

Awareness on health and education on the rise in chars of Lalmonirhat



With awareness, char girls go to nearby schools for studies at the Teesta River basin island char Kalikapur of Bhotmari union at Kaliganj upazila in Lalmonirhat.

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Awareness is bringing changes to char health and education in four Teesta River char villages of Bhotmari union at Kaliganj upazila in Lalmonirhat. Due to regular awareness building by Char Health and Education Project under the local Non-Government Organization (NGO) called Own Village Advancement (OVA), funded jointly by Concern World Wide and Irish Aid, the char people at these char villages are understanding their rights, and about their children's future. The char people said that a radical change has been brought about in the Teesta river basin chars as the girls there are now taking part in education themselves. They also said that earlier, there was hardly any initiative to enroll the primary age girls into school before the interventions by the NGO OVA and thus, they remained out of higher education due to a number of barriers and challenges. Talking to the char people at the Teesta River basin char Sholmari, Char Shalhati Nohani, Char Kalikapur and Bhotmari Paschim

Char under Bhotmari Union of Kaliganj Upazila said that the barriers mainly include gender disparities, limited opportunities, negative attitudes, early marriage etc. Moreover, due to poor communication system and geographical remoteness, retention rate of the girls after passing primary level in high schools was lower in the char areas. They also said that now, girls here have come to know about their rights through awareness raising programs among parents by NGO OVA's Char Health and Education Project round the year. Char people also added that they are now very aware of their children's health and that they always check on their children's health regularly at the local health clinic as per the important messages from the NGO. The project manager of Char Health and Education Project Ahsanul Kabir Bulu said, "All these have been made possible by raising awareness through meetings, seminars, dramas, and discussion at these char villages all year under the Char Health and Education Project of the

NGO's Own Village Advancement (OVA)". "We started working at these char villages in 2012, and before us, the char people were unaware about their rights; especially regarding health and education, but now they are aware and exercising their rights



Char people are now aware of their children's health and regularly have their children checked at the nearby clinic

PHOTO: STAR

successfully", he said adding "Gender discrimination was one of the biggest problems among the char people". Char woman Khadiza Begum said that now she and other women in the char village of Kalikapur have been checking on their health at the nearby health clinic in the char as they get important messages about the children's health from NGO's OVA. Char farmer Nazir Ali at Char Sholmari village said that now, he is sending his three children to school after realizing the importance of education from the NGO's OVA. "If the NGO weren't building awareness here in the char he and all other char people would have been in the dark," he said. "Now the male members of these char villages always take care of their daughters' education, and their importance in their families and their society," said the NGO's Char Health and Education Programme's technical officer Khandaker Reaz Ahmed. Char girl Aklima Khatun said that she is now aware of her rights, and that she is determined to keep studying in higher levels. The Executive Director ED of the NGO's OVA Suzit Kumar Ghosh said that the NGO will continue the development work in the char areas to change the life style of the distressed char people if the funding continues.

Twelve of Jhenidah's rivers face grave danger



Nabaganga River in Harinakundo upazila on the verge of disappearance due to random cultivation on both sides of the river.

PHOTO: STAR

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

The 12 rivers flowing through Jhenidah are on the verge of disappearing because of reduced navigability and land grabbing by encroachers. The grabbers are cultivating different crops and excavating ponds for which, soil is filling the river beds and erasing their existence. Jhenidah Water Development Board (WDB) sources said that 13 rivers flow through Jhenidah. The rivers are Nabaganga, Begboti, Fotki, Kabodak, Isamoti, Kodla, Betna, Buri Bhairab, Bang Chitra, Kumar, Kali and Garai, with the last of the 13 being the only river not facing any kind of peril. Visiting the spot, this correspondent found that the farmers are cultivating the river beds at random. Some of them have excavated ponds; some have built houses occupying the river land. They have also set up shallow machines in the river bed. Farmer Jalal Uddin of Bhaturia village sadar upazila said that those who have possessed lands in the area surrounding the river are cultivating paddy and excavating ponds.

Abdul Jalil Joardar of Baroipara village under Shaikupa upazila said that before the Liberation War, they had plenty of fish due to sufficient water in the river but nowadays, it's a rarity in Jhenidah. Gopal Dev, an adivasi and fisherman of Adivasipara under Harinakundo upazila said that he and 300 fishermen of this para have lost their main profession due to lack of water in the river. Consequently they had to change their profession and live difficult lives. President of Human Rights in Jhenidah branch Aminur Rahman Tuku said that the rivers are being grabbed because of lack of water in the rivers. Fish are in great danger here and a variety of them faces the threat of extinction. In his honest opinion, men from the ruling party are responsible for land grabbing. Environmentalist Ataur Rahman Miton said that if the rivers cease to exist, trees will die, and the environment will face an ecological imbalance. Jhenidah WDB chief engineer Abdul Latif said that a project named capital dredging has already started and the rivers that are in the list will be dredged one after the other.



PHOTO: STAR

Daily earning of the labourers engaged in loading and unloading goods at Burimari land port in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat district is badly affected as there is hardly any work due to the countrywide blockade and hartal enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance.

BLOCKADE, HARTALS

Labourers of Burimari land port passing hard days

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Several thousand day labourers working at Burimari land port in Patgram upazila under the district demonstrated yesterday in protest against continued countrywide blockade and frequent hartals enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance. "We are facing problem to earn our daily bread as work in the land port area is badly hampered due to the continuous blockade and frequent hartals. We will

take to the street for tougher movement if the blockade is not withdrawn soon," said Safar Uddin, a leader of loading-unloading workers' association at Burimari land port. "Around 20 thousand day labourers who work in different areas of the district for loading and unloading goods and in the transport sector are worst sufferers due to the blockade and hartals. They along with their families are passing hard days amid lack of alternative source of

earning," said Maniruzzaman Manir, general secretary of Lalmonirhat District Sangjukta Sramik Federation. "We the day labourers are the direct victims of hartals and blockades but those who are behind it never face any problem in livelihood as they have lots of money," said Sirazul Islam, 48, a labourer at the land port. "A week ago, I sold two decimals of land of my six-decimal homestead to feed

my family as I am without any job from the beginning of the blockade," said Deloar Hossain, 45, a transport worker in Patgram upazila. Azgor Ali, 45, a labourer working at Lalmonirhat bus terminal, said he has started working as a rickshaw puller in the town to earn his daily bread, but it brings very little income as there are only a small number of passengers during the blockade and hartal.

University student stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A student of private university was stabbed to death in Akua Bhangar Pool area of the district town on Monday night. The deceased was identified as Mehedi Hasan Antar, 24, son of Abdul Malek of Gohailkandi area in the town. He was a first year student of East West University in Dhaka. Police said criminals attacked Antar while he was returning home at around 8:00pm. They stabbed him and left the scene immediately. Antar was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he died at around 11:00pm, said Noor Mohammad, sub-inspector of Kotwali Police Station. Officer-in-charge Abu Mohammad Fazlul Karim of the police station said they are trying to unearth clue to the murder.

Elephant kills kid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A five-year-old boy was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Tonkaboti area under Sadar upazila on Monday night. The deceased was identified as Md Tareque, 5, son of Nurul Islam of the area. Witnesses said, a herd of wild elephants stormed into the area at around 7:30pm. At one stage, one of the elephants swooped on Nurul's farmhouse of the area and killed his son. Nurul and his wife sustained injuries while they were fleeing the house. Some of the houses in the area were also damaged by the elephants.

Expired pesticides, fertiliser seized, 2 traders fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A mobile court seized expired pesticides and fertiliser from two shops at Bhelabari Bazar in Aditmari upazila of the district on Monday afternoon. Led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Zahurul Islam, the court fined the two shop owners Tk 60,000 for keeping the expired pesticides and fertiliser in their shops. They are Abu Bakkar Siddique, owner of Siddique

Enterprise, and Abir Hossain, owner of Abir Traders. Bakkar was fined Tk 20,000 while Abir Tk 40,000. Six other fertiliser and pesticide traders fled the market, pulling down the shutters of their shops. The seized pesticides and fertiliser were later buried two feet underground in the presence of local people, police said. Upazila Agriculture Extension Officer Matul Alam, who was present

during the drive, said a group of dishonest traders sell pesticides and fertiliser at high rates in different markets in the upazila. Taking advantage of the peak cultivation season of Irriboro paddy, the traders are doing brisk business by selling expired fertiliser and pesticides to the farmers, he added. UNO Zahurul Islam said drive against expired pesticides and fertiliser will continue in all markets of the upazila.



PHOTO: STAR

The upazila nirbahi officer checks term expired pesticides at a shop of Bhelabari Bazar in Aditmari upazila under Lalmonirhat district on Monday.

Name and Registered Address Change Notice

This is to notify to and draw kind attention of all concerned to the following changes:

Old Name & Registered Address	New Name & Registered Address
Max Automobile Products Limited Chowmuhunt, Noakhali, Bangladesh	MAX INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED Baitul Hossain Building (6th Floor) 27 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

That has recently got effect upon registration of the change with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms of Bangladesh. However, its Registration No [i.e. CH-674] remains unchanged. Consequently, all existing Properties & Assets, Rights & Privileges, Liabilities & Responsibilities etcetera of **Max Automobile Products Limited** become, and shall be treated as, the Properties & Assets, Rights & Privileges, Liabilities & Responsibilities etcetera respectively of **MAX INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED** to possess, hold, exercise, deal with, discharge and/or dispose of, wherever applicable.



Managing Director
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