

Bridge over Teesta likely to open this month

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The road bridge over the Teesta River in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila is likely to be opened for public by the end of this month, much to the happiness of the people of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts.

Visiting the bridge site on Sunday morning, this correspondent saw a good number of people working relentlessly to complete the remaining portion of the bridge protection embankment.

Work for construction of the 750-metre-long and 12.11-metre-wide road bridge over the Teesta River began on September 7, 2006, and it was originally scheduled to be complete by September 6, 2009, said officials of Lalmonirhat Roads and Highways Department (RHD).

But the construction firms concerned failed to complete the bridge by the time and later three other deadlines in May 2010, June 2011 and December 2011 were missed.

The Government of Bangladesh provided 85 percent money for the Tk87-crore bridge project and



PHOTO: STAR FILE

The road bridge over the Teesta River in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila waits inauguration in the second half of this month.

Kuwait Government funded the rest.

RHD is implementing the project while Bangladeshi construction firm Amin-Delim and Indian firm ASCO are constructing the bridge in a joint venture.

"The main work of the bridge and its approach roads has been completed.

Seventy percent work of the bridge protection embankment is done and the rest

will be complete by July 15. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to open the bridge for public by July 24," said RHD Executive Engineer Ashraf Islam Pramanik who is working for Teesta Road Bridge Project.

The road bridge over the Teesta River will benefit about 45 lakh people of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts as it will facilitate their easy connection with

the rest of the country, Motiar Rahman, administrator of Lalmonirhat District Council, said.

Business community of the two districts are very happy as the bridge will play very important role for development of trade and commerce in the area, said Sheikh Abdul Hamid, president of Lalmonirhat District Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

5 children drown in Habiganj, Jamalpur

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Five children met a tragic end when they tried to take a dip in ponds in Habiganj and Jamalpur yesterday.

Three children drowned in pond at village Madansurat under Baniachang upazila in Habiganj district, reports our staff correspondent in Sylhet.

The incident took place at the house of former UP member Mahmud Miah yesterday afternoon.

Locals said, the kids were playing in front of the pond at noon. At a stage, they tried to take a dip in the pond but drowned.

The kids are Nancy, daughter of Mahmud's brother Mashuk Mia, Riad, son of Mahmud's sister Swapna Begum and Mahmud's daughter Poly, all aged between 4 and 5 years.

In Jamalpur, two siblings drowned in a pond in Sarishabari upazila yesterday noon, reports a correspondent.

Fire Service and Civil Defence office sources said, Nabin, 10, and Shabin, 7, sons of Khalilur Rahman of Ispahani area in Sarishabari municipality went to a nearby pond to take a dip.

Suddenly, they slipped into deep water and drowned at about 12 noon.

Hearing the incident, a fire service team from Sarishabari rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

PCP enforces roadblock today in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) will enforce a half-day roadblock programme in three upazilas of the district today.

The upazilas are Matiranga, Ramgarh and Manikchhari.

Protesting what they said rehabilitation of the Bangalee settlers by illegally grabbing land in Pilavhanga area under Ramgarh, the leaders of PCP, the students' wing of United People's Democratic Front, announced the programme at a rally in Shanirbar Bazar area of the district town on Monday afternoon.

The speakers at the rally alleged that the local administration took control of about 10 acres of land owned by Purnacandra Chakma in the area to rehabilitate at least 45 Bangalee families.

They urged the authorities to hand over the occupied land to Purnacandra Chakma immediately.

They also threatened to go for a tougher programme if their demand was not met immediately.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Rendered homeless due to the recent flood triggered by overflowing Brahmaputra River, a family in Rajibpur upazila under Kurigram district move for a safe place with whatever belongings they could save. The photo was taken yesterday.

SNIPPETS

Bus strike in Comilla

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Bus owners and workers in Comilla went on an indefinite strike yesterday. The strike began in all 20 routes of the district to realise their five-point demand. Comilla Bus-Minibus Malik Sramik Oikya Parishad jointly called the strike. The demands include repairing of central bus terminal at Jangalia, ensuring electricity and water supply, drainage system and security at the terminal, and arranging adequate sitting rooms for the passengers. Another report says, road communications of Pirojpur with the capital and the rest of the country remained suspended from yesterday morning as the bus owners enforced an indefinite strike. The bus owners called the strike demanding an end to plying of shallow engine-run human-haulers like "Nasimon", "Karimon" and "Bhotvoti" on 20 routes of the district.

Stalker gets 7-yr jail

UNB, Comilla

A mobile court sentenced a youth to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for harassing a female schoolteacher in Sadar upazila on Monday. Sources said, Habil, 19, son of Fazlul Hoque of Surjanagar village of the upazila harassed the teacher of Ramdanpur Government Primary School on her way back home from the school on Monday afternoon. Police arrested Habil at night after the teacher lodged a complaint in this regard. Later, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Fatema Jahan set up a mobile court and punished the youth.

BCL leader sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A businessman filed a case against Chhatra League Jessore unit president Ariful Islam Riad with Jessore Kotwali model PS in connection with a stolen truck on Monday. Plaintiff Mithu, owner of Mithu Iron Store, said that a month ago he bought an old truck from Ariful for Tk 1 lakh 97 thousand. Later, Jessore Kotwali police seized the truck from his store and arrested three employees as it was a stolen vehicle. Mithu said he contacted Riad several times but he avoided him and threatened him of dire consequences. The BCL leader was not available for his comment.

College boy brutally murdered

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A college student was brutally murdered in Pargachha upazila on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Sapon Islam, 26, son of Abul Hossain of Bamon Sardar village in Annadanagar union and a student of HSC first year.

According to locals and Pargachha police, there was longstanding enmity between Sapon Islam and son of an Awami League leader of Panchanon village.

On Monday night, a gang called Sapon out of his house and took him to the house of

the AL man. There they tortured him brutally and one stage cut off Sapon's tendons. The criminals then dumped Sapon's body under a bridge in the village presuming him dead.

Regaining sense, Sapon cried out for help. The passersby rushed to the spot. But Sapon died on the way to Pargachha upazila health complex.

Nazrul Islam Jewel, OC of Pargachha police station (Investigation) said, Rokeya Begum, mother of the deceased, lodged a murder case against 22 people including the Awami League leader.

Bangladeshi boy killed allegedly by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed a teenage Bangladeshi boy along Tentulia border in Panchagarh early Monday.

The victim was Mohammad Ratan Ali, 17, son of Mohammad Haider Ali of Biharipara village in Tentulia upazila.

According to family members of the victim, Ratan went to his relative's house at Sonapur village under Islampur PS in Paschim

Dinajpur district in India 15/20 days ago.

On the fateful day, BSF caught him and tortured to death while he was returning home, Ratan's father Haider Ali claimed.

Contacted, Deputy Commanding Officer of 25 BGB Battalion Major Ahmed Hossain told this correspondent over cell phone that during a half-hour long Company Commander-level flag meeting, the BSF said that they were yet to properly know about the matter.

The Daily Star - রবি ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Two girls take part in role play at the English language fair held at Thakurgaon Government Girls' High School yesterday.

Young learners from 6 schools join the fray

STAR NATIONAL DESK

English language fairs held under English in Schools (EIS) programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi, saw lively participation of young learners from six schools in Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Shariatpur districts yesterday.

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

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reported that over 200 Students of Thakurgaon Government Girls' High School and Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School eagerly took part in different competitions at the English language fair held at Thakurgaon Government Girls' High School auditorium.

Shankar Kumer Ghosh, headmaster of the girls' high school, inaugurated the fair around 1:00pm. Teachers of the two schools 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 question answer-all based on movie.

Selected students also took part in extempore speech on different topics and role-play.

Eighteen students from both schools won different

competitions. Prizes were distributed among the winners at the end of the programme.

In Dinajpur, At least 250 students of Birganj Government Pilot High School and Birganj Government Girls' High



School in Birganj upazila took part in joyful events at the English language fair held at Birganj Government Girls' High School auditorium, according to our correspondent.

Aktara Parvin, headmaster of Birganj Government Girls' High School, opened the fair at around 1:30pm. Teachers and guardians of the students were present.

The programme began with the screening of the globally renowned movie, The Lion King, followed by students' participating in one word question and answers, vocabulary test, situation based questions and answer-all based on the movie.

Selected students took part in extempore speech and role play.

The students entertained the audience by telling jokes and singing songs. Headmaster Aktara Parvin

distributed prizes among the winners of different competitions at the end of the programme.

In Shariatpur, over 300 kids from Palong Tulasar Gurudas Government High School and Shariatpur Government Girls' High School participated in the English language fair held at Palong Tulasar Gurudas Government High School auditorium.

Headmaster Bidhan Chandra Biswas of Palong Tulasar Gurudas Government High School inaugurated the fair at noon, reports our Madaripur correspondent.

After watching the movie, The Lion King, students of the two schools took part in spot quiz, vocabulary test and situation based question answer-all based on movie.

The students entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs. They also formed an English language club.

Prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions at the end of 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.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Birganj Pilot Government High School and Birganj Government Girls' High School attend the English language fair held at the girls' school in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur district yesterday.

Petrol pumps in 15 dists on indefinite half-day strike

UNB, Khulna

Petrol pump and tank-lorry owners yesterday went on a half-day strike everyday for an indefinite period in 15 districts to press home their three-point demand.

Petroleum dealers, petrol pump owners and tank lorry owners of Khulna division called the strike.

The demands include ensuring security of tank lorries on roads, stopping robbery and giving punishment to the culprits in different routes of 15

districts.

Petrol pump and tank-lorry owners in 10 districts of greater Khulna and five districts of greater Faridpur are observing the strike.

Abdur Rahman, a member of Petrol Pump Owner's Association told the news agency that their strike will be continued from 6am to 12 noon everyday till their demands are met.

Earlier, at a joint press conference at Khulna Press Club on June 27, the petrol pump owners of Khulna division and greater Faridpur called the six-

hour strike.

During the strike yesterday, petrol pumps did not supply fuel to buyers from 6am and stopped fuel lifting and marketing at fuel depots of Padma, Meghna and Jamuna at Khalishpur in Khulna.

Meanwhile, Khulna divisional Padma, Meghna and Jamuna Fuel Tank Lorry Sramik Union and Sramik Kalyan Samity expressed solidarity with the strike and staged demonstration in front of the fuel depots in the morning.