



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer walks at his mustard field at Chatkabarua 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 south-western 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. Farmer Badiur Rahman's hopes for the new crop are

high. "It's a high-yield variety," he told The Daily Star from his plot in Magura's Chatkabarua village. "We hope to achieve up to 11 maunds of produce per bigha, within about 90 days." Although harvesting will cost him Tk 3,000, Rahman expects a good profit. At a per maund sale price of Tk 1500, he can hope for about Tk 13,500 profit from 11 maunds' production. "I sowed one kilogram of seed per bigha of this variety in October and November last year," says farmer Nazrul Islam of Jessore's Topshidanga. "I will harvest from in the last half of

January." Another farmer, Shariful Islam of Jhenidah sadar upazila, says the new mustard crop can produce pure healthy oil without toxins or cholesterol. Programme coordinator Saiful Islam of Jhenidah says the outlay for participating farmers is at a maximum Tk 4,500, from which each can expect a minimum of 9 maunds produce. The Napus 01 and 2 mustard varieties involved were discovered by Dr. Wahiduzzaman, an agriculture scientist of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, with assistance from Uppsala

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 benefits." Erucic acid and glucosinolates are commonly present in mustard crops; both are considered harmful. "The oilcake of this variety may also be used on poultry farms," adds Harun-or-Rashid. "Besides, it is good for those with heart problems or knee pain."

## 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 Officer-in-Charge Anwar Hossain of Bakerganj Police Station.

# 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 there. "One Monir Hossain Sarder engaged me in the job after he took lease of the canal," Anwar said. Contacted over cell phone, Monir said, "I took lease of the canal from the local forest office for Tk 1.80 lakh to catch fish in the running season. Many other locals are also involved in the matter, they said. Refuting the allegation, Md Mizanur Rahman, beat officer of Dashmina upazila forest office, said, "After hearing the matter, we with the help from the upazila administration conducted a mobile court drive in the forest areas and demolished at least 12 closures in different canals." "Our operation will continue to save these 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 tidal water through the canals inside the mangrove forest is vital for keeping it alive. Building of closures there will threaten the mangrove forest, he added.

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## 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.



PHOTO: STAR

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.

# Classes held in mosque corridor due to lack of classrooms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

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 students, but only five classrooms. There is no other high school within three kilometres of the school, so the number of students, especially girl students, from adjacent villages is increasing every year, school sources said. Due to the shortage of

classrooms and benches, classes have been held on the floor of an adjacent mosque since 2013, sources said. After getting Tk 2 lakh from the government in 2011, the school authorities started construction of a semi-pucca building, housing three classrooms. But the work is yet to be completed due to a shortage of funds, school sources said. Construction of a four-storeyed academic building by the Education Engineering Department started in 2012, but the work was suspended after completion of the ground floor in 2013, sources said. Besides, there is no water

supply or sanitation. The school has no science laboratory, and although a computer teacher was appointed there is no computer facility. Tahura Khatun, headmistress of the school, said authorities need to address the prevailing problems immediately to facilitate a better academic atmosphere. Khadija Akhtar, a Class IX student, said the school has a reputation in the area for its good results, but its infrastructure development is being neglected. Iva Akhtar, a Class X student, said the prevailing problems must be solved as early as possible to promote

education of the area's youth. None of the local political leaders or government officials have tried to address the school's problems. Md Safiullah Sarker, upazila higher secondary education officer, said they requested the local lawmaker and upazila parishad chairman to continue construction of the four-storeyed building to alleviate the students' suffering. Rajib Kumar Sarker, Ishwarganj upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), said necessary measures would be taken soon to address the prevailing problems of the school.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Abdul Khaleque Maksuda High School in Ishwarganj upazila under Mymensingh district attend classes on the veranda of a nearby mosque as the school building, which remained incomplete after construction of the ground floor in 2013, cannot accommodate all the classes.

## 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 tip-off, 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.

# Bailey bridge on Tangail-Omarpur road collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

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-foot-long bridge built in 1988, the road communication with the char region, including Baghil, Dainna and Kaku 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 injured 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 engineer. The municipality authorities then repaired the collapsed bridge at a cost of Tk 50 lakh, he said. The acting mayor said cautionary signboard was hung at the both ends of the bridge, forbidding

vehicles loaded over five tonnes to cross it. Yesterday's accident took place when the truck weighing at least 45 tonnes was passing through the bridge, he said. After the incident, the truck was seized for realising compensation, said the mayor. The engineers of the municipality said they will construct a bamboo bridge temporarily beside the collapsed bridge for the movement of the people and later start processes to repair the bridge.



PHOTO: STAR

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.

## Two fake NSI men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Law enforcers arrested two fake officers of National Security Intelligence (NSI) from Golapganj upazila of the district on Tuesday. 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 officers, phoned one Shamim Ahmed of the town and demanded money from him. Receiving complaint from Shamim, a joint team of Golapganj police and Sylhet NSI officials arrested the two from a place near the Dutch Bangla ATM Booth in the town.

**Shasha DENIMS LIMITED**  
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**Shifting of Head Office**  
 This is for kind information of all concerned that the 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 # 23, Road # 129, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212".  
 Therefore, all concerned are requested to communicate with us to the following address.

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

Company Secretary  
 Shasha Denims Ltd.  
 January 12, 2016