

Bamboo Bridge constructed to help students of Kurigram



Students crossing the Baliarkuthi Bamboo Bridge constructed over a branch of the Dudhkumar River at Baliarkuthi village of Berubari union under Nageswari upazila in Kurigram.

PHOTO: STAR

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

Over 250 students from four villages of Berubari union under Nageswari upazila in Kurigram use the Baliarkuthi Bamboo Bridge to get to their institutions.

The 100-foot long Bamboo Bridge was constructed over a branch of the Dudhkumar River at Baliarkuthi village of Berubari union voluntarily by local people three months ago.

At least four hundred people from five villages, Char Rahmanerkuthi, Char Balorumpur, Char Tupamari and Char Narayanpur use the bridge for going to Berubari union parishad, Nageswari upazila and the Kurigram district headquarters.

As there is no education institution in the four villages, village students go to Berubari Government Primary School, Shalmara Government Primary School, Berubari High School, Berubari Girls' High School, Shalmara High School, West Pairadanga Alim Madrasa and Nageswari Degree College.

Before constructing the bridge, the people crossed the collapsed part of the river branch by walking through it in the dry season and by banana-rafts in the rainy season. The people's clothes (especially women) would get soaked while crossing the collapsed part when the water was too shallow for banana-rafts to travel.

Vehicles such as bicycles, motorcycles, rickshaws,

pushcart vans and horse-carts can easily cross the bridge.

At first Dudhkumar Shishu Sangathan of Shalmara village took up the initiative to construct the bridge with the help of four villagers while Berubari union parishad constructed link roads. The villagers (including students) collected bamboo donated by villagers. A local NGO Solidarity helped the shishu sangathan and the people to construct the bridge.

Shoneka Khatun, a class eight student of the Berubari Girls' High School and a member of the shishu sangathan, said, "Often times we (students) could not go to during the rainy season. But after three short months, we are now able to go to our schools regularly using the bamboo-bridge. Now, thanks to the ease of commuting we are happy to study."

Moshlem Uddin, 55, of Baliarkuthi village of Berubari union said, "We faced various problems crossing the collapsed part of the river branch. Then serious patients would take on neck or banana-raft during across the collapsed part during the rainy season."

Berubari union parishad chairman Mominur Rahman said, "After the students' request, the link roads along with the Baliarkuthi Bamboo Bridge was constructed by labourers through a 40-day programme funded by the government while locals and students voluntarily helped with construction efforts.

Mango grower leads a happy life

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Baharul Islam, 52, son of Babor Ali Biswas of Sundarpur village under Kaliganj upazila of the district is an enterprising owner of a mango orchard. He has reached the zenith of success thanks to his untiring labor and sincerity. He owns 6 bighas of land and three ponds. This year he has cultivated mangoes from 3 bighas 15 decimal of land.

Baharul has been growing mangoes for three years. Last season he sold mangoes for Tk 1,50,000 and hopes to sell mangoes worth Tk 2,00,000 this year. There are 200 mango plants on his plots, from which he will get roughly 8,000 kilograms of mangoes.

If he cultivated traditional paddy

crops, he would get 60 mound of paddy which would sell at Tk 48,000.

He has cultivated langra, heemsagar and amropali, three delicious and attractive species of mango. Seeing this, youngsters from the neighboring village throng to his orchard for advice on making a mango orchard.

Md. Iqbal Hossain, a neighbor, spoke very highly of Baharul while saying, "Baharul always remains busy in his mango orchard. He attends to his plot from morning to evening."

While speaking to Baharul Islam, it was learnt that he bought 6 more bighas of land and runs fisheries in three ponds. Once he maintained his family hand to mouth. Now he is financially solvent. His elder son Shimul Hossain studies BA honors at

Rajendro College while his younger son is a student of class six at Sundarpur secondary school.

Baharul added that he does not sell his mangoes at the market. Neighbors from different surrounding villages buy his mangoes as it is carbide and formalin free. Conscious people want poison free fruits, he added and since people buy directly from his plot, he saves carrying cost.

Baharul will increase his mango cultivation next year if he gets a loan from his bank.

Durgapur union UP chairman Alinur Rahman said, Baharul is a hard-working person who progresses day by day through cultivating mango. If an unemployed youth engages himself in a profession sincerely, he is sure to reach the pinnacle of success.

Migratory birds in Jhenidah attract 6,000 visitors

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Thousands of birds migrate to the trees surrounding the five ponds of the Ashurhat village under the Shaikupa upazila, attracting people and stalls from all over. The birds are locally known as 'Shamuk Bhanga or Shamkhol'.

The pond owners - Gopal Chandra, Abdur Razzak, Azizur Rahman, Subrata Mollik and Badar Uddin of the village claim that the birds have already begun rearing hatchlings. They were able to do so because the trees surrounding the ponds have offered ample accommodation for the migrants.

Shahidul Islam, a bird lover of Ashurhat village said, "About 50 birds took shelter in the trees next to the Gopal Chandra's pond in 2007. Progressively, their numbers increased and now it's around 10-15 thousand. They lay eggs throughout the year round and in doing so attract visitors from all over.

Another villager, Sudeb Biswas said, "The birds leave the spot during the early hours for food and return to their nests before dusk. This year, new species of birds will be arriving along with the guest birds."

He added that the villagers share the same opinion of not harming the birds and opposing any hunters who seek to kill the guest birds.

In the meantime, the local adminis-

tration has taken all protective measures for the birds. Red flags have been planted around the area for their safety.

The people of the village look after the birds whenever they can and every day at around 4:00 pm thousands of visitors from distant places throng here to gaze at them.

A visitor from Pobohati village, Motiar Rahman said the sight of birds is actually worth seeing. We are lucky that these migratory birds decided to come to Ashurhat village.

Another visitor, Bithika Rani of

Raigram village under Kaliganj upazila said, she has never seen so many birds at a time. Not only is it attractive but also charming.

Principal Subrata Mollik of the village's Jarip Biswas College said, these birds have added beauty to the village. We are determined to ensure a calm sanctuary for the birds that are a blessing to us.

Forest officer Nazrul Islam of Jhenidah said, it is our solemn duty to protect birds because they are our national wealth. We will visit the spot and take necessary step in this regard.



PHOTO: STAR

Thousands of Shamkol birds sitting on the trees at Ashurhat village.



PHOTO: STAR

A ruling Awami League man constructed this building, occupying land of Kathalia-Awra canal beside Kathalia Bazar, about 250 metres from Kathalia upazila administration building in Jhalakathi district.

KATHALIA UPAZILA IN JHALAKATHI

Ruling party man erects bldg on canal land

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

A beautiful modern building, built on an illegally occupied portion of Kathalia-Awra canal stands beside Kathalia Bazar, about 250 metres from the Kathalia upazila administration building.

After completing construction of the building in 2013, Kathalia Sadar union

parishad Chairman Kibria Shikder, also vice-president of Kathalia upazila unit of ruling Awami League, put bamboo fences around it and sand-filled some canal area, but no action from the administration is in sight.

Kibria, also chairman of the upazila committee of Bangladesh Rural Development Board for 17 years, is so influential that nobody dare say anything

against his wrongdoings, said a few locals seeking anonymity.

Asked about building construction on canal land, Kibria said, "I have inherited one decimal of land from my father and took lease of four decimals of land from the authorities for one year. I made the building on the land as I had no other land for the purpose."

"Earlier we had leased some land to Kibria for a

year on condition of not changing the nature of the land or establishing any permanent structure. The lease was not extended as he defied the conditions," said Abul Basher Muhammad Ameer Uddin, upazila nirbahi officer of Kathalia.

"I will send a surveyor to the place and take immediate action after getting report from him," he said.

College student stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Unidentified criminals stabbed a college student to death in Nurserypotty area in Jessore town on Monday night.

The deceased, Saiful Islam Saifullah, 19, son of Siddiqur Rahman of Mubarakpur village in Monirampur upazila, was a second-year student at Jessore Upashahar Degree College.

Enamul Haque, officer in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station, said a gang of criminals swooped on Saifullah when he went to the area to purchase some books around 8:30pm. They stabbed him indiscriminately and left the scene.

Hearing screams,

some pedestrians rushed in, rescued the boy and took him to Jessore Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead, the OC said.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately, the OC added.

Meanwhile, a local Awami League (AL) leader was shot in front of his house at Churamonkathi village in Sadar upazila on Monday evening, reports UNB.

The victim Faridul Islam Farid, joint-secretary of Sadar upazila unit of AL, was admitted to Jessore Medical College Hospital.

Police could not unearth clue of the attack as of yesterday.

Braving physical challenge, he takes JSC exams

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Born with serious physical challenge, Ibrahim Ali, 12, is appearing at the ongoing Junior School Certificate (JSC) examinations, using all of his hands and legs for writing.

Ibrahim, son of Md Saiful Islam of Hamidpur village in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur, is a student of Bornomala School and College in the upazila.

Visiting his examination centre at Sherpur-Bhabanipur High School on Sunday, this correspondent found him writing on answer scripts, holding the pen with his hands as well as legs.

It was obviously a challenging task for him, but he

continued writing attentively.

"He is silently doing his work. Every day he completed writing within the stipulated three hours," Asadur Rahman, secretary of the examination centre.

Chowdhury Ahmedur Rahman, principal of Bornomala School and College, said, "Despite his physical handicap, Ibrahim always achieved success in the school examinations. He has strong willpower, and we are hopeful of his success in future."

"My son Ibrahim got disabled hands and legs at birth but he is determined to be educated," said Saiful Islam, a carpenter.

"I want to get university education," Ibrahim said after the examination.

BSF detains five Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) members detained five Bangladeshis from Gosaipur area opposite to Hathkhol border in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat on Monday night.

The detainees are-- Rubel Hosain, 20, son of Abdul Mannan, Shahjahan Ali, son of Khorshed Ali, Prem Kumar, 30, son of Gopal Chandra Roy, Khokon Chandra Roy, 20, son of Lalit Chandra Roy, and Bikash Chandra Roy, 22, son of Harijan Chandra.

All of them hail from different upazilas of Sunamganj, Dinajpur and Thakurgaon districts, said

Abdur Razzak Tarafdar, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) 3 Battalion in Joypurhat.

BGB quoting BSF members of Gosaipur and Sidai camps in Dakkhin Dinajpur district said the Bangladeshis nationals were arrested while they were moving in the border area in a bid to return home.

They went to India without valid documents about three weeks ago and were returning to the country around 11:00pm, BGB said.

The BGB commanding officer said they will take necessary initiatives to bring the Bangladeshis back home.



PHOTO: STAR

Ibrahim Ali writes his answer script at the JSC examination yesterday, holding the pen with his both hands and legs.

Two fined for stalking JSC examinees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A mobile court fined two stalkers Tk 2,000 each under Harinakundo upazila of the district yesterday.

They are Jewel Chowdhury, 19, son of Dabirul Islam of Kulbaria village,

and Jihad Chowdhury, 18, son of Dulal Chowdhury of the same area.

The duo used to tease two JSC examinees at Prionath Secondary School in the upazila, said police.

On information, police arrested Jewel and Jihad from in front of the

school yesterday morning, said Ershadul Kabir, officer in-charge of Harinakundo Police Station.

They were later produced before the court, led by UNO Abdur Rahman, which pronounced the verdict, said the OC.