

# Children in Jamuna chars denied proper learning

## Schools inadequate, facilities scanty in the backward areas

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Schooling of children in char (landmass emerged from riverbed) areas in the Jamuna basin are badly suffering due to shortage of institutions and infrastructural facilities there. Poor inhabitants of the remote areas, often struggling against adverse environment, have to walk long distances to communicate with the main land. In the rainy season they depend on country boats for movement but many cannot afford the cost.



PHOTO: STAR

Many students of Kunderpara Gono Unnayan Academy, the lone high school in a vast area of land on the Jamuna basin in Gaibandha district, have to walk kilometers on the sandy char (landmass emerged in the river) to attend classes.

308 children of school going age. A single non-government registered primary school set up there somehow provides schooling for only 75 children. The school is suffering from shortage of teachers, lack of accommodation and necessary furniture. "Most of the children remain busy with domestic help. Often they are seen helping the fathers in fishing or collecting floating firewood from riverbed," said Nazimuddin, a small trader. A local NGO Gono Unnayan Kendro set up a

high school named Kunderpara Gono Unnayan Academy at Kunderpara, presently enrolling 380 students. "Students from distant char lands like Hashdara, Batkamari, Kharjani, Saper Char, Chithulia Digor and other places come here. But in the rainy season, the students' attendance comes down to half. After passing the SSC, only a small number of them can continue higher education as they have to go to distant places for the purpose," said Asaduzzaman, headmaster of the school.

M Abdus Salam, chief executive of Gono Unnayan Kendro, said, "We have also set up a few non-formal schooling units in different remote char lands to provide at least some foundation of learning to the children of the backward areas." "Building of permanent structures for schools often proves impractical in the char areas as they remain vulnerable to erosion any time. During the last two years, at least seven school-houses have gone into the Jamuna River," said Solaiman Hossain, chairman of Kamarjani union.

# 4 held for killing auto-rickshaw driver in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police in separate drives arrested four accused in a case for murder of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver from Sadar upazila of Sirajganj district early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Minhajul Abedin alias Sweet, 29, son of Abdul Hamid of Borokumira village in Sadar upazila of Bogra and a retired member of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The arrestees are Shafiqul Islam, 23, son of late Yunus Ali of Soraichandi village, Yusuf Ali, 20, son of Amir Hossain of Dopapara village, Kamrul Sheikh, 23, son of Jaher Uddin of Soraichandi village and Selim Talukdar, 23, son of Jalal Uddin of Chandidasgati village in Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

Police arrested them, raiding different areas of the upazila. The arrestees were yesterday produced before the Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent them to jail.

Of them, Shafiqul and Yusuf confessed to their involvement in the killing, said Assistant Superintendent of Police Gazur Rahman of Bogra.

On July 28, a gang of six hired the auto-rickshaw from Bogra town area to go to Chanaikona in Sirajganj. When the auto-rickshaw reached at Betgari in Shahjahanpur upazila, the gang strangled the driver and took away the three-wheeler.

Later, driver Sweet's father filed a case with Shahjahanpur Police Station against some unidentified men, said the ASP.

# 'Cap village' in Tentulia vibrant before Eid

UNB, Panchagarh

Cap manufacturers at Mathafata, locally known as 'tupi palli' (cap village) in Tentulia upazila under Panchagarh district are passing a busy time as demand of the item greatly increases during the month of Ramadan, especially ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Hundreds of people, both male and female, work in the cottage industry units there to produce caps with attractive designs. One earns Tk 100 to Tk 200 a day from the job.

In 1994, Abdul Hannan, founder of Al Khaiyat Cap Industry, started commercial production of caps at the village as the item sold for good profit at Chawkbazar in Dhaka.

Later, he started exporting caps through Mariam International Import Export. However, the cap industry is gradually losing its heyday as the manufacturers suffer from shortage of capital and the authorities have failed to take a pragmatic policy for its development.

Consequently, the average monthly production of caps in Mathafata village has come down to 5,000 pieces from 15,000 to 20,000 pieces several years ago.

The production cost of each cap is Tk 50 to Tk 250, depending on material and design.

Once Bangladeshi caps including those produced in Mathafata village of Tentulia were exported to different countries including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Indonesia,

Tajikistan and Pakistan but now the export has virtually stopped as China captured the international cap market.

"We are now producing caps on a small scale as China dominates the international cap market," said Harun or Rashid, proprietor of Al Iqra Cap Industry in Mathafata village.

Chinese government provides logic support and marketing facilities for cap industry and the manufacturers then use Tazima Multi Needle Computerised Embroidery Machine for mass production of caps. Such a machine costs about Tk 6 crore.

Local cap producers and businessmen have urged the government to provide required support for development of the industry.



PHOTO: STAR

Jute growers sell their produce for low prices as they are in crying need of money for aman farming, and also for celebration of the Eid-ul-Fitr. The photo was taken from Nababherhat in Lalmonirhat district on Tuesday.

# Two killed as trawler collides with sea truck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

At least two fishermen were killed when a fishing trawler collided with a sea truck near Chairman ghat (terminal) in Hatiya upazila of the district early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Sharif, 18, son of Nur Ahmad and Reaz, 17, son of Abdul Mannan. They hailed from Sabujbagh village of Ramgati upazila of Laxmipur district.

Tofael Ahmed, investigation officer of Chairman ghat police camp, said the trawler along with nine fishermen on board collided with the sea truck near the terminal in the morning.

# VGF rice seized from black market

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Police seized 1,000 kg of rice meant for Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme on Tuesday night as it had been sold allegedly in the black market in Digholia Chowrasta area of Lohagara upazila under the district.

"Acting on a tip, I with a police team conducted a raid in Digholia Chowrasta area and seized 20 sacks of VGF rice from a trader named Sahabur Sheikh. But he managed to flee," said Saiful Islam, sub-inspector of Lohagara police station. Rebeca Khan, upazila

nirbahi officer of Lohagara, said, "After hearing the matter, I sent officials to investigate the matter. Action will be taken if anyone is found guilty."

Local sources said the 1,000 kg of VGF rice contained in 20 sacks was sold in the black market in collusion with the chairman and members of Digholia union parishad (UP).

Contacted, Imtiaz Hossain, chairman of Digholia UP, denied the allegation, saying, "The rice was meant for VGF but the trader bought it from the stakeholders, not from me."

# Motorbike theft rampant in Rangpur city

MEHEDY HASAN, Rangpur

Rampant motorbike theft has become a cause of concern for motorcyclists in the city.

At least 32 motorcycles were stolen in the city in four days till Saturday. Of them, 11 were stolen from different areas on Friday.

Some of the victims are Mostafizur Rahman Mostafa, former chairman of Sadar upazila, Tanjeur Rahman, a teacher of Rangpur Carmichael College and Dhanajit Gosh

Taposh, president of Chhatra League of Rangpur district unit.

Wadud Ali, general secretary of Rangpur Press Club, said his motorbike was stolen from the press club on Thursday night.

Although several cases were filed, police are yet to take any effective step to recover the stolen motorbikes, alleged the victims.

Contacted, police superintendent Abdur Razzak said that motorcycle lifters' syndicate is very active in the area and police are raiding

different areas to arrest the motorbike lifters.

Meanwhile, Kotwali police on Sunday recovered four stolen motorbikes from a multi-storied building on New Cross Road in the city and arrested one Mohon in this connection.

"The arrestee is a member of motorcycle lifters' syndicate. We are trying to extract information from him to arrest the other members of the syndicate," said Md Shahabuddin Khalifa, officer in charge of Kotwali police station.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. চিকিৎসা তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়. বক্ষাব্যয় হাসপাতাল, ফৌজদারহাট, চট্টগ্রাম. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. Table with 2 columns: S.No, Particulars. Items include: মন্ত্রণালয়, ক্রয়/সজ্জাহকারী, ক্রয়/সজ্জাহের স্বত্বাধিকারীর জেলা, দরপত্র/কাজের নাম/ধরণ, ক্রয়/সজ্জাহের পদ্ধতি, বরাদ্দ ও তহবিলের উৎস, দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়, দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়, দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়, দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের অফিস, দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, দরপত্র দিল্লির মূল্য ও নিরাপত্তা জামানত, গ্রুপ, ক্রয়/সজ্জাহের পদ্ধতি, ক্রয়/সজ্জাহের স্বত্বাধিকারীর জেলা, দরপত্র/কাজের নাম/ধরণ, ক্রয়/সজ্জাহের পদ্ধতি, বরাদ্দ ও তহবিলের উৎস, দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়, দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়, দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়, দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের অফিস, দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, দরপত্র দিল্লির মূল্য ও নিরাপত্তা জামানত.

# Dilapidated schoolhouse poses risk to kids

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Around 350 students of Poshchim Citki Girls' High school in Kathalia upazila under the district have to attend classes in a risky building.

Built in 1956, a house of the institution, also the first girls' high school in the district, was declared abandoned 15 years ago, said Dulal Howlader, chairman of the school managing committee.

"Six years ago, a fourth class employee named Parvoti Howlader fell off the roof of the schoolhouse as it partly broke. Later she succumbed to her injuries due to the accident," said Nirmol Mistry, acting headmaster of the school.

"As the building turned too risky, we are conducting classes in another building of the school. But that too is in a not so good condition and accommodation problem hampers classroom teaching," he said.

"We are especially worried as children often enter the abandoned building, ignoring our warning. It should be demolished as early as possible for safety of the kids," he added.

Ishita Roy, a student of class X, said, "We remain away from the abandoned building but students of

junior classes often enter it. Several incidents of minor injuries occurred there as plasters often fall off the roof and walls."

"The responsibility of demolishing such a dilapidated building lies with the facilities department. I will take necessary steps within the shortest possible time," said the UNO of Kathalia.

HM Abdur Rahman Palash, Kathalia upazila

engineer (additional duty) of facilities department, said, "I have received the duty recently. After visiting the school I will take necessary steps regarding the risky building."



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Poshchim Citki Girls' High School in Kathalia upazila under Jhalakathi district have to take lessons in congested classrooms of a rundown building as the older house (inset) of the school, which is in a worse condition, has remained abandoned for years.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines advertisement. Includes logo, contact information (HEAD OFFICE, BALAKA, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH. PHONE- 8901600-14, 8901680-94, Fax: 88-02-8901558 www.biman-airlines.com), Ref: DACPM/137/2013/121, Date: 04 August 2013, Request for Proposal (RFP) for Dry Lease of 02 (two) Turbo-prop Aircraft. Detailed terms and conditions for the RFP.