

# Erosion hampering studies in Kurigram primary schools



Students of Bharater Chhara Government Primary School in Bhurungamari upazila are forced to take lessons under the open sky since their school was washed away by the river eroding. PHOTO: STAR

At least 500 students from Bharater Chhara Government Primary School and Bhatpara Government Primary School in Kurigram are unable to study due to lack of proper infrastructure. Bharater Chhara Government Primary School was constructed on an acre of land at Ganierkuthi village of Bango Sonahat union under Bhurungamari upazila almost a century ago. Meanwhile, Bhatpara Government Primary School was built 26 years ago on 35 decimals of land at Kharuvaj village of Astamirchar union under Chilmaria upazila. During the last flash flood, Bharater Chhara Government Primary School's infrastructure was eroded by the Dudhkumar River while Bhatpara Government Primary School infrastructure was eroded by the Brahmaputra River. As a result, 300 students have been studying under the open sky or under trees next to the rivers, while school teachers cannot use instruments to

teach better. Teachers and guardians feel uneasy about the students. This is because if it rains, all classes are cancelled for the day. Another reason is because most of the students feel ill due to studying under the hot sun and constantly being exposed to foul odours. School sources said Bhatpara Government Primary School was located next to the river. After the school was eroded, studies were conducted from Habibur Rahman's yard in the village of Kharuvaj. Class five students Shumeer Khatun and Jahid Hasan said, "We cannot study properly, even though our PSC (primary school certificate) model test is in few days. If it rains, then classes are cancelled. In addition, studying under the hot sun is difficult. Instead of progressing, we are regressing." The headmaster Abdus Sattar said, "I informed my higher authority before facing erosion of the school. The school infrastructure went away into the river on August 18. Now, teachings

are being given under open sky." "After the school infrastructure was eroded, we were left to teaching 190 students without any materials, under the open sky, next to the Dudhkumar River. PSC examinations and annual examinations are right at the doorstep, regardless of the fact that students could not cover the syllabus," said headmaster of Bharater Chhara Government Primary School. Chilmaria upazila primary education officer (In-charge) Abdul Hamid Sarkar said, "I informed the higher authorities about the school being eroded and advised the SMC to construct a temporary tin-shade house for conducting classes." Assistant District Primary Education Officer of Kurigram Shawpon Kumar Roy said, "Two primary schools have fallen victim to river erosion recently, while 266 primary schools have been partially damaged due to the district's last flood. We have requested the higher authorities to reconstructing and repair the schools."



Guardians of students besiege the headmaster (cross marked) of Mogholhat High School at Karnapur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila yesterday protesting realisation of Tk 200 to 250 from each student for government textbooks meant for free distribution. PHOTO: STAR

# Headmaster besieged as money charged for free textbooks

Students, guardians and local people demonstrated in front of Mogholhat High School at Karnapur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila yesterday in protest against charging money for textbooks meant for free distribution. The protesters also besieged the headmaster, Mofazzal Hossain Mofa, for his alleged malpractice in distributing textbooks on the school premises. He was freed when local union parishad Chairman Habibur Rahman and school managing committee Chairman Sakawat Hossain went to the spot after an hour.

At least 150 students of the school had to give Tk 200 to 250 each to the headmaster for getting government allocated free textbooks in six days from January 1, said school sources and locals. They also alleged the headmaster's involvement in acts of malpractice in the name of developing the school. "I gave the headmaster Tk 250 to get textbooks for my Class IX reading daughter on January 5. Many other guardians faced similar situations for getting government textbooks meant for free distribution to the students," said Nur Islam at Karnapur village. Several students of the school alleged that their

classes are not held regularly. Other than the headmaster, there are 21 teachers and four staffs in the school that enrolls 665 students at present. The headmaster handles everything without taking any opinion of other teachers, said several teachers. Ashrafal Alam, an assistant teacher of the school, came under attack as he protested illegal charging of money for textbooks by the headmaster on Monday morning, they said. The headmaster, who is an influential man in the locality, makes the teachers and staff of the school comply with all his decisions, alleged Ashrafal Alam. Contacted, headmaster Mofazzal Hossain Mofa claimed that he did not charge any money for distributing government textbooks. "There was delay in distribution of the textbooks due to management problem of the school. A quarrel occurred between me and an assistant teacher over an official matter, not regarding distribution of textbooks," he said. District Education Officer Moslem Uddin Sarker said, "I have heard the matter. I will take necessary steps after proper investigation as taking money for textbooks meant for free distribution is a punishable offence."

# Jhenidah's satisfied jackfruit growers

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah  
The farmers of Jhenidah are happily content selling jackfruits for additional income. Apart from growing traditional vegetables, these farmers started planting jackfruit trees in their fields. Jackfruits are available in different markets across Jhenidah. One such market is Khalishpur bazaar, the biggest bazaar in the district. Almost 25 trucks of jackfruits depart from here to different divisional markets across the country. Agriculture Extension Department (AED) of Jhenidah said, roughly 1,100 hectares of land had been used in jackfruit cultivation in six upazilas of the district. The fruit itself is very delicious. Its timber is used for making quality furniture. Goats live off its leaves and its seeds are used to cook with, making it a very profitable plant for the farmers. Even the government benefits as they earn extra tax from the jackfruits bazaars for three months. Akram Hossain a jackfruit grower of Khalishpur village under Moheshpur upazila said, we can get at around 100 jackfruits from a big tree. He has roughly 100 trees in his yard and in the field, thanks to which he gets Tk 2,00,000 every year. Another farmer Altaf Hossain of Roghunathpur village said, he has sold 180 jackfruits this year for Tk 80,500. But it is interesting that this cultivation needs no cost. A jackfruit trader Moktar Hossain said, they buy jackfruits from Khalishpur bazar where 22 to 25 trucks laden with the fruit make their way to different markets across the country daily.



Jackfruits are available at Kalishpur bazaar under Moheshpur upazila of the district. PHOTO: STAR

Another trader Amirul Islam of Barisal said they came to Khalishpur for purchasing the highly demanded Jhenidahian jackfruits, which they transport to Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna and Shariatpur. They run this business for three months every year. Jhenidah AED additional Deputy Director Md. Abdul Kader said the deliciousness of the jackfruits increases if the soil is laden with potassium which is the case in Jhenidah. This in turn skyrockets the demand of Jhenidah's jackfruits in other districts.

# Golden boy needs boost

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah  
Pursuing sports in a poverty stricken country like Bangladesh can be a challenge, but we still hear inspirational rags-to-riches stories from time to time. However, as inspirational as these stories may be, they are not possible without sincerity, tireless efforts and courage, but even so, there are still many more instances where dreams such as these do not pan out. Hasanuzzaman Kayesh, 22, son of Sihab Uddin of Kashipur village under Kaliganj upazila of the district, is a 1st year Bengali honors student of government KC College Jhenidah. Kayesh inspired by his father, made up his mind to be a footballer at the age of 12/13 when he was in class six. Kayesh took part in an interschool football competition in

2005 when he was a student of Baliadanga secondary school under Kaliganj upazila. He played 19 matches during the competition and scored 24 goals. Baliadanga secondary school won the Bangladesh championship, and Kayesh was awarded a crest and a certificate for being the man of the series. Moreover, he participated in the Inter district football competitions five times and was awarded Man of the Match each time in Faridpur and Jessore. He played with the U-ro famous 2nd division in Dhaka in 2008 and later with Khulna Sheikh Kamal premier team from 2009 to 2010. Afterwards, in 2010, he participated in the South Asian Games at Pokhra in Nepal on behalf of Faridpur district where he scored 3 goals playing with 4 teams and became Man of the Series. In June 2012 he was offered a yearlong contract for his skills as a midfielder with Agrani Bank, Dhaka for Tk 2,00,000. During this year he was also contacted by Dhaka's Swadhinata club. In 2013 he went to Bhutan for 24 days on behalf of Arambag and played with Mohonbagan club in India, Nepal and Bhutan. Currently Kayesh plays under Arambag club. Kayesh regrets the fact that his father is a farmer who maintains his family with his meager income. He added that he needs quality training from an expert coach, to be able to join reputed teams like Abahoni or Mohammedan. His mother Kohinur Begum said, "Kayesh can go a long way if the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) helps him." She hopes that the BFF would come forward and better Kayesh's professional life. Bangladesh Football Federation coach Ahsanuzzaman Jhantu said, Kayesh certainly will be an expert footballer if he gets training under a coach. He is a swift and clever footballer.



Hasanuzzaman Kayesh busy practicing at a field in his village of Kashipur. PHOTO: STAR

# Guitarist drowns in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar  
A promising guitarist of a Bangla musical band drowned in the Bay near Laboni point of Cox's Bazar beach yesterday. Raziul Islam Razi, 28, son of Afazur Rahim Akon, was the lead guitarist of a Bangla musical band named 'Prashna'. Around 2:30pm, Razi, along with his friends went to Laboni point for swimming, police quoting witnesses said. He drowned there after being washed away by the strong waves of the sea. Locals and divers of the Lifeguard team rescued Razi and rushed him to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. Fazle Elahi Danny, maternal uncle of the deceased, told this correspondent over cell phone that Razi went to Cox's Bazar to perform at a musical programme there.

# 3 more accused in Biplob murder case arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra  
Three more accused in the case for killing a student of Bangladesh Institute of Information Technology (BIIT), Bogra, were arrested early yesterday. The arrestees are Md Sohel, 22, son of late Yunus Mollah of Chawksttrapur Jaharulpara, Md Toufique, 19, son of Md. Ruhul Amin of Silimpur Madhyapara, and Saddam Pramanik, 19, son of Liton Pramanik of Silimpur Uttarpara of Bogra town. Law enforcers arrested them from different areas in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Bogra. The victim, Bakirullah alias Biplob, 20, a first semester student of computer technology at BIIT,



Bakirullah alias Biplob was killed at an orchard at Silimpur Talukdarpara in the town on the night of December 31, 2014. Locals found the body on the following day and informed the police, who recovered the body and sent it to the hospital for autopsy. Biplob's mother Beauty

Begum filed a murder case with Bogra Sadar Police Station the same day against six youths, including his friends Antu and Saddam. Police led by ASP Nazir Ahmed Khan arrested Antu and Saddam on January 1 and 2 from the town. During preliminary interrogation, they confessed to their involvement in the killing. They told police that Shakil, Sohel, Toufique, Nazrul took Biplob to the orchard strangled him and took away his motorbike and cellphone. They duo also gave confessional statements before the Senior Judicial Magistrate Ahmed Shahriar Tarique on January 5.

# Two Myanmar nationals held with Yaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar  
Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members arrested two Myanmar citizens and seized 70,000 Yaba tablets from Naf River in Teknaf upazila of the district yesterday. The arrestees are, Mohammad Rafiq, 18, son of Mohammad Alam, and Abdul Amin, 30, son of Kalu Mia. Both hail from Prangpru village under Mongdu Police Station in Myanmar. Lt Col Abu Zar Al Zahid, commanding officer (CO) of BGB 42 Battalion, said a patrol team, acting on a tip-off, conducted a drive in Naitangpara village and challenged the duo on their arrival in the area from a small boat around 6:00am. Later, the BGB men seized 70,000 Yaba tablets from the two and arrested them.

## CONDOLENCE

We here at ILFSL Financial Group are extremely upset and deeply shocked at the sad demise of our Sponsor Shareholder and Director Jamal Uddin Ahmad FCA and former Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh who breathed his last on 3rd January 2015 (Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Elaihe Raajeun).

We pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and for the courage and fortitude to the members of the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

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