

READERS
respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's *The Daily Star* report headlined 'Ode to a fighter'. Touched by his plight, some of our readers offered to help the teacher, Ranjit Kumar, of Berakuthi Barua Dakhil Madrasa in Sonarai union under Sadar upazila of Nilphamari.

Shahnewaz
Thanks to *The Daily Star* for such a contemplating, truly inspirational story. We often forget ourselves, indulging in our own interests, family and friends. Can we learn from this real hero, and make an impact on other's lives in every possible and good way? Hats off to Ranjit!!

Ali
I salute him.

MAbdus Sobhan
I only hope that some reader would bring this story to the notice of our successful Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid who will, I am sure, do justice to the dedicated teachers of the madrasa. I also thank the reporter for this write-up.

Abdul Zabber
Ranjit, sir, I also salute you. In spite of your sore need, you are doing a lot to educate our nation. We are really grateful to you. I do believe our education minister is also an honest man. I think he will do his best to include this madrasa under monthly pay order (MPO).

Kamran
Ranjit bhai represents the spirit of a true human being. He works hard with sincerity and honesty. If the rest of the government, especially politicians, worked like him, we would turn into a better nation. Leaders of both major parties can learn something from this.

Farid H Khan
Wonderful story of pride, self-respect and personal sacrifice. Ranjit is a hero and a model for us all, especially the children. My salute to Ranjit and thanks to Asaduzzaman for the nice story.

SG
Hats off, sir.

Shafiqul Karim
Sitting in Delhi, I read the touching story of Ranjit sir. The story touched my heart as I was born in Nilphamari. I hope both lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor and the education minister are good and honest people dedicated to improving the lives of the people, particularly the poor. As a fellow journalist, I wish to congratulate EAM Asaduzzaman for a good write-up. Asad, keep it up.

MA Faruki
I salute this man and pray for his goodness.

Samad Azad trust formed at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Abdus Samad Azad Foundation has established Abdus Samad Azad Trust at the department of International Relations of Dhaka University.
The trust will award a gold medal every year to the student who will top at the four-year integrated bachelor in International Relations.
Vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the trust at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Azzizus Samad Azad, son of former foreign minister Abdus Samad Azad were also present at the programme.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is greeted by a child with a bouquet on her arrival at Abu Dhabi International Airport in United Arab Emirates yesterday to attend the World Future Energy Summit 2011 today. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PMO

MoU signed to import gas from Qatar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh and the State of Qatar yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar to meet the growing demand of gas in the country.
Secretary of Energy and Mineral Resources Division Mohammad Mejbahuddin and Minister of State for Energy and Industrial Affairs of Qatar Dr Mohammed Saleh Al-Sada signed the MoU on behalf of their respective governments.
With the signing, Bangladesh has taken the first step towards realisation of import of four million tonnes of LNG per year, according to a message received here from Bangladesh embassy in Doha.
"The door is now open for Bangladesh to import liquefied natural gas from Qatar," said the State Minister of Qatar Saleh Al-Sada at the signing ceremony.
"Qatar is a major LNG producing country in the world and is happy to co-operate with Bangladesh in energy sector," he added.
Prior to signing the MoU, a bilateral meeting was held in Qatar Petroleum Doha between the two countries.
Bangladesh side delegates included Bangladesh Ambassador to Qatar Md Shahdat Hossain, former Chairman and head of LNG Petrobangla Md Muqtadir Ali, Counsellor Mohammad Nasir Uddin and First Secretary Muhammad Maqsoodur Rahman of Bangladesh Embassy.
Qatari side included Executive Director Down Stream of Qatar Petroleum International Mohammed Al-Hitmi, Manager, Gas Development of Qatar Petroleum (QP) Khalid Al-Hitmi and Head Expert of LNG of QP Taib Balmahdi.



Aminur president, Fazlul gen secy of R&H enggrs' assoc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Md Aminur Rahman Laskar and AKM Fazlul Karim (Mintu) have been elected the president and general secretary of Roads and Highways Engineer Association for 2011, says a press release.
Md Mahbub-ul-Alam and Md Iftexhar Kabir were elected vice-presidents and Mohammad Nazmul Haque (Jewel) and Asma Sultana joint secretaries.
The election was held at the Sarak Bhaban auditorium at Ramna in the city on Saturday.

5 accused juvenile criminals flee safe home in Barisal

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Five accused juvenile criminals fled a government safe home at Rupatali in Barisal by breaking the brick wall of their room on Saturday night.
The five are Saidul Islam, 14, Mizan, 14, Yusuf Hossain Kalu, 12, Razu, 10, and Rubel, 11.
They were nabbed by the police in cases filed for snatching and stealing. The court handed over them to the shelter home of social welfare department, as no one would stand in the court on their behalf.
Mosharraf Hossain, acting superintendent of the safe home, said 21 girls and five boys were in the home that day.
During the scheduled room visit at 10:30pm, the authorities found their room empty and saw a hole in the wall. They suspected that the boys crawled out through the hole and ran away by climbing over the boundary wall.
In August last year, two young girls fled the home but were later brought back by the police, said Mosharraf.
A general diary was filed in this connection yesterday with Barisal Kotwali Police Station by the authorities of the home.
Police alerted all water and road transport stations and check posts to keep a lookout for the five boys, said officer-in-charge of the station.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Brig Gen (retd) Aminul Haque, Bir Uttam, a freedom fighter and former director general of the National Security Intelligence (NSI), passed away at the Combined Military Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 69, says a press release.
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain condoled his death.
Raj Bala Barua
CU CORRESPONDENT
Raj Bala Barua, wife of late Upendra Lal Barua, passed away at her village home in Patiya on Saturday at the age of 99, says a press release.
She left behind her two sons, one daughter. Her body was cremated yesterday.
She is the grandmother of Dwipayon Barua, staff correspondent of *The Daily Star*.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia distributes winter clothes among the destitute at Banani yesterday. (Story on Page 2)

PHOTO: BNP

Death anniversary

METRO DESK
Today is the 5th death anniversary of Al-haj A K M Quader, a freedom fighter and former officer of Bangladesh Biman, says a press release.
On the occasion, milad and doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Noorpur, GM Hat of Fulgazi after Zohr prayers today.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Qulkhwani of Zahan Ara Begum, wife of businessman Abul Kashem Chowdhury, will be held at House # 10, Road # 2 of Kallyanpur in the city after Maghrib prayers today.
Zahan Ara passed away due to old age complications on Friday at the age of 95.

69,941 landless families get land in last 2 years

BSS, Dhaka
The government rehabilitated 63,941 landless families in the last two years by allotting 24,070 acres of khash lands among them across the country.
Talking to the news agency Land Minister Md Rezaul Karim Hira said they have done this as part of the election pledges of the government to alleviate poverty and ensure economic uplift of poor.
After assuming power, he said, the government has undertaken a number of projects to rehabilitate the marginalised people affected by river erosion and other natural disasters.
To rehabilitate slum dwellers and low-income group people in the capital, the land minister said "we have implemented Bhashantek Project where 13,248 flats are being constructed over 47.90 acres of land at Dhalmour and Lalasharai mouzas under Mirpur section 15".
The land minister said 207 eco-villages in 188 upazilas of 61 districts to rehabilitate 10,650 families affected by natural disasters were set up when 5,865 landless families were rehabilitated by constructing 130 'gucchagarm' (cluster villages) across the country.
In the current fiscal, Hira said, the land ministry has fixed the target of rehabilitating at least 46 landless families in each upazila by allotting 5,000 acres of khash land.
He said the government formulated Jolmohal Management Policy, 2009 by introducing new strategy 'Jol Jar Jola Tar', (water bodies belong to those who catch fish there).

Elderly man stabbed, mugged Tk 36,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Muggers stabbed an elderly man after snatching money from him at Golapbagh level crossing in the city yesterday.
Victim Abdur Rashid, 59, is undergoing treatment to his left leg at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
Rashid said four muggers waylaid his rickshaw at the level crossing around 7:30pm and stabbed him on the leg as he resisted them from snatching Tk 36,000 from his possession.
Rashid said he reached Sadarghat early in the morning from Barisal and was on his way to a relative's house in the city's Maniknagar.

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