

# A small initiative can be of great help to many

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

A small initiative sometimes can be of great help to many deprived people.

With the setting up of a primary school at Char Parbatipur village under Sadar upazila of the district, children of the village now have the opportunity to receive elementary education.

Over 1,000 people now live on the land that emerged from the Brahmaputra River in Jatrapur union in 2002. But their children have been deprived of education for want of a school.

Funded by Caring and Sharing LSI Fu-Tien Foundation, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) of Thailand, the school has been built on a 30 decimals of land on February 12 and formally inaugurated by lawmaker Md Zafar Ali on February 22.

Initially, 100 children have been enrolled at the school. Three of the four teachers, recruited for the school, will get Tk 6,000 per month while the other, religious teacher, will receive a monthly salary of Tk 2,500. Kurigram district information office will coordinate the activities of



PHOTO: STAR

**Local lawmaker Md Jafar Ali inaugurates the newly built house of Parbatipur Daktarchar Primary School meant for facilitating education of children at a remote char (landmass emerged from riverbed) in Jatrapur union under Kurigram Sadar upazila yesterday.**

the school.

The NGO will provide books, school bags, pencils and other materials for the students.

Chaired by District Information Officer Md Nurunnabi Khandoker, the inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Lawmaker Md Zafar Ali, Sadar upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Mostafizur Rahman, Kurigram Press Club President Shafi Khan, and

Jatrapur Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Gafur. At least 500 people of Char Parbatipur village were present at the function held on the school premises.

UP Chairman Abdul Gafur said as there is no school in seven other char areas of the union, Char Parbatipur Primary School will help the children of the areas receive primary education.

District Information Officer Md Nurunnabi

Khandoker said a 24-metre-long tin-shade house of the school is being constructed and the NGO has given Tk 1.25 lakh for this purpose. It will also give the school Tk 500 per month as maintenance cost, he added.

Lawmaker Md Zafar Ali in his speech said one more primary school will be set up in another char village as soon as possible. A secondary school-cum-cyclone shelter will also be built in the union, he added.



PHOTO: WASSAMA DOJA

**Bodiar Rahman (in red T-shirt), head of a specialised workers' team from Nagarbari, poses with his colleagues as the second phase of the operation to salvage this historic ship at Kuakata beach saw successful completion on Tuesday.**

MORSHED ALI KHAN

## Kuakata 'ship' lifted safely from its sandy grave

Experts have completed the second phase of the salvage operation by lifting the ancient Kuakata 'ship' to a safer height from its grave.

Upper parts of the ancient sailing ship surfaced from beneath the beach in July last year during low tide, prompting the Department of Archaeology to take steps to salvage and preserve it.

Yves Marre, French born Bangladeshi and an expert on traditional boats, also the head of the technical team for the salvage operation, said the 90-tonne wooden ship would be directly taken to the site of the museum from its current elevated location.

"It has taken us over a week to lift it from its grave to the surface where it will be safe from the rising water and sand," said Yves. "In the mean time we shall have to procure proper equipment to carry the ship to the desig-

nated museum site with all the artifacts we found on board," he added.

The officials and archaeologists of the Department of Archaeology working at the salvage site said that never before in the history of the country did the department participate in such a salvage operation.

"We are facing challenge at every step and the acute shortage of proper equipment to move the heavy ship is becoming a huge challenge for the salvage team," said Afroza Khan Mita, assistant director of the department.

In the first few days of the salvation work, workers painstakingly removed the huge volume of sand and sticky soil from the hull of the

ship. As soon as the hull was cleared, experts declared that in fact the ship resembled a schooner, a sailing ship with multiple masts used in the 17th century by the western countries. The schooner was known for its elegance and speed at the time. The team of rescuers also recovered arrays of artefacts from the site.

A team of about 40 specialised men from Nagarbari, headed by a traditional boat specialist and carpenter Bodiar Jamal, is assisting the salvage team since February 15.

Yves said that the height in which the 70-foot-long and 23-foot-wide ship has been elevated and solidly supported underneath, it is safe from invasion of rising

sea water and sand. "Now we have to look for proper equipment to salvage and carry it to its final resting place which is now being designated by the authorities in Dhaka," said Yves.

The finding of the ship has already become the talk of the region. Every day hundreds of people are visiting the salvage site, about three kilometres east of Kuakata Zero Point.

The Local Government Engineering Department, which has prepared the master plan of Kuakata, has already allocated a piece of land for a museum in Kuakata where the ancient ship with all its artefacts will be preserved. Thousands of visitors are expected to visit the museum.

## Two siblings get life for corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Pabna court yesterday awarded life term imprisonment to two siblings for corruption.

The convicts are Md Abdul Malek, office assistant cum accountant of Sirajganj district primary education office, and his brother Md Abdul Mojid, former teacher of Nadoi Government Primary School in Tarash upazila under Sirajganj district.

Special Judge Amulya Kumar Sarkar announced the verdict in crowded courtroom.

With a false appointment letter issued by Abdul Malek, Abdul Mojid joined as a primary teacher in Belkuchi upazila on February 11 in 1993, and later he was transferred to Nadoi Government Primary School, goes the prosecution.

Mojid misappropriated government money by remaining in service at the school illegally for eight years.

Following an official complaint, an investigation officer of the then Anti-Corruption Bureau (later made defunct after formation of the Anti-Corruption Commission -- ACC) conducted an

inquiry about the matter and found Malek and Mojid guilty.

Shafi Mohammed Abu Hassan, deputy assistant director of the bureau, filed a case against the two siblings with Tarash police station on November 11 in 2001 and after investigation the ACC submitted charge sheet against the accused, court sources said.

In addition to life term imprisonment, Malek and Mojid have been fined Tk 50 thousand each, in default to serve two years more in jail, said ACC counsel advocate Abdus Samad Khan Ratan, also special public prosecutor of the Pabna court.

## Indian Khasia intruders kill youth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Members of Indian Khasia community shot a Bangladeshi national dead and injured two others near Kalairag border under Companiganj upazila early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Montaj Ali, 27, of Nazirgaon village in the upazila. The body bore marks of 9 bullet injuries, police said.

Officer in-charge (investigation) Nandan Kumar Dhar of the Companiganj police station said, family members of the deceased collected the body from near the border in the morning. Later it was sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue for post mortem.

Bullet-hit Jewel Mia, 18, and Abdul Hashim, 35, were admitted to the hospital, Nandan added.

Commanding officer of 5 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion, Sylhet Lt. Colonel Md. Shafiqul Azam said, the BGB protested the incident of killing at a company commander level meeting with the BSF yesterday afternoon.

BSF officials told the BGB members that the deceased came under the wrath of the Indian Khasias as he, along with a few others, had intruded into the Indian territory for stealing betel nut, said Col. Azam.

However, the family of Montaj refuted the allegation and said the Khasias opened fire without any provocation when the three were collecting wood from a bordering area.

## Teacher beats up kids

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two students of Panbari Government Primary School were badly beaten up allegedly by the headmaster in Patgram upazila on Tuesday.

The injured were identified as Surovi Akter Khusida, 9, daughter of Khairul Alam and Sabina Akter, 9, daughter of Shah Alam Mia of Panbari village.

The class four students are now undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Students and guardians said headmaster Moyez Uddin went to the classroom at noon and caned seven students as they failed to do one sum out of two. Among them, Surovi and Sabina were injured seriously.

As the news spread, students boycotted their classes yesterday morning, protesting the corporal punishment. Guardians expressed solidarity with the programme, demanding punishment to the headmaster.

Despite repeated requests over phone, the headmaster kept mum about the allegation.

## Murder in Matiranga

UNB, Khagrachhari

A young man was hacked to death allegedly by his elder brother's wife following an altercation over traditional *jhum* cultivation on a hill at Khe lakumarpara in Matiranga upazila on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Gopal Mohon Tripura, 32, of the village.

Police said, Gopal and his elder brother Udes Kumar Tripura's wife Mati Bala Tripura locked in a brawl over the issue of cultivating crops on a hill at about 10.00pm.

At one stage, Mati Bala hacked Gopal with a sharp weapon, leaving him dead on the spot.

Local people caught Mati Bala and Udes and handed them over to police.

## 'SEND WAR CRIMINALS TO GALLOWS'



PHOTO: STAR

**FROM TOP: 1) Fourteen-party alliance brings out a procession in Chapainawabganj town, 2) locals hold a rally at Chourangi Square in Magura town, 3) Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Samajtantrik Mohila Forum form a human chain in Gaibandha town, and 4) locals join a mass signature campaign in front of Dinajpur Press Club yesterday, demanding capital punishment to war criminals and banning of Jamaat-Shibir politics.**



BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK  
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

Grow your potential

Education UK Exhibition 2013

Register online at [www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh](http://www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh) before you visit the exhibition and get free entry

Entry fee: Tk. 50

Please bring photocopies of your academic documents

Dhaka  
Winter Garden, Ruposhi Bangla Hotel  
28 February 2013 from 12 pm to 6 pm  
1 March 2013 from 11 am to 6 pm

Chittagong  
Zinnia Hall, The Peninsula Chittagong  
3 March 2013 from 12 pm to 6 pm

- Participating Institutions**
- Anglia Ruskin University
  - University of Bedfordshire
  - Aston University
  - University of Bradford
  - Bangor University
  - University of Central Lancashire
  - BPP College of Professional Studies, London
  - University of East Anglia
  - Brunel University
  - University of East London
  - Canterbury Christ Church University
  - University of Glamorgan
  - Cardiff University
  - University of Greenwich (London)
  - City of London College
  - University of Hertfordshire
  - Coventry University
  - The University of Hull
  - De Montfort University
  - University of Kent
  - Gower College Swansea
  - University of Lincoln
  - Leeds Metropolitan University
  - The University of Liverpool
  - Liverpool John Moores University
  - The University of Manchester
  - London Academy of Management Sciences
  - University of Northampton
  - London South Bank University
  - The University of Nottingham
  - Manchester Metropolitan University
  - University of Reading
  - Middlesex University, London
  - University of Southampton
  - Newcastle College
  - University of Surrey
  - Northumbria University
  - University of Wales, Trinity Saint David
  - Nottingham Trent University
  - University of the West of England
  - Plymouth University
  - University of West London
  - Queen Mary, University of London
  - University of the West of Scotland
  - Sheffield Hallam University
  - University of Worcester
  - Solihull College
  - University of York
  - Staffordshire University
  - Weston College
  - Teesside University
  - University College Birmingham