

Nothing can shatter dreams of Dipak

SOHRAB HOSSAIN,
Patuakhali

When Dipak was born, many around him -- relatives, neighbours and even his parents -- felt sorry. The baby was born with-out hands.

Fifteen years later, a ray of hope flashed through the parents' minds that their son will be a bread-winner of the family.

Dipak Howlader is appearing in the SSC exami-

nations this year. He wants to be a judge of the High Court.

But he still has to go a long way for either becoming breadwinner or a judge.

While talking to this correspondent a few days ago at AK High School, where the SSC examination is being held, signs of firmness were clear in the voice and face of the boy.

"If my dream comes true I will work for the poor and physically challenged people."

Dipak, the second son of

Satish Howlader, a resident of Baniakathe village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila, is taking the examination from Mamotaz Uddin High School under Barisal Education Board.

"My father was the lone bread earner of our family. But he became paralysed after an accident a few years back," he said.

The five-member family of Dipak is now dependent on the earnings of his elder brother who is a carpenter.

Poverty of the family hit his education, but it could not defeat him. To continue the education, he decided to stay at his maternal grandfather's home at Pangashia village in Dumki upazila.

"I also got all possible support from my classmates and teachers," he said.

Abdus Salam Sikder, headmaster of Mamotaz Uddin High School, said Dipak is a talented student.

"Despite physical challenges, his academic results were quite good from class six to ten."

"If he gets necessary help including financial support to continue study, he will definitely do good," the headmaster added.

Alamgir Hossain, secretary at the examination centre at AK High School, said that they are extending all possible help to Dipak to take the examinations.



PHOTO: STAR

Physically challenged Dipak Howlader writing answer scripts for the SSC examinations at Dumki AK High School centre in Patuakhali district.

3 areas of Sundarbans canals made dolphin sanctuaries

UNB, Bagerhat

The government has declared three areas of the canals in the Sundarbans, covering 32 kilometres, as "dolphin sanctuaries".

Around 12 km from Ghangmari check-post of Chandpai Range to Karamjal check-post through Dhangmari canal and Pashur River, 15 km from Jongra check-post to Andharmari check-post through Mrigamari check-post and five km from Dudhkhali check-post to Supati canal through Bemara canal have been declared as safe havens for the valued species.

A gazette notification was issued in this regard on January 29. A copy of the notification reached the Sundarbans East Range on Thursday.

Fishing in the 32-km waterway has been prohibited with a provision of sentence and fine in violation of the ban. An offender will have to serve in jail for six months to five years and pay penalty for violation of the rules.

Meanwhile, plying of large vessels carrying goods such as oil and other forms of cargo through the sanctuaries still poses a threat to the endangered cetaceans.

Bangladesh Inland



PHOTO: COURTESY

Dolphins once abounded in the waters of Bangladesh but the graceful creature of nature is now threatened due to callousness of a section of people. The government has of late declared three areas of the canals in the Sundarbans, covering 32 kilometres, as "dolphin sanctuaries".

Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has been allowing large vessels to go to Mongla from the Bay of Bengal through the Sundarbans from April 28 last year.

DFO Mihir Kumar Do of the Sundarbans East Range said the Ministry of Environment and Forests has declared the three areas

of the world's largest mangrove forest as dolphin sanctuaries as per recommendations of the experts.

The experts made the recommendations following a survey jointly conducted by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Bangladesh Cetacean Diversity Project (BCDP) had found dolphin

habitat in the coastal rivers of the Sundarbans and swathe of no-ground areas of the Bay of Bengal.

The survey report said there were 350 Gangetic River Dolphins, 6,000 Irrawaddy Dolphins, over 1,000 Bottlenose Dolphins, about 1,400 Finless Porpoises, and a significant number of Indo-Pacific

Hump-backed Dolphins, Pan-tropical Spotted Dolphins and Spinner Dolphins in the Sundarbans and adjacent water bodies and swathe of no-ground areas.

Besides, the experts found several Bryde's Whales and Sperm Whales during the observation.

A total of 15 wildlife experts led by Brian D Smith of the US-based WCS conducted the survey.

Jahangir Alam, BCDP coordinator and researcher, told the news agency that with the declaration of the three areas of the Sundarbans as dolphin sanctuaries, the number of the species as well as fish production will increase.

He said the Forest Department and WCS will jointly make the management plan which will be implemented by the Sundarbans Forest Division.

Dolphins move mostly in the rivers in the areas of Dhangmari, Chandpai, Andharmanik, Dudhmukhi, Betmore and Patakata of the Sundarbans East Zone under Khulna and Bagerhat districts.

They are also found in the rivers of southern region, including Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Meghna, Karnaphuli and Sangu rivers.

Tomato brings them fortune

Tale of lucky 35 Lalmonirhat growers

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Farmers at Karnapur village under Mogholhat union in the Sadar upazila are happy as they are getting good profit from tomato farming this season. All the 35 growers in the village also got a better output than the last years.

Abul Hossain, 52, of the village said, "I have cultivated only one bigha this season and harvested around 20 maunds of tomato a week. I got Tk 18 thousand from selling tomato last week. Each maund was sold at Tk 1000 to 800."

"I hope I will get more 10 to 12 maunds of tomato a day from my land for the next 20 days," he said.

Tomato grower Mozammel Haque, 47, said he spent around Tk 4 thousand for cultivating tomato on one bigha of land. He himself, his wife and two sons took care of the field.

"I cultivated paddy on the land last year and got only one thousand taka profit. But the same land gave me an unexpected profit this year," he said.

Monsur Ali, 42, another tomato grower at Karnapur village said that his family

members hope to purchase cropland with the profit money this season.

"We cultivated tomato on two bighas and we now plan to cultivate it on more land," he said.

Abdul Mazid, 42, said all the 35 tomato farmers at Karnapur village cultivated tomato this year and all of them got high profit from the winter vegetable.

A few who did not cultivate tomato at the village came to meet me and learn about tomato farming in their land, he said.

Around 250 bighas of land saw tomato farming in the district this year. Of those, 110 bighas are at Karnapur village, an agriculture official said.

Mohammad Nuruzzaman, Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila agriculture officer said the farmers got bumper yield of tomato this year due to favourable weather condition and good seeds.

"All the 35 tomato growers of Karnapur village always kept in touch of my office. I myself and other field level officials of the department always gave them necessary advice."

Karnapur villagers have been cultivating some common vegetables in the last few years. But the farmers here have changed their mind this year which brought them fortune.



The district administration yesterday started the work for digging four canals at Mirkadin municipality in Munsiganj district, following an order from the High Court. Right, demolition of illegal structures on the canals is in progress for smooth continuation the canal digging programme.



PHOTO: STAR

20 passengers hurt as train derails

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

At least 20 passengers were injured as a commuter train derailed near Court Railway Station on Jamalpur-Dewanganj route in the town on Monday night.

Railway sources said, the engine and four compartments of the Dewanganj-bound commuter train from Dhaka derailed around 11:20pm, halting train communication between Jamalpur and Dewanganj.

The passengers received injuries while trying to jump out compartments in panic after the accident.

A relief train from Mymensingh reached the spot and started salvage operation at about 12.50pm

yesterday.

Two injured passengers -- Md. Anwar Hossain and Shahjamal -- alleged that local criminals looted belongings, including mobile sets of several passengers, as the spot remained dark after the derailment.

Jamalpur Court Station master Md. Nurunnabi told this correspondent that the salvage operation was taking more time because of the damage of the tracks during the derailment.

A four-member probe committee led by Nazmul Islam, Divisional Transportation Officer was formed to find out the causes of the derailment, Railway sources said.

1320MW POWER PLANT AT RAMPAL 10km river route may be dredged for coal import from India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Move is underway to dredge ten kilometres river route from Mongla Porto Koigardaskati for smooth transportation of coal to be imported from India to run 1320 megawatt power plant at Rampal in Bagerhat district.

According to a source of Mongla Port Authority (MPA), a proposal to take up the project for capital dredging of 10-km river route has been sent to the

Ministry of Water Resources from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) of India and Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) signed an agreement in Dhaka on January 29 this year for construction of the coal-fired power plant.

The capital dredging of the river route has been planned to enable transportation of imported coal to the power plant within

the quickest possible time, the source said.

The power plant, which is expected to go into commercial production by 2016, will need 30 lakh tonnes of coal annually, the source further said.

Meanwhile, Mongla Port Authority has taken all necessary preparations to start dredging of Passure channel from next month to make it navigable for ships, said Md Mahabubur Rahman, director (traffic) of MPA.

Woman killed, 16 houses gutted

STAR NATIONAL DESK

An octogenarian woman was killed and at least 16 houses were gutted in fire incidents in Sherpur and Thakurgaon districts yesterday and the day before.

In Sherpur, Billi Begum, 80, wife of Solaiman Miah of Bhurdi village in Nakla upazila was killed early yesterday.

Fire brigade sources, said the fire originated from a burning mosquito coil at the

cowshed of Solaiman Miah at about 4:00am and soon engulfed the nearby six houses.

On information, firefighters rushed in and doused the fire with the help of locals at about 5:00am, reports UNB.

Billi Begum suffered severe burn injuries as she tried to save her valuables from the fire.

She was taken to the local health complex where doctors declared her dead.

The affected house owners claimed that the extent of loss from the fire could go up to Tk 10 lakh.

In Thakurgaon 10 houses were gutted in a devastating fire at Shingpara village under upazila in Thakurgaon on Monday night.

Station officer of Thakurgaon Fire Service and Civil Defence, Abdul Bari told our correspondent over cell phone that the fire originated from a lamp of one Nowshad Ali's house at

6:50pm that soon engulfed the adjacent houses and gutted 10 houses.

On information, fire-fighters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after one and half hour frantic efforts with the help of local people.

The house owners claimed that properties and goods worth about Tk. 2 lakh were damaged in the blaze while the fire-fighters estimated the loss at Tk. 40,000 only.

খাবার ছাড়া বাঁচা সম্ভব ১ মাস
পানি ছাড়া বাঁচা সম্ভব ২-৩ দিন

বায়ু ছাড়া বাঁচা সম্ভব নয় ১ মুহূর্তও

আগামী প্রজন্মের জন্য সুন্দর ভবিষ্যৎ নিশ্চিত করতে আজ থেকেই সচেতন হই সবাই

- ইটভাটা, যানবাহন ও কলকারখানা থেকে সৃষ্ট বায়ুদূষণ রোধ করি
- নির্মাণকাজের সময় ধুলোবালি ছড়ানো বন্ধ করি

**বায়ুদূষণ রোধ করি
বাসযোগ্য ভবিষ্যৎ গড়ি**

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর নির্মল বায়ু এবং টেকসই পরিবেশ (CASE) প্রকল্প পরিবেশ ও বন মন্ত্রণালয়