



PHOTO: STAR

People take risky ride on a banana plant made raft to cross Ichhamati River in Nusratpur union of Chirirbandar upazila under Dinajpur district as the 100-metre-long bamboo bridge, the lone one in the area, collapsed under the pressure of strong current on June 30.

Thousands suffer as lone river bridge collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Around 50,000 villagers of Nusratpur union in Chirirbandar upazila under the district are suffering as the 100-metre-long bamboo bridge, the lone one in the Ichhamati River in the area, collapsed under the pressure of strong current with the rise of water level on June 30.

Nusratpur union parishad (UP) consisting 16 villages with around 50,000 population is separated by the Ichhamati River from the district town, said Nure Alam Siddiqui Nayan, chairman of the UP.

"As we have to cross the driver to go to Ranirbandar of Tetulia union in Chirirbandar upazila, the district town and other places, we are taking risky ride on rafts made of banana trees for the purpose," said Md Mahbubur Rahman of Nusratpur village in Chirirbandar upazila.

Almost every year, villagers erect the bridge with bamboo to solve the problem as authorities have remained indifferent despite pledges from lawmakers during different governments to build a concrete bridge on the river, said locals. Md Abdul Hasan Mahmud Ali, law-

maker from Dinajpur-4 constituency (Chirirbandar-Khansama), pledged to erect a permanent bridge on the river during his electoral campaign in 2008, but the work is yet to start, said Nur Islam of Nusratpur village.

During a visit to the site a couple of days ago, this correspondent saw people using rafts to cross the river.

UP Chairman Nure Alam Siddiqui said, "The broken bridge will be repaired when the water level recedes. I have continued efforts to build a permanent bridge on the river to mitigate suffering of locals."

STRIKE CALLED OFF

Work resumes at Benapole land port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Workers at Benapole land port called off their indefinite strike yesterday as the authorities agreed to meet their demand.

Around 1,500 workers returned to their work resuming loading and unloading of goods at the port in the afternoon.

Two factions of Benapole Port-handling Workers' Union started the indefinite strike on Sunday, demanding implementation of the decision for minimum wages for the port workers.

The workers called off the strike as the authorities accepted their demand after a four-hour-long discussion between local lawmaker Sheikh Afiluddin, port authorities, businessman and the workers, port sources said.

Meanwhile, port authorities yesterday extended the time limit of export and import activities to avoid backlog at the port.

Abdul Awal, director of the port said that the workers withdrew their strike after local lawmaker Sheikh Afiluddin held a 'fruitful' meeting with the workers.

The Daily Star - রবি ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Prize-winning students pose for photograph at the end of the English language fair at Moulvibazar Government High School auditorium yesterday.

Amusing interactions by 600 more school kids

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Over 600 young learners from seven more schools in Moulvibazar, Kurigram and Kushtia districts yesterday took part in amusing interactions at the English language fairs held under English in Schools (EIS) programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

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

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reported that at least 250 students of Moulvibazar Government High school, Ali Amzad Government Girls' High School and Flowers' KG and High School joined the fair held at Moulvibazar Government High School auditorium in the morning.

Headmaster Bijoy Kumar Das of the government high school inaugurated the fair.

Following screening of Lion King, a globally renowned movie, the students of the three schools participated in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one word question and quick questions—all based on the movie.

Selected students also took part in extempore speech on different topics and role-play. Prizes were distributed among the winners of different events at the end of the programme.

Mohammad Fahad of Robi conducted the programme.

In Kurigram, over 180 students of Rajarhat Government Girls' High School eagerly participated in the English language fair held at the school auditorium, according to our correspondent.

Mohammad Khaled Siddiqui, headmaster of the school, opened the fair at around 1:00pm. Teachers of the school and guardians of the students were present.

After watching the movie, The Lion King, the students took part in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one-word question and quick questions—all based on the movie. Selected students took part in extem-

Our Kushtia correspondent adds: Kids from Kushtia Zila School, Mohoni Mohan Bidyapith and Housing Estate High School participated in joyful events at the English language fair held at the zila school auditorium in the morning.

Following screening of the movie, The Lion King, over 200 students from the three schools participated in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one-word question and quick questions—all based on the movie. Selected students took part in extempore speech on different topics and role-play.

Prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions. Robi representative solaiman Haque conducted 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.



Robi The Daily Star

Robi representative solaiman Haque conducted the programme.

Eight students took part in role play while seven others in extempore speech. Prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions at the end of the programme.

Students entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.



PHOTO: STAR

Two students of Rajarhat Government Girls' High School in Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram take part in a role play at the English language fair held at the school auditorium yesterday.



Coastguard seizes 350 kg of venison and a deer from a trawler on Bishkhal River in Pathorghata upazila under Barguna district early yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

INTRA-PARTY CONFLICT

Top Magura BNP leaders summoned to Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Top ranking leaders of BNP Magura district unit have been summoned to Dhaka amid mounting intra-party conflict in the unit.

BNP Joint Secretary General Amanullah Aman asked them to attend a meeting at the party's Nayapaltan office in the capital at 3:00pm today, district unit sources said.

Khulna divisional organising secretary Moshir Rahman will also attend the meeting, sources added.

Contacted, Magura BNP President Kabir Murad said a meeting between the leaders of the central and district units is scheduled to take place at the party's central office today to find ways to resolve the internal feud in the district unit.

Murad ruled out the possibility of dissolution of the existing district body. He, however, said some leaders of the rival group may be included in the committee.

Mohammad Nazimuddin, a leader of the rival group, said there is no other option but to dissolve the district committee. Dedicated leaders and activists don't want to see Kabir Murad as Magura BNP chief, he added.

Internal feud in BNP Magura unit

surfaced after formation of the convening committee with Kabir Murad as convener in July 2009.

A faction of the district unit led by advocate Mokaddes Hossain refused to accept Murad as convener and demanded dissolution of the convening committee.

On November 25, 2009, Kabir Murad group held a council and made Murad as president and Ali Ahmed Biswas as general secretary of the district unit. Advocate Mokaddes faction also formed a separate committee on the same day with Mokaddes as president and Iqbal Akhter Khan as general secretary.

Internal conflict in Magura BNP deepened further after the central committee approved the district committee headed by Murad-Biswas on December 2 in 2009.

Since then, two factions have been holding central and local programmes separately. Several clashes also took place between the two rival groups over holding the programmes.

As a sequel to the conflict, Mahbubur Rahman, joint convener of JCD Magura district unit, was murdered by local Jubo Dal men on August 17, 2010.

Deer, 350 kg venison seized from poachers in Pathorghata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The coastguard seized a deer and 350 kg of venison from Bishkhal River at Jintala in Pathorghata upazila under Barguna district early yesterday.

"Following a tip, a coastguard team conducted a drive on Bishkhal River near the Sundarbans and saw some people on a trawler early in the morning. Sensing our presence they fled, leaving the trawler on the bank," said Harun-or-Rashid, station commander of coastguard in Pathorghata.

Coastguard men seized a deer and 350 kg of venison from the trawler and handed it over to Pathorghata police, he said.

"The gang was selling deer and venison on the black market. We are trying our best to arrest them, he added."

Different gangs smuggled over 1,000 deer from the area in the last one year, said sources at Pathorghata police station.

Strike at Carmichael College called off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The students of Carmichael College, Rangpur yesterday called off their indefinite strike.

Student's sources said Chhatra League, Chhatra Samaj, Chhatra Union of the college unit along with the general students of the college jointly announced the decision saying that princi-

pal Depakendra Nath himself had decided to resign and join his new job in Bogra.

The students of the college on July 4 enforced an indefinite strike, demanding cancellation of transfer of Dr. Depakendra Nath Das, the principal of the college, to Bogra.

College sources said Professor Shah Md. Moksed Ali of Government Azizul Haque College, Bogra yes-

terday joined as the new principal of the college.

All classes and examinations of the college resumed yesterday as the students returned to their studies.

The students of the college also organised a colourful function yesterday to welcome the new principal.

The new principal yesterday told the journalists that improving educational atmosphere at the college

was his prime target.

"I want to continue the ongoing development work of the college," he said.

Replying to a question, he said that he would take necessary steps to reopen the hostels of the college as soon as possible.

Earlier, the teachers' association, different student organisations, and the employees also gave him a cordial reception.

Real Cardless ATM transactions For the first time in the world

Around the world, a few banks have started cardless ATM transfers. Using their mobile phones, customers access the core/mobile banking system which generates a code for a given amount of money by debiting the customer's account and transfers the code to the recipient. The recipient then types the code into the ATM to receive money. Due to non-availability of KYC (Know Your Customer) of the recipient, AML (Anti Money Laundering) compliances could not be enforced, and no partial withdrawal is allowed.

At DBBL, the mobile banking customers physically go to an ATM, push the "Mobile Banking" marked button, type their mobile account number, the amount to withdraw, their PIN and then push the "Correct" marked button. The customers then receive a Push-sms or IVR call to their mobile phone from the Mobile Banking system requesting them to type their PIN again on their mobile phone. The customers then type their PIN and the ATM dispenses the requested money.

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