

CONCRETE ROOF COLLAPSE

Lives of 35 schoolboys miraculously saved

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Thirty-five students of Saidpur Muslim High School at Nayatola of Saidpur municipality narrowly escaped a serious disaster when the concrete roof of class nine of the 57-year-old school building collapsed yesterday.

When the students were attending the school assembly at about 10:30am, the concrete roof of class nine of the academic building suddenly collapsed with a thundering sound. Thank God neither the teacher nor any of the 35 students of the class was in the room that time," said Belal Hossain, headmaster of the school.

Recent downpour for several consecutive days had dampened the old building, he said.

Saidpur Muslim High School was established in 1951 and its 60-foot-long concrete academic building was built in 1955, said locals and teachers.

After Liberation, several more tin-shed rooms were made to arrange classes for the increased number of students. There are now 300 students in the school, said school sources.

In absence of repair or renovation, the building became virtually unusable a few years ago and several students were injured as



PHOTO: STAR

The concrete roof of a classroom of 57-year-old Saidpur Muslim High School at Nayatola in Saidpur municipality collapses yesterday. Mercifully neither the teacher nor any of the 35 students of the class was in the room as they were attending school assembly at the time of the accident.

chunks from the concrete roof fell during class hours at different times. But periods of classes nine and ten were held in the building amid serious risk.

Visiting the school yesterday noon, this correspondent saw broken pieces of the roof lying scattered on the floor and two big pieces hanging from the rusty iron skeleton of the roof.

Visibly panicked, some students and locals were peeping through the window

of the collapsed classroom from where benches and tables had been removed.

School managing committee Chairman Hafizur Rahman Hafiz said, "I contacted with the government department concerned praying for construction of a new academic building for the school. But none responded to our appeal. Due to want of classrooms, the teachers continued taking regular classes in the old and risky building."

Construction of a new academic building has become an urgent requirement to avert more serious accidents in future.

District Education Officer Roksana Begum said that she was unaware of the vulnerable condition of the academic building of Saidpur Muslim High School as none informed her earlier. "I shall bring the matter to the notice of the government department concerned," she said.

Man gets 44 years' RI for killing son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court yesterday sentenced a man to 44 year's rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing his son at Tyagoch village in Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh in 2008.

The court also jailed two others for their involvement with the killing.

District and Sessions judge Mohammad Mahbub Ul Islam handed down the verdict in a crowded courtroom.

Convicts Md. Chan Mian, 45, got RI for 44 years, while Babul, 38, got RI for life and Shukur Ali, 40, sentenced to 2 years RI.

The court acquitted Rafiqul Islam as the allegation against him could not be proved.

According to prosecution, Chan Mian killed his son Shukur Ali with the help of others on 6 October in 2008.

The next day Chan Mian himself filed a murder case with Tentulia police station accusing eight people of their village as he had enmity with them over a piece of disputed land.

Later the case was sent to Criminal Investigation Department (CID). After long investigation, sub-inspector of CID framed charges against Chan Mian, Babul, Shukur Ali and Rafiqul Islam on 31 January in 2011.

The Daily Star - রবি ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Students from three schools watch the movie, The Lion King, at the opening session of the English language fair held at Begumganj Government Pilot High School auditorium in Noakhali district yesterday.

Curious kids of five more schools join joyful events

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of five more schools in Lalmonirhat and Noakhali districts yesterday took part in joyful events at English language fairs held under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Adcomm Ltd is the creative and event partner of the fairs.

In Lalmonirhat, around 250 students from Tushbhander RMMP Government High School and Totmari SCBL High School of Kaliganj upazila joined the English Language fair held at Tushbhander RMMP Government High School, teachers and guardians of the students were also present.

Abdul Quader, headmaster of Tushbhander RMMP Government High School, inaugurated the programme. Robi Area Manager Shakil Jahan, teachers and guardians of the students were also present.

Following screening of The Lion King, a globally renowned movie, the students of the two schools participated in spot quiz, vocabulary test, and situation-based ques-

tion answer--all based on the movie.

Selected students took part in extempore speech on different topics and role-play. Students also entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.



Prizes were distributed among the winners at the end of the programme. Students also formed an English language club at the school.

Our Noakhali correspondent reported that over 200 students of Begumganj Government Pilot High School, Begumganj Government Technical High School and Ganipur Government Girls' High School in Begumganj upazila took part in the English Language fair held at Begumganj Government Pilot High School auditorium.

Supal Chandra Shil, head-

master of Begumganj Government Pilot High School, opened the fair at around 3:00pm. The fair venue saw screening of The Lion King, a globally renowned movie, followed by students' participation in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one word question and quick questions---all based on the movie.

Prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions at the end of the programme. Robi representatives Kazi Russel and Kazi Faysal coordinated the programme.

Aiming to promote English language learning among school students across the country, The Daily Star in cooperation with Robi undertook English in Schools programme in 2009.

Under the initiative, each of one thousand schools selected from 64 districts of the country receives three complimentary copies of The Daily Star five days a week.

The ongoing English language fairs at different schools are being held in coordination with the education ministry as part of the three-year-long programme.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

25 fishermen 'abducted'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Robbers looted five fishing trawlers and abducted 25 fishermen on Meghna River in Hatiya upazila early yesterday. Owners of the boats informed that the fishermen were returning from the river about 1.00am. When they reached Banglabazar Ghat, a gang of robbers looted the fishing trawlers and abducted the fishermen. Balam Jaladas managed to escape the attack and saved himself by swimming ashore. Mokter Hossain, officer in-charge of Hatiya police station said, nobody filed any case in this regard.

Businessman murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police recovered body of a businessman from Gopalnagar village in Gangni upazila in Meherpur yesterday. Abdul Mannan, 40, went 'missing' about 14 hours ago. Bimal Krishna Mallick, officer in-charge (OC) of Gangni police station said, locals found Mannan's body in a roadside ditch at the village and informed police. He was strangled, the OC said. Bena Begum, wife of the victim told newsmen that Mannan went out of home at about 8.30am on Tuesday and since remained missing. Mannan's cell phone was also disconnected.

2 bodies recovered in Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Police recovered two bodies in Sadar upazila of the district on Tuesday night and yesterday. Locals found body of a youth floating in a pond at Sultanpur village in the town yesterday morning and informed police. The victim was identified as Juton Sarkar, 25, son of Tushar Sarkar of the village. Police arrested one Nirmol Sarkar, 50, of the same village in this connection. Meanwhile, police, around 11:00pm on Tuesday, recovered body of another youth, from Dhaka-Chittagong highway under Feni Sadar upazila. Mohipal highway police said the body of the unidentified youth, aged around 30, bore several injury marks in the head.



PHOTO: STAR

Police seize 4,438 bottles of phensidyl syrup from a microbus on Dhaka-Khulna Highway yesterday. The vehicle was lying in an abandoned state after one of its tyres got deflated at Barobazar point of the highway in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah district.

HAJEE DANESH UNIVERSITY

Another youth arrested on Bipul murder charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested another youth suspecting his involvement in the killing of Fahim Mahfuz Bipul, a final year veterinary student of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU), early yesterday.

The arrestee is Ali Akbar Liton, 20, son of Md Shamsul Haque of Mostafabagh area in Dinajpur town. Police raided the area at around 4:00am and arrested Liton from their house.

Sub-Inspector Md Abdul Mojib, also the investigation officer of the murder case, said they arrested Liton as he talked with Mrinal Goswami, the main accused in the murder case, over cellphone before the incident on June 9.

Police have so far arrested two people for their alleged



Fahim Mahfuz Bipul

involvement in the murder. They arrested Kamruzzaman Kamu, 22, from Baserhat area under Dinajpur Sadar upazila on June 13. The prime accused, Mrinal Goswami, is still at large.

Police quoted witnesses as saying that a gang led by Mrinal Goswami, an

employee of HSTU, stabbed Bipul, also a vice-president of the university unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), at a tea stall near the campus at around 11:30am on June 9.

Bipul was taken to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at around 2.30pm.

Dr Boloram Roy, registrar (Acting) of HSTU, filed a case with Dinajpur Sadar Police Station on June 10, accusing Mrinal and five other unidentified people.

Police yesterday produced Liton to a Dinajpur court that sent him to jail.

Contacted, Md Aslam Iqbal, officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Police Station, said they are raiding different areas to arrest Mrinal and other people involved in the murder.

PABNA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Outsiders assault 7 teachers, staff: Fresh agitation for VC's removal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The situation of Pabna University of Science and Technology has worsened further, as the agitating workers and employees demanded removal of the vice chancellor while outsiders allegedly belonging to the ruling party assaulted seven teachers and officers of the institution yesterday.

The attackers also forced the teaching staff and officials to leave the university office at around 1:00pm, official sources said.

"We were busy with official work at the university administrative building when 30 to 35 people entered the rooms and assaulted us in front of the police," Rahidul Islam Rahid, assistant proctor of the university, said.

Assistant proctors Md Fazlul Haque, Mahmudul Hassan, Tanvir Haidar and Rahidul Islam Rahid, and Shaban Shah, deputy director of finance, Sohrab Hossain, deputy controller of examina-

tions, and Md Kamruzzaman, lab assistant, were injured by the attackers, he said.

The attackers are men of Chhatra League and Jubo League, said Dr Abdul Alim, chairman of Bangla department of the university.

Sub inspector Md Amirul Islam of Pabna police station said that a few policemen deployed on the campus became helpless when the outsiders belonging to the ruling party hurriedly entered there.

Asked about the matter, Ahmed Sharif Dablu, president of Pabna district unit of Chhatra League, said, "Chhatra League and Jubo League men did not assault the teachers and officers of the university. The university authorities are trying to create confusion by blaming the ruling party men for agitation by workers and employees."

The workers and employees of Pabna University of Science and Technology started indefinite work abstention from Tuesday protesting assault of an employee of the university. "Five representatives of workers and

employees went to talk with the vice chancellor at his office at about 10:00am today [Wednesday] demanding justice for assault of a staff. We also demanded removal of the proctor and assistant proctors and urged the authorities to meet our seven-point demand. But the vice chancellor threatened to terminate the job of agitating workers," said Md Sohag Hossain, a computer operator.

The aggrieved workers and employees then left the university and blocked nearby Abdul Hamid Road and formed a human chain there demanding removal of the vice chancellor. They also held a protest meeting in front of Pabna Press Club where they blamed the vice chancellor for what they said huge corruption and nepotism.

Meanwhile, labour affairs secretary of district unit of Awami League Sardar Mithu Ahmed yesterday said, "We have extended our support for the workers and employees of the university to establish their legal demands."



PHOTO: STAR

Kids from two more schools take part in joyful events at the English language fair held at Tushbhander RMMP Government High School in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat district yesterday.

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