



Seven-year-old Ibrahim, usually a seller of collected papers and bottles to add to family income, prepares a model of Shaheed Minar with styrofoam on the campus of Bangabandhu University College in Gopalganj town, yesterday on the eve of Language Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day.

PHOTO: SUBRATA SAHA BAPI

JCD men at BM College driven out of campus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A faction of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Barisal Government Brojo Mohan College unit assaulted a leader of Jasod Chhatra League on the campus yesterday.

The victim is Zahirul Islam Zahir, organising secretary of Jasod Chhatra League BM College unit.

Immediately after the incident, BCL and Jasod Chhatra League activists drove out the JCD men of Humaun Kabir faction from the campus.

Humayun Kabir faction of JCD BM College unit is backed by Barisal city BNP president and Mojibor Rahman Sarwar MP while Saiful Islam Shahin faction by Barisal (south) BNP president Ahsan Habib Kamal.

While talking to a private TV channel on the campus at around 11:00am, Jahir claimed the present congenial environment at BM College is conducive to holding students union election at the college.

Protesting Jahir's statement, JCD men belonging Kabir group beat him up in front of the canteen, leaving him seriously injured. He is undergoing treatment at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

BCL, Jasod Chhatra League and Chhatra Moitre and JCD Shahin faction are also demanding immediate election to the college students union.

No case was lodge with the police station concerned in connection with the incident as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Lalmonirhat honours its five language heroes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The district museum yesterday honoured five language heroes for their contributions to the language movement in 1952.

Deputy Commissioner Mokhlesur Rahman Sarker handed over crests and gifts to the awardees at a function held at the temporary office of the museum in Purbo Thanapara in the town.

The five are Comrade Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Abdul Quader Bhasani, Comrade Shamsul Haque, Mohendra Nath Roy and Mohammad Zahir Uddin Ahmed.

Of them, Sirajul Islam was born on April 2, 1899 at Balapukur village in Aditmari upazila, Bhasani on January 3, 1930 at Haribhanga village and Shamsul Haque on May 7, 1934 at Khordo Saptana village in Sadar upazila while Mohendra Nath on January 8, 1935 at Dakkhin Ghonoshyam village in Kaliganj upazila and Zahir Uddin on March 23, 1935 at Nowdabash village in Sadar upazila.

Mohendra Nath Roy said the language

heroes are always neglected as no one feels for them despite playing vital role during the language movement.

"I thank the Lalmonirhat District Museum for honouring us at our last stage of life".

Everybody should know that the language movement was the first step in our struggle for independence, he said.

Ashrafuzzaman Mandol, founder and director of the museum, said "On behalf of the institution, I tried my best to honour our glorious sons of the soil".

"I will continue to honour them in future, too", he said.

At the function, the five language heroes urged the government to help construct a Shaheed Minar at all the educational institutes and madrasas across the country to uphold the history of language movement and make the next generations aware of it.

Among others, freedom fighters, educationists, cultural personalities, poets, journalists and local elites, were present.



PHOTO: STAR

Lalmonirhat District Museum yesterday arranged a function to honour five Language Movement veterans in the district -- from left, Abdul Quader Bhasani, comrade Shamsul Haque, Mohammad Zahir Uddin Ahmed, comrade Mohammad Sirajul Islam and Mohendra Nath Roy.

Two 'missing' IU students still untraced

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two Islamic University (IU) students, who allegedly went missing on the night of February 4, are yet to be traced.

They are Al Mukaddas of al fiqh department and Md Waliullah of daw'ah and Islamic studies department. Mukaddas is the cultural secretary of Shibir IU unit while Waliullah finance secretary of the unit, Shibir source said.

Some unidentified people picked up the two from a bus at Nabinagar in Savar while they were returning to Kushtia from the capital on the night, sources added.

Police said Mukaddas and Waliullah were among the 26 accused in a case filed with Islamic University Police Station following a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Chhatra Shibir on the campus on October 25 last year.

Tareq Monowar, president of Shibir IU unit, said all the 26 accused obtained bail from the High Court.

Contacted, Vice-Chancellor Prof M Alauddin said they have already informed the top police officials of the matter and urged them to take necessary measures in this regard.

Students of four departments under the Faculty of Theology and Islamic Studies at the university have been boycotting their classes and examinations since February 14 protesting, what they said, police failure to rescue the two missing students.

Wearing black badges, the students hold rallies and processions on the campus every day. They also formed several human chains on the campus in the last four days to press home the demand.

A praiseworthy move to save dolphins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bangladesh Wildlife Conservation Society has launched a month-long programme to hold dolphin fairs at different places in Khulna and Bagerhat districts as part of their awareness campaign for conservation of the aquatic mammal, especially from human hunters.

At the beginning of the programme, a two-day dolphin fair at Khulna Forest Jetty on last Saturday and Sunday drew a large number of visitors.

In Bagerhat district, dolphin fairs will be held at Mongla Jetty No-1 today and

tomorrow, in Morrelganj upazila on February 23 and 24 and at Rayenda of Sharankhola upazila on February 25 and 26.

It will also be held at a few other places of Sharankhola upazila from February 27 to March 8.

The month-long programme will conclude with a dolphin fair in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district on March 16, said Elizabeth Fahrni Mansur, director (Training and Education) of Bangladesh Cetacean Diversity Project (BCDP) of Wildlife Conservation Society.

"Dolphins and whales have got amazingly diverse

features by nature. And so, steps must be taken for their protection," said Benazir Ahmed, project supervisor of BCDP.

The Ministry of Forest and Environment recently declared three areas comprising 31 kilometres of rivers and rivulets of the Sundarbans as sanctuary for protection and conservation of six species of dolphins. In this regard, an instruction from the ministry reached the office of the East Wing of Sundarbans Forest Division (SFD) on January 29 this year.

"There are about 9,000 dolphins in the 31-kilometre-long water areas in the Sundarbans. Use of any kind of nets for fishing has been banned within this jurisdiction comprising Ghamramari Camp to Koromjal Patrol Post, Jhongrha Patrol Post to Chandpai Canal and Dudhmukhi Canal to Baroshiala Canal for conservation of dolphins," said Mihir Kumar De, divisional forest officer of SFD (East Wing).

Wildlife Conservation Society in association with researchers of Bangladesh Cetacean Diversity Project detected six species of dolphins after conducting a joint survey in the sea and the Sundarbans for over two years, he added.

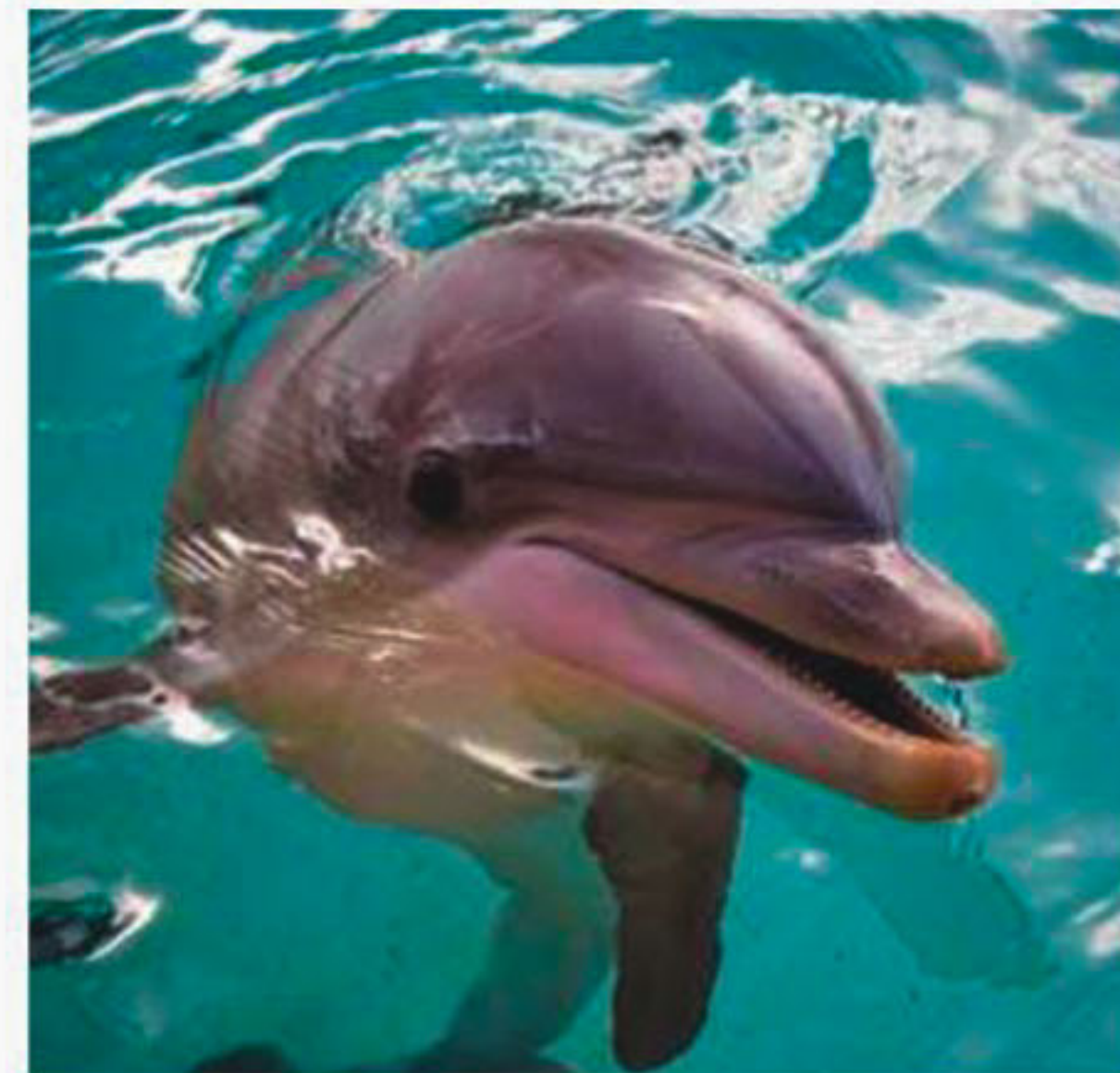


PHOTO: COURTESY

Dolphin, a graceful aquatic mammal with amazingly diverse features, still exists in good numbers in the Sundarbans.

SUICIDE BY SCHOOLGIRL SONALI

Three alleged instigators charge-sheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Police on Sunday pressed charges against three accused in a case for instigating a schoolgirl to commit suicide in Debhata upazila of the district on September 13 last year.

The victim, Maksuda Parvin Sonali, 14, daughter of Mahbubur Rahman of Bahera village, was a class ten student of Bahera AT High School in the upazila.

The charge sheeted accused are Nurul Islam, Sheikh Ala Uddin and

Saleha Khatun of the same village in the upazila.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Debhata police station Shah Jahan Ali Khan, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the three to the Judicial Magistrate's Court.

In the charge sheet, the IO stated that the accused used to tease Maksuda on her way to school. On September 12, when Maksuda, along with her father was returning home from local union parishad office, Nurul Islam and his two accomplices--Sheikh

Ala Uddin and Saleha Khatun--hurled filthy words at her, the IO said.

Failing to cope with humiliation, Maksuda committed suicide by taking poison at their house the following day, the IO further stated.

Following a case filed by Maksuda's father Mahbubur Rahman with Debhata police station on September 14, police arrested Nurul Islam on September 15.

Saleha Khatun obtained bail from a court while Sheikh Ala Uddin is still at large.

অমর ২১শে

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