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Lalmonirhat student establishes library

S DILIP ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

A few years ago when Jamal Hossain, from Tiparbazar village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, was a student of class 10, he wanted to enter a literature competition. He hoped to recite a Nirmalendu Goon poem for Brac's Taray Taray Deepshika programme in Dhaka.

But there was a problem. Despite asking around, he couldn't find a copy of Goon's poetry book. Jamal realised his village had a significant problem: no public library.

"Although our village is remote there are many schools," he explains, "but no library. Without one, many students find it hard to extend their knowledge. Alone I started the journey to establish one."

His village library first opened in 2014, housed in a tin shed on land belonging to a development organisation, land designated for a farmer's club. It had 120 books. Jamal, who earns money as a tutor spent Tk 10,000 of his own earnings, and a further Tk 12,000 donated by neighbours to get things started.

Despite such a modest beginning, the library piqued community interest. Within a year public donations, including the support of other students, had made it possible to build a larger, 96 square foot shed.

Two years later, many of the village's students can hardly imagine living without a library. The institution,

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Students cycle to Sarpukur Jubo Forum Pathagar in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila. Jamal Hossain of Tiparbazar village had set up the library, first of its kind in the village, in 2014 for students. The library's collection of 800 books now draws around 150 readers daily. *Inset*, Jamal arranging books at the library. The photos were taken late last month.

PHOTO: STAR

Paradise Papers Bangladeshis' 'connection' worries TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh has expressed grave concerns as names of several companies bearing Bangladesh's name and individuals have surfaced in the Paradise Papers.

The Paradise Papers are a set of 13.4 million confidential electronic documents relating to offshore investments that were leaked. It triggered a global investigation into the offshore activities of some of the world's most powerful people and companies.

The corruption watchdog called for taking necessary legal steps to bring the laundered money back and subject to proof, ensure strict punishment of those involved in the incident, said a TIB press release yesterday.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said a coordinated effort involving Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit,

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Cheating in Entrance Exams CID arrests 8 DU students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department in the last one week arrested nine students in connection with cheating in university admission tests.

Two of them are alleged members of a gang involved in the university admission test question paper leak and seven others are DU students who got admitted "with the help of the gang".

Of the arrestees, Navid Anjum Tonoy, a student of geography and environmental science at DU, is a key member of the gang behind the question paper leak. Enamul Haque Akash, a student of SSC programme under Bangladesh Open

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Suicide blast at Nigeria mosque kills at least 50

AFP, Kano

At least 50 people were killed yesterday when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a mosque in northeast Nigeria, police said, in an attack blamed on Boko Haram jihadists.

The blast happened during early morning prayers at the Madina mosque in the Unguwar Shuwa area of Mubi, some 200 kilometres by road from the Adamawa state capital Yola.

It was the biggest attack in Adamawa since December 2016, when two female suicide bombers killed 45 people at a crowded market in the town of Madagali.

Security analysts said the bombing again underlined the threat posed by Boko Haram, despite an overall decline in deaths from attacks by the group last year.

Adamawa state police spokesman Othman Abubakar told AFP that at least 50 were killed in the Mubi attack.

"It was a (suicide) bomber who mingled with worshippers. He entered the mosque along with other worshippers for the morning prayers.

"It was when the prayers were on that he set off his explosives."

Asked who was responsible, Abubakar said: "We all know the trend. We don't suspect anyone specifically but we know those behind such kind of attacks."

The attack bore all the hallmarks of Boko Haram, the Islamist militants whose insurgency has left at least 20,000 people dead and more than 2.6 million others homeless since 2009.

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Got spare \$71m for a HK flat?

AFP, Hong Kong

Home may be where the heart is, but in Hong Kong it comes at a record price -- more than \$71 million for a single apartment.

A well-heeled buyer snapped up two adjacent

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Won't take part in polls without a neutral govt

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said her party would not take part in the next general election without a neutral polls-time government.

She also stressed the need for taking preparations for the elections and a movement to force the government to accept their demands.

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Spurred by the harsh words of a bank official six years ago for being unlettered, Sundari Begum is sitting for her Primary Education Completion (PEC) examination along with her grandson Md Zihad from Southkanda Government Primary School in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila. She now wishes to attend high school.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

2 cops held for kidnap Another 5 sued for taking bribe

STAR REPORT

Two policemen and a woman were arrested yesterday for their alleged involvement in the kidnapping of a person and realising ransom for his release.

Rafiqul Islam, 40, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station, constable Md Shariful Islam, 42, and Akhi Akhter, 28, of Betbaria village have been accused of abducting Zakir Hossain

Bhuiyan of Dewra village in Sarail, reports our Brahmanbaria correspondent.

Plaintiff Zakir in the case said he was standing in front of a bank in Puraton Kachari Pukur Par of the town Monday afternoon when Akhi struck up a conversation with him and requested him to take her to her home as she was ill.

When the two reached Akhi's home, Rafiqul and Shariful blindfolded him, took

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**PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 22**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT	5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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