

PHOTO: STAR

A farmer walks at his mustard field at Chatkabaria village in Magura district, which along with adjacent Jessore and Jhenidah districts see start of two new super healthy varieties of cholesterol-free mustard cultivation. Dr Wahiduzzaman, a scientist of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, discovered the varieties, also giving a high yield, with the assistance of Uppsala University in Sweden.

New mustard grown for first time shows promise

AZIBOR RAHMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

Farmers in three southwestern districts are cultivating a new, super healthy variety of mustard. According to sources at the Agricultural Advisory Society the new strain is suitable for local climate conditions and can produce a respectable yield.

Around 24 farmers in Jessore, Jhenidah and Magura are involved in trialling the new crop, with 15 bighas under cultivation in Jessore and 3 bighas each in the other two districts.

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Abdul Khaleque Maksuda

High School in

Mymensingh's Ishwarganj

upazila has been facing an

acute classroom shortage

for years. Established in

1999, the school has

around 700 students,

including 400 female stu-

dents, but only five class-

There is no other high

school within three

kilometres of the school,

so the number of stu-

dents, especially girl

students, from adjacent

rooms.

high. "It's a high-yield variety," he told The Daily Star from his plot in Magura's Chatkabaria village. "We hope to achieve up to 11 maunds of produce per bigha, within about 90

maunds' production.

hopes for the new crop are from in the last half of

the floor of an adjacent

mosque since 2013, sources

from the government in

2011, the school authori-

ties started construction of

a semi-pucca building,

housing three classrooms.

But the work is yet to be

completed due to a short-

age of funds, school

storeyed academic building

by the Education

Engineering Department

started in 2012, but the work

Construction of a four-

sources said.

After getting Tk 2 lakh

said.

Another farmer, Shariful healthy oil without toxins or cholesterol.

Programme coordinator Saiful Islam of Jhenidah says the outlay for participating farmers is at a maximum Tk fits." Erucic acid and 4,500, from which each can expect a minimum of 9 maunds produce.

assistance from Uppsala kneepain."

laboratory, and although a

computer teacher was

appointed there is no com-

tress of the school, said

authorities need to address

the prevailing problems

immediately to facilitate a

better academic atmo-

IX student, said the

school has a reputation in

the area for its good

results, but its infrastruc-

Tahura Khatun, headmis-

University in Sweden.

"Dr Wahiduzzaman has worked tirelessly on developing this cholesterol-free mustard," says Agriculture Advisory Society director Harun-or-Rashid. "As it has no erucic acid or glucosinolates there are significant health beneglucosinolates are commonly present in mustard crops; both are considered

"The oilcake of this discovered by Dr. variety may also be used on poultry farms," adds ture scientist of the Harun-or-Rashid, "Be-Bangladesh Agricultural sides, it is good for those Research Institute, with with heart problems or

Clash over land dispute leaves 10 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least ten people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over a disputed land in Bakerganj upazila of the district yesterday morning.

Police said there had been a longstanding rivalry between Joydhar Kha of Kathalia and Jakir Hawlader of Runshi village over the ownership of a disputed land at Kathalia village.

The duo had an altercation on Tuesday noon, when Jakir went to cut a tree from the disputed land.

As a sequel to that, Joydhar's men equipped with sharp weapons attacked Jakir's house yesterday morning, prompting his (Jakir's) men to retaliate.

At least 10 people from both sides were injured during the clash that lasted for half an hour.

On information, police went to the spot and fired 10 blank shots to disperse the clashing groups, said Hossain of Bakerganj Police Station.

Interns at PMCH call off strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Interns of Pabna Medical College Hospital (PMCH) called off their indefinite strike yesterday evening.

They withdrew the strike after a patient's relatives, who assaulted two interns early Monday, apologised to the interns at a tripartite meeting involving the PMCH authorities, interns and local police administration.

At the meeting, police said they will ensure security of the doctors and staff on the campus.

Hena Bibi, wife of late Ashraf Ali of Gobindha area of Pabna town, died at PMCH around 1:30am on Monday, two hours after her admission for respiratory problems.

After her death, relatives of the patient allegedly assaulted two interns -Mokkaram Hossain and Shikha Pahan -- alleging negligence in treatment.

33 held while going to India illegally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

BGB men detained 33 Bangladeshi nationals while they were going to India illegally through Daulatpur border under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday.

The arrestees are from Narail, Barisal and Jessore districts.

A patrol of the border guards, acting on a tipoff, raided the area in the morning and arrested 15 men and 18 women while they were going to India without legal documents, said Subedar Ayub Ali, in-charge of Benapole BGB camp.

BGB filed a case and later handed them over to Benapole Port Police Station.

Two fake NSI men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Law enforcers arrested two fake officers of National Security Intelligence (NSI) from Golapganj upazila of the district on Tuesday.

the two from a place near

the Dutch Bangla ATM

Booth in the town.

The arrestees are Selim Ahmed, 35, of Kanisail village and Emad Uddin, 38, of Hatimganj village in the upazila.

Police said the duo, introducing themselves as NSI engineer. officers, phoned one Shamim

Ahmed of the town and demanded money from him. Receiving complaint cost of Tk 50 lakh, he from Shamim, a joint team of Golapganj police and said. Sylhet NSI officials arrested

The acting mayor said cautionary signboard was hung at the both ends of the bridge, forbidding

Coastal forests at risk as fish barriers block flow in canals

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A section of local people are building closures and removing water with power pumps to catch fish in different canals of mangrove forest areas in coastal islands under the district, causing harm to the biodiversity there.

The authorities concerned recently removed several closures but the callous people rebuilt those shortly afterwards.

There are over 50 canals in remote coastal islands Char Hadi, Char Shahjalal and Char Hyder on the Tentulia River in Dashmina upazila under the district and they play a vital role to keep over 20,000 acres of forestland in the area alive, said sources of Dashmina upazila forest office.

During recent visit to nymity. Officer-in-Charge Anwar | Char Hadi, this correspondent saw some people led by department men are also forest, he added.

Howlader removing water said. from a canal with three there.

canal," Anwar said.

local forest office for Tk 1.80 lakh to catch fish in the running season. Many other continue to save these locals are also involved in the act."

He, however, admitted that he does not have any valid document of the lease.

Several groups, each comprising 10 to 12 people, make closures in different canals and then lease each portion to local fishermen for over Tk 1 lakh, said local people seeking ano- alive.

one Anwar Hossain involved in the matter, they

Refuting the allegation, power pumps to catch fish Md Mizanur Rahman, beat officer of Dashmina upazila "One Monir Hossain forest office, said, "After Sarder engaged me in the hearing the matter, we with job after he took lease of the the help from the upazila administration conducted a Contacted over cell mobile court drive in the phone, Monir said, "I took forest areas and demolished lease of the canal from the at least 12 closures in different canals."

"Our operation will canals from the gangs," said Ashraf Hossain, upazila range officer of the forest department.

Dr Md Masudur Rahman, chairman of agro-forestry department of Patuakhali Science and Technology University, said free flow of through verbal agreement tidal water through the canals inside the mangrove forest is vital for keeping it

Building of closures there A section of local forest will threaten the mangrove



GREED TELLS UPON NATURE: A section of callous fish catchers make enclosures, obstructing flow in the natural canals running through the mangrove forest areas in coastal islands of Patuakhali district, much to the harm of biodiversity there.

Bailey bridge on Tangail-Omarpur road collapses

tonnes to cross it.

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A bailey bridge on Tangail-Omarpur road in Beradoma area of the district town collapsed under the pressure of an overloaded iron rod-laden truck yesterday.

Due to collapse of the 50-feet-long bridge built in 1988, the road communication with the char region, including Baghil, Dainna and Kakua unions from the town remained snapped.

The bridge on the Louhajang River on the road collapsed around 4:30am when the truck was passing through it, said local municipality councillor Mainul Haque Liton.

Though the truck fell into the river, none was injuried in the incident, he said.

Soon after the incident, acting mayor of Tangail municipality Manobendra Paul Milton, executive engineer of the municipality Mirza Arif and assistant engineer Mohammad Jamy visited the spot.

The same bailey bridge collapsed under the pressure of another iron rod-laden truck on June 25 in 2013.

At least three people were injured during the incident, said the executive

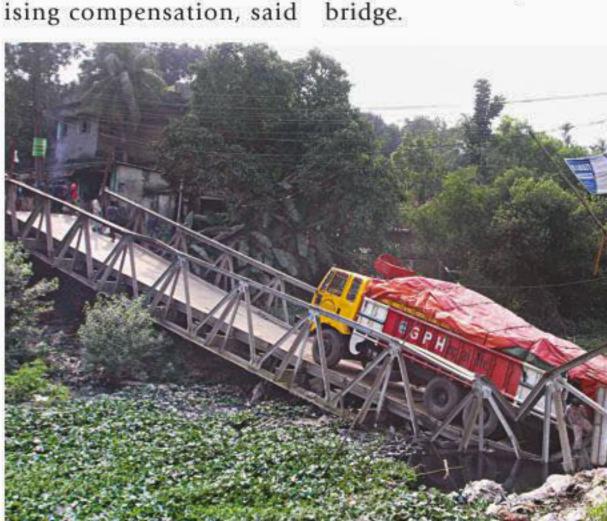
The municipality authorities then repaired the collapsed bridge at a

vehicles loaded over five the mayor.

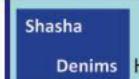
place when the truck weighing at least 45 tonnes was passing thought the bridge, he said.

truck was seized for real- processes to repair the

The engineers of the Yesterday's accident took municipality said they will construct a bamboo bridge temporarily beside the collapsed bridge for the movement of the After the incident, the people and later start



This Bailey bridge on the Louhajang River collapsed under the pressure of an overloaded truck at Beradoma on Tangail-Omarpur road yesterday, snapping communication with a few nearby unions.



SHASHA DENIMS LIMITED

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Shifting of Head Office This is for kind information of all concerned that the

23, Road # 129, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212". Therefore, all concerned are requested to communicate with us to the following address.

Corporate Head Office of Shasha Denims Ltd. has been

shifted from "Mascot Plaza (10th floor), Plot- 107/A,

Sonargaon Janapath, Sector-7, Uttara, Dhaka to "House #

Shasha Denims Ltd. House # 23, Road # 129, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.

January 12, 2016

Company Secretary

Shasha Denims Ltd.

Students of Abdul Khaleque Maksuda High School in Ishwarganj upazila under Mymensingh district attend classes on floor in 2013, cannot accommodate all the classes.

Although harvesting will cost him Tk 3,000, Rahman per maund sale price of Tk 1500, he can hope for about Tk 13,500 profit from 11 "I sowed one kilogram of

expects a good profit. At a

seed per bigha of this variety in October and November last year," says farmer Nazrul Islam of Jessore's Farmer Badiur Rahman's Topshidanga. "I will harvest

Islam of Jhenidah sadar upazila, says the new mustard crop can produce pure

The Napus 01 and 2 musharmful. tard varieties involved were Wahiduzzaman, an agricul-

Classes held in mosque corridor due to lack of classrooms

> None of the local political leaders or government officials have tried to address the school's prob-

education of the area's

Md Safiullah Sarker, upazila higher secondary education officer, said they requested the local lawmaker and upazila parishad chairman to con-Khadija Akhtar, a Class tinue construction of the four-storeyed building to alleviate the students'

suffering. Rajib Kumar Sarker, ture development is being Ishwarganj upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), said neces-

villages is increasing Iva Akhtar, a Class X sary measures would be was suspended after comstudent, said the prevailing taken soon to address the every year, school pletion of the ground floor sources said. problems must be solved as prevailing problems of the in 2013, sources said. Due to the shortage of Besides, there is no water early as possible to promote school.

classrooms and benches, supply or sanitation.

classes have been held on The school has no science youth.

sphere.

neglected.

puter facility.

PHOTO: STAR

the veranda of a nearby mosque as the school building, which remained incomplete after construction of the ground