

PHOTO: STAR

Like 342 others in Bandarban district, Adarsha Government Primary School in the town remains closed yesterday as teachers of those institutions attend a reception (inset) arranged for a state minister at Khudra Nrigosthir Sangskritik Institute at the district headquarters. The minister, however, denounced the programme and refrained from attending it.



# 343 pry schools shut for a day for minister's reception

*He denounces the callous act by Bandarban teachers, avoids the programme*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

All the 325 government primary schools and 18 community primary schools of the district remained closed yesterday as the district unit of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association organised a reception for the state minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs.

The minister, Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing, MP, however, did not attend the programme.

"I decided not to attend the reception after knowing

that all the primary schools of the district were kept closed for the purpose. I strongly disapprove arranging such programmes by closing so many schools," Bir Bahadur told the journalists.

Later, the programme, held at Khudra Nrigosthir Sangskritik Institute in the district town from 11:00am and 1:30pm, was run with Kwe Shwe Hla, chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council, as chief guest.

Each school had to pay Tk 1,000 for the programme, said several headmasters,

seeking anonymity.

"My son told me that the school was declared closed for today [Saturday] due to the reception programme," said the father of a student of Bandarban Adarsha Government Primary School.

Seema Das, district unit president of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association, said, "The schools were kept closed upon the decision of all the teachers. This would count as a holiday taken from the quota reserved for teachers." Signatures were taken

from all the teachers present at the programme.

Contacted, District Primary Education Officer Md Shahidul Azam said, "The teachers association arranged the programme and invited me as a special guest. I gave the permission as I did not want to go against the will of so many teachers of the district."

Appreciating the state minister's decision not to attend the reception, several guardians and civil society members said the programme could have been arranged on a holiday.

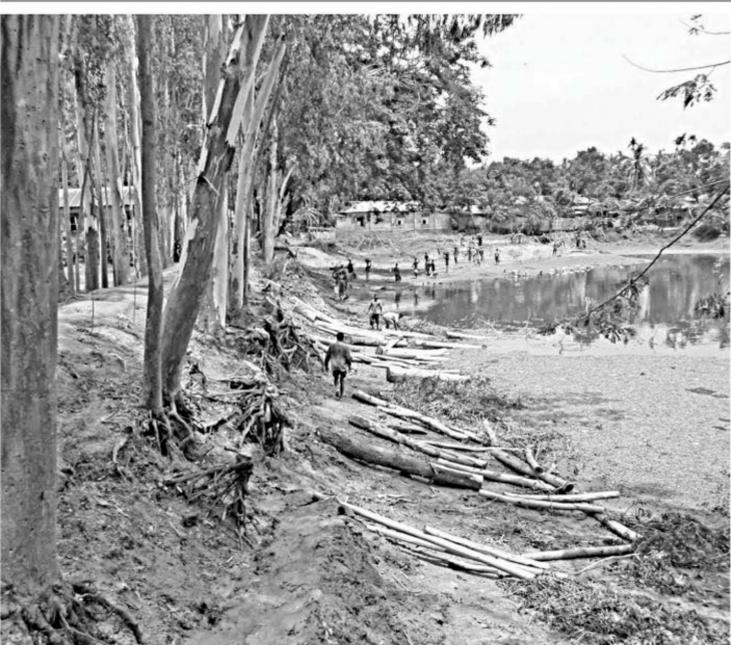


PHOTO: STAR

Logs from illegally felled eucalyptus trees lie beside the earthen way leading to Sadullapur Girls' Dakhil Madrasa in Gaibandha district.

# Over 50 eucalyptus trees felled illegally

*Madrasa committee chief said those were cut down for widening road*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The authorities of Sadullapur Girls' Dakhil Madrasa felled over 50 matured eucalyptus trees along the earthen road leading to the institution on the pretext of renovation of the road.

Jahidul Islam, acting superintendent of the madrasa, in collaboration with its managing com-

mittee President Jakirul Huq Manik arranged felling of the trees without any tender, locals said.

Following a complaint, Sadullapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ahsan Habib went to the spot on Thursday and stopped the tree felling.

Action will be taken against the people involved in the illegal felling of trees,

hesaid.

Asked about the matter, Jakirul said some trees were felled for widening the road close to the madrasa entrance.

Fazlul Kaiyum Huda, chairman of Bongram union parishad in Sadullapur upazila, said, "I have heard about felling of the trees. The village police seized the logs as per instruction of the UNO."

# THAKURGAON, MUNSHIGANJ Two teenage girls raped, 7 held

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Seven youths were arrested on charges of violating two teenage girls in Thakurgaon and Munshiganj districts on Friday.

In Thakurgaon, police arrested four youths in a case for raping a 14-year-old girl of Sadar upazila in the district on Friday evening, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees are Rubel, 14, son of Shahjahan Ali of Jagannathpur village, Jewel Ali, 14, son of Javed Ali, Nazmul Haque, 16, son of Nayeb Ali, and Amir Hossain, 13, son of Tara Mia of Fakirpara in the upazila.

The accused picked up the girl while she was returning home from Satyapir Bridge area in the upazila at around 6:30pm.

They took the victim to a nearby maize field and raped her, said Abdul Mannan, inspector of Sadar Police Station.

Hearing screams, locals

# 7 fishermen kidnapped in Sundarbans

UNB, Bagerhat

Forest robbers kidnapped seven fishermen from Joymonir area in the River Passur in the Sundarbans in Mongla upazila under the district early yesterday.

The victims hail from different villages in Mongla and Rampal upazilas.

A gang of robbers of notorious 'Sumon Bahini' attacked the fishermen on seven trawlers while they were fishing in the river early in the morning, said an official of Coastguard (West Zone).

They abducted the seven and demanded Tk 10,000 as ransom for the release of each fisherman.

The gang threatened to kill the fishermen if their demand is not met within seven days.

"We are raiding different areas to rescue the abductees," said the official.

# 18 Jamaat-Shibir men arrested in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Police arrested 18 Jamaat-Shibir men during overnight drives in different areas of two upazilas in Chittagong yesterday.

The law enforcers conducted drives in nine unions of Lohagara upazila from 12:30 am to 4:30 am and arrested four activists of Jamaat and six activists of Chhatra Shibir, said Md Shahjahan, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station.

The arrestees were wanted in different cases filed with the police station on charges of vandalism and arson attacks in the upazila, he said.

In Satkania, police arrested three activists of Jamaat and five activists of Shibir, raiding different areas, said Naimul Hasan, additional superintendent of police (district special branch) Chittagong.

The arrestees were accused in the cases filed with the police station on charge of vandalism in the upazila, he said.

# JUBILATION OVER SUCCESS



BIR SRESHTHO JAHANGIR BHABAN



PHOTO: STAR/BANGLAR CHOKH

FROM TOP: GPA-5 achievers from Bogra Cantonment Public School and College, Khulna Zila School, Blue Bird School and College in Sylhet, Bindubashini Government High School in Tangail, Dinajpur Government Girls' High School, and Feni Girls' Cadet College flash V-sign after announcement of this year's SSC results yesterday.