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AREA RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS

Char children getting poor schooling

Handful of teachers available; they come late, leave early

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

It was late March. Around 3:30pm, the Biramer Pachgachchi Govt Primary School was already closed, an hour too early. So was the nearby Kashirpara Govt Primary School. Both schools face a similar problem—neither the students nor the teachers are much interested in class.

While many families ask students to stay home and tend farm or help in household work, teachers are either few in numbers or they live far from the chars, and so come to school late and leave early.

This is the scenario of almost all 44 government primary schools in the char areas of Sariakandi upazila. Poor infrastructure and a lack of awareness of the families are two additional problems.

There are 168 government primary schools in the upazila.

The Daily Star visited 16 of the 44 char schools last month and found 20 of the 78 teachers' post vacant. Another five teachers were on study leave, worsening the crisis.

In Kazla New Govt Primary School, there are 159 students. Headteacher Zesmin Akter said, "We need at least six teachers, but we have just two."

"To overcome the crisis, we temporarily hire local people having only higher secondary education while a bachelor degree is required for the position."

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What appears to be a green initiative is actually the structure of Kashirpara Government Primary School, located in a remote char of Bogura's Sariakandi upazila. Given the situation, teachers prefer taking classes in their homes. The remarkable sight is unfortunately commonplace across almost all the 44 primary schools in the upazila's char area.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI

Indians vote in penultimate phase of polls

EVM glitches reported in several areas in Delhi

AGENCIES

Tens of millions of Indians voted yesterday in the penultimate round of a seven-phase general election, with the opposition seeking a united stand to deny Prime Minister Narendra Modi a second term.

Violence was reported in some areas of West Bengal and complaints about EVM malfunctioning poured in from several places of Delhi as voters came out in good numbers to exercise their franchise.

India's almost seven-week election wraps up next Sunday with results due on May 23.

More than 100 million people across seven states are eligible to vote in the sixth phase of the 39-day-long poll, which Modi began on April 11 as front-runner after an escalation of tension with neighbouring Pakistan.

But diverse opposition parties have recently taken heart at what they see as signs Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) may be losing ground and have begun negotiations over a post-election alliance even before polling ends on May 19.

Some voters in Delhi said they were backing Modi because they were won over by his tough stand on security.

"I have voted for Modi's sound foreign policy and national security," said a 36-year old first-time voter who declined to be identified.

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3 of a family found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bodies of three members of a family were recovered from a one-storey house in the capital's Uttarkhan yesterday.

The victims are Jahanara Khatun, 48, her son Mohik Hasan Rochi, 27, and her daughter Tasfia Sultana Meem, 20. Jahanara's husband died in 2006.

Uttarkhan Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Helal Uddin said

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Half the drivers, helpers have poor eyesight

76 percent of them need glasses, medications, finds Brac survey on 1,200 transport workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 50 percent of public transport workers have vision problems, according to a survey conducted in the capital's Sayedabad among 1,200 drivers and their assistants.

Of those with vision problems, 76 percent need glasses and medication and 12.60 percent surgery, it said.

Brac Road Safety Programme and Junior Chamber International (Dhaka West) conducted the survey as part of an "eye camp" at Sayedabad Bus Terminal on April 23 and 24.

Kamran ul Baset, head of the Brac programme, yesterday revealed these at the Findings Sharing Meeting on Eye Camp at the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority headquarters in Banani.

At the eye camp supported among others by Sohoz Rides and Fashion Optics, medicines and glasses were distributed among the workers by Brac and JCI. Workers were also promised low cost surgeries.

The initiative was taken ahead of the 5th UIN Global Road Safety Week.

Yesterday's event was organised by the BRTA, Brac Road Safety Programme and JCI with Ahmed Najmul Hussain, director of administration and road safety programme at Brac, in the chair.

They recommended raising awareness among transport workers about the importance of addressing eye problems.

Of the 1,200 workers, 50 percent were drivers, mostly of buses, and 49 percent

were assistants and the rest were both. Twenty-nine percent of the participants were aged between 31 and 40, 27 percent between 40 and 50, and 19 percent between 51 and 60.

According to the findings, 21 percent respondents work from 12-16 hours a day, 40 percent from 8-12 hours, 34 percent from 4-6 hours and 5 percent about four hours.

Fifty-two percent of them work at daytime, 12 percent at night and 36 percent at both day and night.

Although 96 percent of the respondents were aware of their problems, 72 percent of them never visited an eye specialist.

However, 87 percent participants were interested in paying for eye care.

All of the participants said proper eye check-ups and care could increase road safety.

The researchers recommended that the government make vehicle owners ensure regular eye check-ups for their employees and eye tests be required for renewal of driving licences.

It also urged the BRTA and National Institute of Ophthalmology to open eye testing booths at BRTA offices.

Ahmed Najmul Hussain of Brac said the survey shed light for the first time on the issue of drivers' vision.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 3.6, Bangladesh and other countries have to reduce next year the number of deaths on roads by half.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

3 men raped, murdered the nurse

Bus driver confesses; class-I student raped in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Bus driver Nuruzzaman, one of the accused in the murder case of nurse Shahinor Akter Tania, gave confessional statement at a Kishoreganj court on Saturday.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Al Mamun recorded the statement under section 164 in the afternoon and later sent him to jail, said Sarwar Jahan, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Bajitpur Police Station.

Quoting the statement, the OC said, "Nuruzzaman confessed that he, along with his helper Lalon Mia and another man, killed the woman after raping her inside the bus."

He, however, did not name the third accused for the sake of investigation.

Earlier on Tuesday, police arrested five people

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

London to get world's first fuel cell double-decker buses



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

London will become the first city in the world to have double-decker hydrogen-powered buses next year.

Transport for London (TfL) has unveiled the newest bus to be added to its fleet: a £500,000 hydrogen model which only emits water as exhaust.

Twenty of the new buses have been ordered by TfL and will begin service on the capital's streets next year.

Although hydrogen-fuelled single-decker buses have been running in London and cities elsewhere for years, TfL said the new double-deckers would be a world first.

As well as producing zero emissions, the buses,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

JSD leader missing since Friday

Sirajganj BNP leaders say cops picked him up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A leader of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Swachhchasebak Dal (JSD) has been missing since he was picked up by plainclothes men from Sirajganj on Friday, alleged BNP and JSD leaders.

They made the allegations during a human chain formed near the BNP district headquarters yesterday, demanding the return of the missing JSD leader.

According to BNP sources, Sanwar Hossain Sanu, 45, convener of Sirajganj's JSD, was allegedly picked up by law enforcers in plainclothes on Friday noon from Sirajganj Sadar upazila's Malshapara area while he was returning home on a rickshaw.

They picked him up from a crowded area and put him in a microbus. He has been

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 3-54 12-45 5-00 6-36 8-00

JAMAAT 4-06 1-15 5-15 6-46 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN MAY SEHRI IFTAR

7	13	6:36
8	14	3:48 6:37
9	15	3:47 6:37

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.

(A JOINT VENTURE OF BANGLADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BPDB), BANGLADESH AND NTPC LIMITED, INDIA)

DHAKA, BANGLADESH

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR COAL TRANSPORTATION INCLUDING TRANSHIPMENT FOR 2X660MW MAITREE SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT AT RAMPAL, DISTRICT-BAGERHAT, KHULNA DIVISION, BANGLADESH (International Competitive Bidding)

IFB No.: BIFPCL/MSTPP/COAL TRANSPORTATION/2019/660 DATED: 13.05.2019

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Limited (BIFPCL) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders in Single Stage Two Envelope (Envelope-1: Technical Proposal and Envelope-2: Financial Proposal) for Coal Transportation including Transshipment for the aforementioned Project.

Bidding Document shall be available for sale from 13.05.2019 (0930 Hrs.) to 29.05.2019 (1300 Hrs.).

Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held on 29.05.2019 commencing at 1500 Hrs. (BST).

For Qualifying Requirements, Scope of Services, availability of Bidding Document, and other details, please refer to detailed Invitation for Bids available at www.bifpcl.com; www.bpdb.gov.bd; www.ntpc.co.in; and www.cptu.gov.bd or may contact the office of the undersigned.

Md. Mofijul Islam, Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), BIFPCL
Unique Heights (Borak), Level-17, 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.
Tel. No.: +8802-5831-4264; Mob.: +8801678582805; E-mail: coalsourcing@bifpcl.com

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

ঢাকা ওয়াসার সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সদয়
অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে-

গ্রীষ্ম মৌসুমে ভূ-গর্ভস্থ পানির স্তর নিচে নেমে যাওয়ায় কিছু কিছু নলকূপের পানির উৎপাদন হ্রাস পায়/পাম্প বিকল হয়ে যায়। ফলে সংশ্লিষ্ট এলাকায় সাময়িক সময়ের জন্য পানির স্বচ্ছতা দেখা দেয়। এছাড়াও এই সময়ে পানির ব্যবহার বেড়ে যায়। এ অবস্থার আশু সমাধানে ঢাকা ওয়াসা নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। এ বিষয়ে আপনাদের সহযোগিতা একান্তভাবে কামনা করছি।

- সর্বক্ষেত্রে পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন; বিশেষ করে গোসলে এবং কাপড় ধোয়া/থালাবাসন ধোয়া/শেভ করার সময় অপ্রয়োজনে পানির কল বন্ধ রাখুন। আপনার সাশ্রয়কৃত পানি অন্যের প্রয়োজন মেটাতে সহযোগিতা করবে।
- আপনার বাড়ির ছাদের পানির ট্যাংক এবং ভূ-গর্ভস্থ রিজার্ভার নিয়মিত পরিষ্কার রাখুন। অপরিষ্কার/অস্বাস্থ্যকর জলাধার পানি দূষণের অন্যতম কারণ।
- পানি ও পয়ঃ সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ওয়াসা লিংক-১৬১৬২ এ কল করুন।

আপনার সেবায় - ঢাকা ওয়াসা।

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জিডি-৯০৬