



A jam-packed classroom of Noldogi Government Primary School in Laxmipur Sadar upazila. Inset, the compound of the school.

PHOTO: STAR

School runs with only three teachers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Academic activities at Noldogi Government Primary School in Laxmipur Sadar upazila are being seriously hampered as the school has been running with only three teachers for long. Due to the shortage of assistant teachers, about 308 students of the institution are being deprived of proper education. Moreover, classes are held at three classrooms and the institution has only 40 benches for its 308 students. Alongside teachers' crisis, the primary school in Kushakhali union has been facing

other difficulties for lack of necessary infra-structures. The school, established in 1972, was nationalised in 2014. School Managing Committee President Shafiqur Rahman said. As the old school building became risky the authorities concerned demolished it in 2016 to pave way for a new building there. Although a new schoolhouse is yet to be built, the contractor concerned took away a major part of the old risky building, leaving rods and beams of its lower part scattered on the school compound. The school authorities built two tin-shed

rooms using the fund meant for maintenance of the school. The school managing committee election was held in September 2014 and though the tenure of the previous committee expired long ago, no initiative has been taken to hold a fresh election. Jahangir Alam, father of Class V student Rahim Ullah, said as the authorities concerned are reluctant to hold a fresh election to the school managing committee local people are losing interest in involving themselves in development activities of the institution. Classes are being hampered due to

acute teacher crisis and inadequate classrooms, he said. School Managing Committee President Shafiqur Rahman said although the institution has approval for five teachers, it is running with only three teachers. Acting Headmaster Abul Kalam Azad said they have informed the authorities concerned several times in this regard but to no avail. Sadar Upazila Education Officer Md Moniruzzaman Mollah said he was not aware of the situation and will take necessary steps to solve the problems soon.

Substandard materials used in road work

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Substandard materials are being used for making a one and a half kilometre road at a cost of Tk 80 lakh under Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) at Sreekhata village in Kaliganj upazila. Villagers protested strongly against the substandard work and stopped the construction a week ago. They demanded use of standard materials as specified in the schedule. Azgarul Islam, 56, a schoolteacher of Sreekhata village alleged that the contractor used very poor quality bricks instead of first class bricks for constructing the road from Sreekhata Sonamari to Khodorpar village by 'managing' some LGED officials. "If the road is constructed with substandard materials, it will be damaged immediately," said trader Nurul Islam, 50, of Sonamari village. "We are united here in the village to see construction of the road with standard materials according to the schedule, otherwise we will not allow the construction firm to restart the work," he added. Kaliganj LGED Surveyor Aynul Haque said the tender for construction of the 1.5 km road in the village was called in November last year and contractor Abdul Hakim was given work order of Tk 80 lakh in December. Sub-contractor Atoar Rahman Majhi started construction in July this year. Hakim said Atoar got the contract using his (Hakim's) license. "I'm not responsible for this substandard work," he said. "As the sub-contractor is a brick kiln owner, he is using rejected bricks from his kiln to construct the road," said Kartik Chandra Roy, 48, of Khodorpar village. Atoar said he did not use rubbish bricks to construct the road. The bricks used were of low quality as first class bricks were not available in the kiln at the time. "Some local people demanded illegal toll from me, but I refused to pay a single taka. So they stopped the work to take revenge," he added. Surveyor Aynul said three letters have been served to the sub-contractor in the last two weeks, asking him to use standard materials for construction of the road. "Departmental action will be taken if the contractor does not respond to LGED's letters within the current month," he said, refuting the allegation that LGED officials are involved with the contractor.

Mother of three gang-raped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A housewife, also mother of three, was gang-raped allegedly by some local goons in Hogladanga Hrishhi Palli ares under Monirampur upazila of Jashore recently. The 30-year-old victim, wife of a rickshaw-van puller of the village, lodged a complaint with Monirampur Police Station yesterday accusing three people, including local money lender Nazim Uddin, 41, son of Budo Sardar of the village. The other accused are Mostafa, 42, son of late Kedar Ali Gazi, and Rezaul Islam, 36, son of late Abdul Mazid of the area. According to the complaint, in the middle of this month the victim and her three children were staying at home while her husband was away. At midnight, when she went out of her room to respond to the call of nature the trio forcibly dragged her to a place beside the toilet, tied her hands and legs and gang raped her. The rapists then told her that they would rape her again if she disclosed the matter to anyone else. The gang also threatened to kill her husband if she told him anything about the incident. Villagers alleged that a local clique was trying to 'settle' the matter locally. Victim's husband accompanied her to the police station yesterday afternoon after she disclosed the matter to her husband and relatives. Local Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Bipadbanjan Pandey said after hearing the matter yesterday he advised the victim to file a case in this regard. "After getting complaint, I sent a police team to the area to arrest the accused," said Officer-in-Charge of Monirampur Police Station Shahidul Islam.

Too cruel, too tragic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Life seems too cruel for the ailing elderly woman, left by family over two weeks ago. Living at the mercy of others, the hapless woman, aged around 80, is staying on the veranda of an abandoned house in old truck stand area of Aricha Ghat in Shivalaya upazila of Manikganj. This correspondent tried to talk with her but she could not say anything clearly. With old age complications, she is suffering from various problems including fever, diseases in mouth and blurred vision. "I found the elderly woman on the veranda of a house of old truck stand two weeks ago. Unable to move or walk, she was lying on her own faeces and urine," said Abdur Rahman, a sweeper of the truck terminal. Now Jabeda Begum of Nihalpur village is nursing the hapless woman. She feeds her regularly and gives her bath. She arranged pillows and kantha for her. "The woman is getting weaker. She needs proper care and treatment," she said. Sultana Begum of the village said, "The old woman told me that her son Mansur Ali left her here. She said her husband is Moksed Ali of Jafarganj village in Shivalaya upazila." However, none of the names were found at the village. Mohammad Abdul Baten, assistant director of Manikganj district office of social services department, said, "I have visited the woman and talked to her. Process is on to arrange her rehabilitation under the department. Legal action will be taken against the woman's children under Parental Supervision Act."



Local residents Jabeda Begum and Sultana Begum feed this 80-year-old ailing woman, who has been staying on the veranda of an abandoned house in old truck stand area of Aricha Ghat in Shivalaya upazila of Manikganj since her abandonment by family over two weeks ago.

PHOTO: STAR

'Play proactive role to stop early marriage'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Speakers at an adolescents' conference yesterday said everybody needs to play a proactive role in resisting early marriage and ensuring proper education for girls. The conference was held at the Sadar Upazila Parishad conference room in the town to raise awareness about protecting the rights of the adolescents and their empowerment. District administration in collaboration with UNICEF arranged the programme. Deputy Commissioner AZM Nurul Haque chaired the programme, while Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi Nur-Ur-Rahman was present as chief guest. Gender-based violence can be resisted by raising awareness and changing social norms through education and economic empowerment, speakers at the programme said.



Visitors look at pictures of various themes on Monday, the concluding day of a five-day photography exhibition organised at Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School.

PHOTO: STAR

Five-day photo exhibition ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A five-day photography exhibition organised by Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School Photography Club concluded on Monday. Organisation of such events helps youngsters to refrain from social evils like drug addiction and stalking, said discussants at the concluding session of the programme at the school auditorium in the evening. It also helps to flourish creativity among the young people, which eventually contributes to building a healthy society, they said. The speakers gave assurance to extend all-out support for arranging such events. Zila Parishad Chairman Sadek Quraishi attended as chief guest at the concluding ceremony presided over by school Headmaster Pijush Kanti. Founder of Dipan Photography Institute Kumar Biplab Dipan, also a renowned photographer of Dinaajpur, Rejaul Hafiz Rahi, general secretary of Thakurgaon Birds' Club, and Md Akkas Ali, president of Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School Photography Club, addressed, among others. After the discussion, the chief guest distributed prizes among eight winners under five categories of photography. A total of 36 participants took part at the exhibition where 58 photographs of them on wild-life, lifestyle, portrait, mobile and street photography were displayed. A good number of visitors visited the event each day.

Train kills challenged man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaajpur

A mentally challenged man was crushed to death under the wheels of a train in Hili area of Hakimpur upazila yesterday. The victim was Md Jewel, 23, son of Tahjul Islam of Trikhur village in Nawabganj upazila. Police and locals said when Jewel was crossing the rail line, Dhaka-bound Drutazan Express hit him. He died on the spot.

Tk 1.54cr cow fattening pills seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaajpur

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized at least 5.21 lakh cow fattening pills from Hili border in Hakimpur upazila yesterday. The market price of the seized pills is Tk 1.54 crore, said BGB officials.