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Going green

Rooftop garden brings rural school to life

BY IM JAHUURI ISLAM JEWEL with ANDREW EAGLE

Remote Char Fasson towards the southern tip of Bhola Island is not exactly the sort of place where one might expect to encounter a beautiful rooftop garden. But the teachers and students of Majherchar Primary School in the village of the same name have pursued a 'Green Project', which has involved creating just such a garden on the rooftops of their school.

"All the students are delighted to see our own garden," says Mohimulul Islam, a class-five student who is also president of the student council leading the project. "We work in the garden every day during free time because we want to. It's a pleasure for us."

"Tending the garden is just like playing in the playground," says another student of the same class, Rozina Begum.

"We planted the first trees in the garden in July 2016," recollects an equally enthusiastic Harun-ul-Rashid, an assistant teacher at the school. "Those trees have borne fruit within a single year!"

Indeed with its growing reputation for rooftop gardening, the primary school is itself becoming more popular among guardians and the community at large. The garden covers the roofs of the school's two, double-storied buildings and features flowers, fruit trees and vegetables. Each specimen is planted in a soil-filled pot on a roof.

"Student attendance has increased since we made the garden," says the school's headmistress, Laki Khanom. "We have fifteen species of fruit including guavas, malis, mangoes, lemons, oranges, native olives, litchis, grapes and hog plums. There are thirty types of flowers and four kinds of vegetables." The garden also features ten species of medicinal plants.

"We managed the cost of the garden from our own efforts

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Harunul Rashid, a teacher at Majherchar Primary School, cares for a malta tree on the school's rooftop garden. Teachers and students have transformed the remote school rooftop into a beautiful garden with fruit-bearing trees. "We have guava, malta, mango, lemon, orange, olive, litchi, grape and hog plum," says Rashid. Inset, the front yard of the school.

PHOTO: IM JAHUURI ISLAM



Move to form an alliance beyond big 2

Manna made chief of liaison committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of several political parties last night met and formed a liaison committee aiming to forge an alliance beyond the combines led by the Awami League and the BNP.

Nagorik Olkya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna was given the helm of the committee.

The meeting, held at the Bariidhara residence of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, lasted two and a half hours from 8:30pm.

Jatiya Party Co-Chair GM Quader, Jatiya Samikmit Dal (JSD-Rob) President ASM Abdur Rob, Manna, COM Foru Executive President Subrata Chowdhury and BDB leader Mahi B Chowdhury, among others, attended the meeting.

Talking to The Daily Star, Manna said the meeting was held with a view to forming

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Another journalist sued under 57 for FB status

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Another journalist has been sued under section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act for giving a status on Facebook.

A person in Brahmanbaria's Nabinagar upazila filed the case with Nabinagar Police Station on Tuesday night against Shimanto Khokon, the district correspondent of the English daily Observer, for 'defaming, and creating confusion among public by giving baseless information on Facebook'.

The filing of the case comes hard on the heels of the arrest of a reporter of a Khulna based daily newspaper, also under Section 57, for a Facebook post.

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DIGGING INTO PAST CRIMES OF TUFAN, BROTHERS

Charged with murder, blessed with impunity

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, from Bogra

Tufan Sarkar has his three brothers and nine of their men, killed Imran at his home in Bogra town's Chaksatrapur Modhyapara area in broad daylight on December 2, 2013.

They shot the BNP supporter first and then stabbed him repeatedly to make sure he was dead. The brutality was witnessed by many residents of the area. Imran's elder brother, Hilu, tried to save him, but the attackers cut off several fingers from both of his hands.

All these were described in the First Information Report (FIR) filed with Kotwali Police Station and also in the charge sheet submitted by police about eight months after the incident.

In the charge sheet, Sub-Inspector Abdur Razzak

Mia termed it a cold-blooded murder and identified Tufan, his three brothers—Sohag Sarkar, Omar Sarkar and Jhumur Sarkar—and their nine cohorts as the killers.

Yet, neither Tufan nor any other accused were arrested. Police claimed they could not find the accused despite repeated raids but they were often seen roaming freely.

Amid police investigation, Tufan and the other accused received bail from the court and the IO mentioned it in the charge sheet.

Senior lawyers and locals alleged that several Awami League leaders helped them secure the bail in exchange for money.

On July 17, he allegedly picked up a college

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Breakthrough in gene editing

CNN ONLINE

Scientists are getting one step closer to snipping inherited genetic diseases out of human offspring using a gene-editing technique called CRISPR. For the first time, scientists said, they corrected a gene mutation linked to inherited heart conditions

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CONJOINED TWINS Separated, Tofa, Tahura doing well

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tofa and Tahura, the 10-month-old conjoined twins from Gaibandha, are doing well after they were separated in a marathon surgery in Dhaka on Tuesday, say doctors.

The girls' mother Shahida Begum breastfed them, Shahnoor Islam, associate professor of paediatrics surgery at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), told The Daily Star yesterday.

Shahida said for the first time she breastfed them separately on her lap.

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A traditional guava market on boats at Vmruili area of Jhalakathi sees booming trade this season. The photo was taken last Friday.

PHOTO: SHUSHANTA GHOSH

5 of 2 families killed

STAR REPORT

Criminals killed five people, including four women, of two families in Patuakhali and Jamalpur yesterday.

In Patuakhali, police recovered the bodies of three members of a family from their home in Amkhola of Galachipa upazila last night.

The bodies of farmer Delwar Mollah, 55, his wife Parvin Begum, 42, and their adopted daughter Kuli Begum, 14, were recovered around 8:00pm.

The bodies were decomposing and Kuli's head was severed from the body. Police suspected that they were murdered Tuesday night in a planned manner.

Yesterday evening, a neighbour of Delwar, seeing the door open, went to the house. Failing to get anyone's attention after calling their names from the outside, she along with a few others entered the house and smelt a foul odour. They then called the police. Helal Sikder, a village security guard,

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Shipping ministry suspends 'corrupt' chief engineer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The shipping ministry has suspended Chief Engineer and Surveyor of Department of Shipping AKM Fakhrul Islam, who was earlier caught red-handed taking bribe.

Ministry's Public Relations Officer Jahangir Alam Khan said it issued the suspension order on Tuesday afternoon.

Fakhrul was suspended as the Anti-Corruption Commission arrested him,

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Trump makes Russia sanctions bill a law

Targets Moscow's energy, defence sectors; fresh sanctions against Iran, N Korea

CNN ONLINE

President Donald Trump signed into law a legislation that levies new sanctions against Russia and restricts Trump's own ability to ease sanctions in place against Moscow, a White House official said yesterday.

The bill is one of the first major pieces of legislation that was sent to Trump's desk, and it represents a rebuke of the President by giving Congress new veto power to block

him from removing Russian sanctions.

Even before Trump signed the bill, the measure prompted Russian President Vladimir Putin to retaliate against the US over the new sanctions, which Congress levied over Russian interference in the 2016 US election, as well as Russia's annexation of Crimea and aggression in Syria.

In addition to the new US sanctions on Russia, former President Barack Obama

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 3

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

JANAM 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:47 8:15

JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

We Deeply Mourn

Born : 17.08.1932
Expired : 01.08.2017

Legendary business icon & philanthropist, former Minister & MP, founder & Chairman of Monno Group of Industries Harunur Rashid Khan Monno passed away in the early morning of August 01, 2017 (Inna lillaha Rajun).

All workers, staffs, officers and the Board of Directors mourns on his sudden demise. We pray for the salvation of the departed soul. May Almighty Allah give courage to the members of the bereaved family to heal and grant him Jannatul Ferdous. Ameen.

HARUNUR RASHID KHAN MONNO
FOUNDING CHAIRMAN
MONNO GROUP OF INDUSTRIES

monno Monno Group of Industries