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Hard to get safe water

20,000 people in Patuakhali coastal islands face drinking water crisis

SOHRAB HOSSAIN with ANDREW EAGLE

The shifting geography of the country's southern coast creates both opportunity and challenge. Eight remote shoals twenty kilometres east of Bauphal upazila town in Patuakhali, which have hosted basic farming and fishing communities for about sixty years, were in 2014 formalised into a new administrative unit: Chandradip union. Despite formal recognition as a new community, the islands with a population of around 20,000 people retain many frontier challenges. Foremost among them is safe drinking water.

In Chandradip there are 27 tube wells, eight of which are in a state of disrepair. For many residents, using river or pond water for drinking is still the only practical option.

"We have to collect drinking water from the Tentulia River," says Rahima Begum, a housewife from one of the shoals, Char Kachua. "The only tube well is around half a kilometre from my house but for the last two years that has been out of order." She purifies the river water with potassium alum, known locally as 'fitkiri'.

"We often suffer diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery from the water we drink," says Begumjan, another housewife from the same shoal. "We drink impure river water year-round."

Indeed, all 300 residents of their village similarly rely on river water.

In another part of Char Kachua, villagers draw water not

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Some women and a boy take water home in pitchers from nearby Tentulia river in Char Kachua of Patuakhali. About 20,000 people of eight remote chars in Bauphal upazila have been facing severe crisis of drinking water for years. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: STAR

5-fold hike likely in tuition fees

Says Muhith on public colleges, universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tuition fees in public colleges, universities and medical colleges would increase fivefold in the next fiscal year, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday.

"Tuition fees in colleges is now Tk 12 and in universities Tk 16. It is absurd. There will be a fivefold hike," Muhith told reporters after a pre-budget meeting with NGOs at National Economic Council (NEC) auditorium in the planning ministry.

The minister, however, said tuition fees in public schools would not be hiked.

"In government institutions you do not pay any money but when you go to a private university you pay hundreds of takas ..." the minister said.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafarullah Chowdhury in the meeting said tuition fees in government medical colleges should be increased to a point where a student pays

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Shut down, then report by Apr 9

SC to Hazaribagh tanners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday asked the tanners to shut down their factories in the city's Hazaribagh and inform it on April 9 about the progress of the closure process.

"Close down the tanneries and then we [judges] would look at the petitions," the Appellate Division of the SC told tanners' lawyers Syed Amirul Islam and Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh while hearing two petitions.

A three-member apex court bench, headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, adjourned the hearing of the

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2013 SHOOTING AT GREEK FARM Bangladeshi fruit pickers win case

AP, Athens, Greece

A group of strawberry pickers from Bangladesh has won a case against Greece at Europe's highest human rights court, after being shot at by employers for demanding unpaid wages.

The Council of Europe's Court of Human Rights ruled Thursday in favor of 42 Bangladeshi nationals, and ordered the Greek state to pay them damages of 12,000-16,000 euros (\$13,000-\$17,000) each for having "failed in its obligations to prevent the situation of human trafficking, to protect the victims."

The 2013 incident occurred near the southern Greek town of Manolada, 260 kilometers (160 miles) west of Athens, when more than 20 migrant

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Four drown as boat capsizes in Meghna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Four people drowned and at least six others went missing after an engine boat capsized in the Meghna in Sonargaon upazila yesterday afternoon.

Some 30-40 people were on the boat on their way to the traditional "Fair of Soleman Shah" at Beltali in Chandpur's Matlab upazila, said Sub-Inspector Shah Alam, in-charge of

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French artist tries bizarre new feat

AFP, Paris

The French artist who spent a week entombed inside a rock began an even more bizarre feat Wednesday -- sitting on a dozen eggs until they hatch.

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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 31

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-55 12-30 4-45 6-16 7-45
JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 5-00 6-20 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A wildcat spotted by the writer and his team at Hail Haor in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal.

PHOTO: SAYAM U CHOWDHURY



Eyes in the shadows

SAYAM U CHOWDHURY

Six years ago we were camping at Hail Haor in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal to study migratory passerine birds. Although our work involved watching birds early in the morning, we took the rare opportunity of our nights spent in a haor to look for other creatures, especially

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We Mourn



It is with our deepest sorrow that we share the sad news of the final departure of Fahima Haque, the youngest daughter of our Founding Chairman, Late Abdul Mannan Khan and Late Sophia Mannan Khan.

A compassionate persona, a human being in true sense, she passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2017 succumbing to a prolonged illness. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajeun.

As an educationist, she kept on touching lives for almost 24 years with utmost perseverance and because of her down to earth persona she had always been regarded highly and was widely loved by students, teachers, parents and support staff alike.

She was a caring daughter, a loving sister, a devoted wife and an affectionate mother, in all the spheres of her existence.

She left an indelible impact with her legacy of moral integrity,

compassion, generosity, simplicity and hard work and it was from her that many of us could learn that to become a good human being, being human is fundamental.

Her memories are not going to fade out for a long time, her impression that she has left behind with the indelible impact of her persona, in her so short-lived life leaves us with her memories to appreciate, her causes to be continued and her legacy of being human to be sustained.

Now that she has left this world for her final abode, we pray for her departed soul to be blessed with the Almighty's supreme benevolence and we entreat you to keep her departed soul and her family in your prayers.



Today is the 46th Death Anniversary of **S N H Rizvi**



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember him in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul

Uniforms, caps, not dry fish

Clothes imported from Myanmar under false declaration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazaar

Customs department has seized a consignment of clothes similar to the uniform of Myanmar Army along with other items at Teknaf land port in Cox's Bazaar.

The seized items included 200 pants, 202 shirts, 186 bags, 127 army badges, 452 belts, 30 rain coats and 50 caps, according to the seizure list.

One C&F Agent Rahman Trading and importer AR

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