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Children the planners

Unique approach delivers development in Pirojpur

HABIBUR RAHMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

Busy parents know there are times a child's words are barely heard. But they know too, equally well, that a son or a daughter can sometimes utter a sentence of such striking clarity that one wonders if the young age of the speaker really fits.

Parerhat union of Pirojpur's Zianagar upazila has taken a novel approach to local development. Local authorities, the union parishad, have decided to listen to the area's children.

"We have a close connection with the children involved in the Child-Centred Climate Change Adaptation programme run by the NGO, United Development Initiative for Programmed Action," says Shah Alam, union chairman.

Under the Save the Children supported programme, the young participants work on finding solutions to issues as diverse as health, sanitation, agriculture, and education.

"The children proposed a plan for road development," Alam explains, "And we have accepted it."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Children monitoring road improvement work at Parerhat union of Pirojpur's Zianagar upazila. The union parishad has taken up this development project, which was planned by the kids of Child-Centred Climate Change Adaptation programme run by an NGO. The children under the programme also work on issues such as health, sanitation, agriculture and education.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



Minor boy granted bail after 2 years

Guardians yet to be traced

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A minor boy got bail yesterday after languishing in jail in a case for two years.

He, now 16 as per the case, was arrested in October 2013 in the capital's airport area on charges of blasting three crude bombs during a hartal called by the BNP and its allies.

The Juvenile Court, Dhaka granted him bail after rights body Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) appealed for it.

BLAST lawyer AM Jamil Haque Faisal who moved the bail petition said the boy claimed to be of 11 years old now.

As no relative of the boy could be traced, the court

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

INDIAN AIR BASE ATTACK Pakistan detains 'mastermind'

AGENCIES

Maulana Masood Azhar, chief of terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) blamed by India for the Pathankot attack, has been detained by Pakistan.

Azhar's brother and a number of other associates have also been detained, reports in Pakistan media said.

Islamabad sealed several JeM offices after India demanded action on the group and linked it to the fate of foreign secretary-level talks

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

15 DEAD IN SUICIDE BLAST OUTSIDE PAK POLIO CENTRE

10 KILLED NEAR PAK CONSULATE IN AFGHANISTAN - PAGE 8



Masood Azhar

IT OUTSOURCING INDEX Bangladesh moves four notches up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has moved four places up in Global Service Location Index (GSLI) this year, thanks to its significant gains in IT outsourcing, business processing outsourcing and back office jobs.

The country secured

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Education now global

Visiting IIT chief tells The Daily Star about internationalisation of knowledge

WASIM BIN HABIB

Twenty engineering students are going to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay this year. They will be enrolled in post-graduate and doctoral programmes. A scholarship programme from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) will support their studies while in IIT.



Prof Khakhar

DAAD has offered the scholarships for Master of Technology (MTech) programme in energy systems engineering, biomedical engineering, environmental science and engineering, water resource engineering, and technology and development, and for PhD study in renewable energy, climate change, health, biodiversity, and good governance, at IIT Bombay.

This is for the second year in a row that

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



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PRAYER TIMING

JANUARY 14					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
5:30	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:00	
JAMAAT	6:05	1:15	4:15	5:40	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A Kanakchampa flower in full bloom. The only plant with the fragrant flower at the capital's Ramna Park has been 'mistakenly' cut down by the gardeners. Inset, the stump of the plant is all that now remains.

PHOTO: COLLECTED/PINAKI ROY

'Same old, routine speech'

BNP blasts PM's address to nation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday criticized Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent address to the nation, saying it lacked directions as to how the country's "deep political crisis" will be resolved.

"She [Hasina] unfortunately gave an old and routine speech," which frustrated the nation, said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

People had expected that the speech would have guidelines on how to end the "ongoing political stalemate," he said at a press conference at the party chief's Gulshan office

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Malaysia lays down law on fat cops

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia is putting the heat on overweight police officers, warning them to shape up or miss out on promotions amid estimates that nearly 10 percent of the force is obese.

A taste for rich foods has made Malaysia the fattest country in Southeast Asia, according to officials and health experts, and the police force has not been spared.

Local media have quoted police officials estimating that nearly 11,000 of the country's 122,000

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Ramna loses Kanakchampa

Some say the rare plant cut down by mistake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A small plant with golden-yellow fragrant flowers and fresh reddish leaves could hardly fail to catch your attention, had you visited the northern end of the Ramna Park in March and April in recent years.

In the spring, the Kanakchampa (*Ochna Squarrosa*) plant is covered by flowers and it is simply a treat for the eyes.

But sadly, the rare plant is not there anymore. It was cut down last week.

Though the Kanakchampa is native to Bangladesh and South Asia, it is now hardly seen.

Previously, there were only two such plants in the capital. One was near a corner of Ruposhi Bangla Hotel (former Dhaka

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



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