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Grand reception at cost of study

Students forced to queue up in the cold for 3 hours to receive a minister from Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

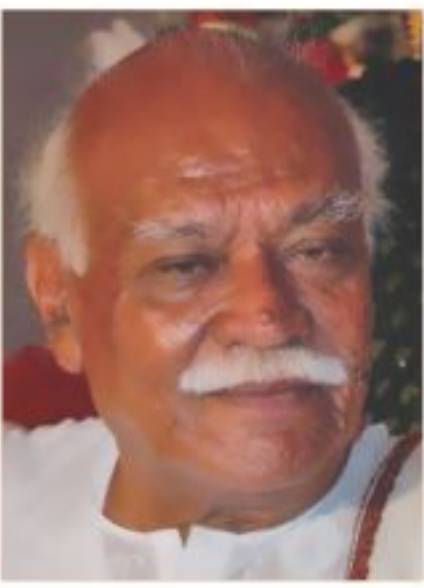
Hundreds of students of around 140 educational institutions in Ishwardi were made to line up along the road for over three hours to welcome Land Minister Samsur Rahman Sharif Dilu yesterday, in violation of government rules.

Authorities shut these institutions and suspended classes on the occasion of the minister's arrival. The upazila has about 213 educational institutions -- 150 primary schools, 48 secondary schools and 15 colleges.

A 2009 government order prohibits closing of educational institutions and queuing up of students during visits of government high-ups.

Dilu, who was elected uncontested from Pabna-4 constituency, went to his area yesterday for the first time after getting a berth in the cabinet. Ishwardi upazila unit Awami League arranged a grand reception for the minister.

Local AL men also staged a showdown with 3,000 motorbikes and 100 microbuses that drove from Muladuli to Ishwardi old bus stand, where Dilu was given the reception.



Samsur Rahman

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Students kept standing along the Ishwardi highway in Pabna for an agonising three and a half hours yesterday just to welcome Land Minister Samsur Rahman Sarif Dilu. As many as 140 educational institutions in Ishwardi remained closed on the day. Bottom right, around 3,000 motorbikes escort the minister to the district.

PHOTO: STAR



UPAZILA POLLS AL to go tough on rebels

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League will soon give guidelines to its grassroots leaders to pick only one candidate in each upazila for the upcoming polls.

Upazila AL unit committees, and presidents and general secretaries of union and ward committees would be asked in a couple of days to choose the contenders on the basis of consensus to avoid dis-sents in the party, said AL insiders.

The party will warn its grassroots leaders and activists that if anyone contests the polls defying the party decision, he would face tough action, even expulsion

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Padma fund now for staff allowance

Muhith says Tk 4,000cr transferred as project not to start this fiscal year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government had diverted 58 percent of the fund allocated for Padma bridge project to meet up civil servants' dearness allowance, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

Talking to reporters at his secretariat office, the minister said the move had been initiated since the work of the bridge could not be started in the current fiscal year.

A total of Tk 6,852 crore had been allocated for the project in the budget for the current FY. Muhith said of the amount, Tk 4,000 crore had been shifted for the government employees' dearness allowance.

However, the allowance would require more funds which would be

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

HRW REPORT Bangladesh backward on human rights

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh tumbled backward on human rights in 2013 as it engaged in a harsh crackdown on members of civil society, the media and political opposition, Human Rights Watch says in its World Report 2014.

The authorities often employed violent and illegal measures against protesters, and failed to initiate any investigations

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

HC bail for 5 BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to top five BNP leaders, including Moudud Ahmed, MK Anwar and Rafiqul Islam Mia, for six months in two cases involving charges of blasting cocktails and vandalising vehicles.

The two others are BNP chairperson's adviser Abdul Awal Mintoo and her special assistant Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas.

Following the HC order, there is no legal bar for Mintoo to get freed, BNP leaders' counsel barrister AKM Ehsanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

But the four others cannot walk free now as they are arrested in three more cases, added Ehsanur.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nizamul Haque and Justice Md Jahangir Hossain came up with the order yesterday after

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Apologise for remarks on Satkhira drive

Ashraf asks Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League yesterday gave BNP chief Khaleda Zia a 24-hour ultimatum to withdraw her statement at Monday's rally regarding Indian forces' participation in operation in Satkhira and apologise to people.

"The government will take appropriate measure if anyone appears to be a threat against national security, plays with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Super lung man!

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

If Nie Yongbing was in a comic book, he would probably be 'Super-Lung Man'. The 63-year-old has lungs of steel that allow him to inflate car tyres using only his nose.

According to recent news reports, the Chinese man displayed his strength in Chengdu, Southwest China, by inflating four truck tyres with two adults

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

BASIC Bank donated blankets to Honorable Prime Minister's Relief Fund

Recently the state owned scheduled bank BASIC Bank Limited donated 30,000 pcs of blankets to the Honorable Prime Minister's relief fund for distribution of the same among the cold stricken poor people of the country under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). At an occasion at Prime Minister's office, these blankets were handed over to the Honorable Prime Minister 'Sheikh Hasina' by the Chairman of BASIC Bank Limited Mr. Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu. Among others Mr. Kazi Faqurul Islam, Managing Director, Mr. Md Ruhul Alam, Deputy Managing Director were also present.

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think government would respond to the call of BNP chief Khaleda Zia to create a congenial atmosphere for an acceptable election through dialogue?

Yes

No

17%

83%

TOTAL VOTES: 348

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the BNP chief Khaleda Zia that the present government is illegal and isolated?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

January 22

Azan

Jamaat

Fajr

5:30

6:05

Zohr

12:45

1:15

Asr

4:15

4:30

Maghrib

5:43

5:47

Esha

7:15

7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

২০১৩ সাল জনতা ব্যাংকের সকল শাখায় (৮৯৭ টি) কম্পিউটারাইজেশন সমাপ্ত করার এক অনন্য সফলতার বছর

আপনি কি জানেন?

এখন হতে জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর যে কোন শাখা থেকে অন-লাইন ব্যাংকিং সুবিধার আওতায় আপনার হিসাবে নগদ অর্থ জমা কিংবা উত্তোলন করতে পারবেন।

আজই জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর যে কোন শাখা থেকে এই সেবা গ্রহণ করুন।

জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

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