up in classrooms at Baniakhali High School in Dumuria while students, right, attend classes under open sky.

Sources said the three classrooms have a capacity to accommodate over 200 students. Due to shortage of classrooms, students are to sit on the corridor and school compound for doing classes.

The headmaster said the police camp had been set up in 2004 without the consent of school management in the name of conducting

"Operation Spider Web" with a view to improve law and order situation.

"They set up the police camp on a condition that they would withdraw the camp after improvement of law and order situation although members of the school managing committee did not agree with such condition," said the headmaster.

by 20 policemen and battalion ansars headed by Sub-inspector Abdur Razzak. They are also using the benches and tables of the school, said Abdul Gaffar Morol, a member of the school managing committee and president of Sarafpur Union unit of Awami League.

Talking to The Daily Star on Sources said the camp is manned Thursday, students, guardians and

teachers demanded immediate withdrawal of the police camp from the school for the sake of smooth academic atmosphere.

Contacted, Khulna Superintendent of Police (SP) Tanvir Haider Chowdhury said he would soon talk to the higher authorities of police regarding withdrawal of the



Non-Formal Primary Education System

'Multigrade learning most effective'

METRO DESK

Multigrade learning system is the most effective initiative in non-formal primary education (NFPE), speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

disadvantaged children to the mainstream and helps accelerate the 'Education for All' programme of the government, they said.

Approach in Primary Education: Sharing of Experience on Unique and Rask Project' was jointly organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Unique Project and Primary Education Directorate's Rask Project at the Primary Education Directorate Conference Hall at Mirpur-2 in the city.

curriculum and training materials are flexible. Because of its low cost, the system has already gained popularity across the country, said the speakers.

system is its close participation, cultural

diversity and multifariousness. The system plays an effective role in relatively remote and backward areas, they added.

The speakers further said the multigrade approach is such a learning system where learners of various classes are The system brings out of school and engaged in study at the same class. In many remote areas of Bangladesh, advancement of education progresses through mutigrade approach.

Primary Education Directorate's Rask The seminar titled 'Multigrade Project Director Md Ataul Huq chaired the seminar while Director of Administration of Primary Education Directorate Abdur Rouf Chowdhury was the chief guest. Rask Project Adviser ANS Habibur

Rahman and Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Unique Project Coordinator Golam Faruque Hamim presented two reports In the multigrade learning system, the on multigrade approach in primary education.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director (ED) M Ehsanur Rahman moderated the seminar while Dhaka Ahsania The attractive feature of multigrade Mission Unique Project Director Shafiqul Islam delivered the welcome

Brac University Educational Development Institute Senior Advisor Dr Manjur Ahmed, Australian Aid Regional Advisor Dr James Jennings, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Directorate TQI-SEP Advisor Prof Sirajul Islam, Director of Save the Children USA Education Sector M Habibur Rahman, Prof Abul Ehsan of Institute of Educational and Research, Dhaka University and Rask Project Assistant Director Tahmina Khatun were the panel discussants.

As many as 88000 children of 24 districts have been brought under the project through 2380 child learning centres. Since 2007, European Union is fund-

ing the Unique Project's Multigrade Approach of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

A total of 139292 learners of 60 upazilas have been brought under the

Since 2005, the government, World Bank and SDC have been working jointly for implementation of the project through Anondo School.

4-day children's festival begins in city today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day children's festival titled "Šajib Children's Festival" begins at the city's Kalabagan playground today. Artist Hashem Khan will

inaugurate the festival while

filmmaker Morshedul Islam will be present at the inaugural ceremony as a special guest. The festival remains open from 10:00am to 8:00pm till

March 20. The festival aims to intro-

duce the children to traditional events like putul nach (dolls' dance), circus, nagordola and charka, said Rajib Noor, chief executive of Jogsutra, the event management firm concerned for the festival, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporter's Unity yesterday.

Anupam Chandra Das, brand manager of Sajib Corporation, the main organiser of the event, said a vested quarter is demolishing most of the city parks and as a result children do not have access to playgrounds. Some new parks are being

established, but traditional events and toys like putul nach (dolls' dance), circus, nagordola and charka are not available there and that's why they are organising the fair. Such festivals will also be

organised in all the divisional

that they would hold the event in Dhaka on National Children's Day on March 17 every year.

Nando's, Pathsutra, Maprokom and Art Bangla are the c0sponsors of the event.

Call to increase taxes on tobacco products by 25pc

Help govt fight climate

change challenges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children take out a colourful procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of "Sajib Children's Festival".

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called on the government to increase taxes on tobacco products by 25 percent to control their use for the development of public health.

They made the call at the daylong workshop on importance of increasing taxes on tobacco products jointly organised by Unnayan Shamunnay and Work for Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust at Wings Centre in the city.

Dr Mostafa Zaman, national professional officer of World Health Organisation

(WHO), economist and researcher Dr Zulfikar Ali, Dr Syed Mahfuzul Haque, Dr Golam Mohammad Munir, also spoke at the function.

Saifuddin Ahmed, executive director of WBB Trust, presided over the programme.

Presenting a keynote paper, Dr Zulfikar Ali said if the government increases taxes on tobacco and its products by 25 percent and prices are increased by 15 percent, the step will certainly reduce the use of tobacco.

Around 57,000 people die and 3,82,000 become paralysed because of using tobacco products, he added.

Raju Murder Two arrested

in Bagmara STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Rajshahi

Two people were arrested in Bagmara upazila yesterday in connection with the murder of Raju Ahmed, son of a jeweller, in Rajshahi city on Monday night.

Police produced the arrestees--Abdus Sattar and Altaf Hossain -- in the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in the afternoon, seeking a 10-day remand for the

The court sent the arrestees to jail and fixed March 18 for hearing on the remand prayer, said Sub-Inspector Hafizur Rahman, also the investigation officer of the case.

Raju,18, was stabbed to death by a gang near Rajshahi New Market police outpost on Monday night. His father Eshar Ali lodged a murder case with Boalia Police Station against 14 people yesterday morning.

Sources said Raju was murdered as a sequel to a dispute over the ownership of a land between Eshar's family and one Mahbubur Rashid Rentu at Madariganj under Baghmara upazila.

On February 9, Rentu's men stormed into Eshar's jewellery shop at Madariganj Bazar, beat up Eshar and his son Raju and took away gold and gold ornaments. As local police did not

record any case for the attack, Raju lodged a case with a Rajshahi court on February 16. The court took the case into cognisance ordered the local police to take legal action against the attackers. "After filing of the case,

Rentu and his men threatened Raju with death. In the face of threat, Raju took shelter in Rajshahi city, but could not save himself," family members said, adding that police inaction led to the killing.

Contacted, Harun-ur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Bagmara Police Station, denied the allegation. "I received the case from court on Sunday night and recorded the case on Monday, six hours before Raju's death", the OC said.

Construction of market on Karnaphuli bank protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Forum for Planned Chittagong (FPC), an organisation of volunteers, formed a human chain at Fisherighat Ring Road yesterday protesting the move for constructing unplanned market along the Karnaphuli riverbank.

The speakers at the human chain observed that the construction of the shops as initiated by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) would result in illegal encroachment of the riverbank and hamper traffic movement and destroy the scenic beauty of the area, something CCC itself is responsible to preserve.

They called upon the CCC not to allow haphazard construction of any structure that was sure to hinder movement of traffic and destroy beauty of the city. The speakers demanded ensuring construc-

tion of roads and structures leaving space for tree-plantation and developing drainage and utility supply lines around them. They also suggested forming an organisa-

tional structure comprising CCC, Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) to ensure planned urbanisation.

The speakers also demanded preserving shorelines and recovery of land along the riverbank, parking space and ghats for vehicles and water-transports and steps to make the city

Nazrul Islam, Prof Dr Sikander Khan, poet and

FPC Karnaphuli River and Environment Committee Member Secretary Shahriar Khaled made the address of welcome at the rally where Khelaram Sardar, Gobinda Dutt and Anup Bishwas represented the fishermen community



First chief of army staff KM Shafiullah and Sammilita Sangskritik Jote President Nasir Uddin Yusuf were present at a programme titled 'Shabash Bangladesh' in the city yesterday. Otobi organised the event in honour of the freedom fighters where Abdul Malek was declared as its Go Green Ambassador as part of the furniture maker's extensive countrywide tree plantation campaign.

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attractive for tourists. FPC leaders Professor Emeritus Dr Jamal

journalist Abul Momen, Architect Zarina Hossain, Engineer Subhash Barua, Engineer Ali Ashraf, Faruq-E-Azam, CODEC Deputy Executive Director Kamol Sengupta, Advocate Rana Dasgupta, Advocate Akhter Kabir and Prof Dr AQM Sirajul Islam also spoke.

and local people.

The organisers also said Dabur, Lifebuoy, Pepsodent,

headquarters, he added.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday emphasised the importance of involving civil society as well as common people along with the government to fight the climate change challenges.

Speakers urge civil society

"We recognise that managing the environmental challenges of a country is not just the responsibility of the government but also of the civil society and the community in general," said Canadian High Commissioner in

Dhaka Dr Robert McDougall. The Canadian envoy presided over the

discussion. The discussion was jointly organised by

International Development Research Centre (IDRC), International Centre for Climate Change and Development and Independent University, Bangladesh.

The programme titled 'Emerging climate

change issues: Gaps in research, policy and practices' was organised on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of IDRC. Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies

Director Dr Atiq Rahman presented a keynote

paper on the topic. IUB Vice Chancellor Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, Regional Director of South Asia and China of IDRC Dr Stephen McGurk and Senior Programme Specialist Dr Sara Ahmed also took part.

Director General of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) Dr Kamal Uddin, 3rd from left, speaks at a workshop on jute at IDB Bhaban in the city yesterday. Craft Country Director Kazi Shahed H Ferdous, 2nd from left, Executive Director of Jute Diversification Promotion Centre (JDPC) K R Hasan, 3rd from right, Chief Executive Officer of Tarango Kohinoor Yeasmin, 2nd from right, and two jute farmers are also seen. (Story on Page 3)