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# Dui Takar Bank doing work worth millions

Funds run with Tk 2 from every student at  
a Dinajpur school slashing dropout rates

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Mehrunnesa, a seventh grader at Sharodeshwari Girls High School in Dinajpur, stopped attending classes as her parents could not buy her a uniform.

She might have dropped out if the "Dui Takar Bank" (Two Taka Bank, if translated into English) was not in place. One of Meherunnesa's teachers went to her place with money from the bank and bought her a uniform.

The incident is not an isolated one in Sharodeshwari Girls High School where the Dui Takar Bank is playing a pivotal role in curbing dropout rates.

Launched in the beginning of this year, Dui Takar Bank is a fund where every student donates at least Tk 2 every month. At present there are 710 students studying in grades III to X.

"It was the end of 2018 when an SSC candidate failed to fill up the registration form because he was short of Tk 100. This incident moved me," said Mosaddek Hossain, a teacher who initiated the system.

"The students have been contributing duly. Tk 30,000 were raised this year of which Tk 20,000 has been spent for buying shoes, uniforms, schoolbags, notebooks, calculators etc for students who are from destitute families," said Ratan Kumar Roy, headmaster of the school.

So far, 50 students had derived benefits of the bank and the dropout rate had also gone down, he told this paper.

"The dropout rates have been alarmingly high in the previous years as most of the students here are from underprivileged families, like those of

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Students of Sharodeshwari Girls High School in Dinajpur make handicrafts. The money made from those will go into the "Dui Takar Bank", which is used to provide financial assistance to students who need it for their education.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

'ATTACK ON COPS'  
600 BNP, JCD  
men sued,  
29 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Police have filed a case against 75 Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal, and Sweekhasebok Dal men over attacking law enforcers in Bogura town's Khokon Park area on Wednesday.

Some 500-600 unnamed people have also been accused in the case.

Law enforcers picked up 29 people in connection with the case in the last two days.

Yesterday, a Bogura court sent the arrestees to jail after they were produced before it.

At least 11 people, including five policemen, were injured in a clash between Chhatra Dal men and police in Bogura town's Khokon Park area on Wednesday over walking on the Shaheb Minar wearing shoes.

The JCD men had gathered in the area to join a programme marking the 41th founding anniversary of the organisation.

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ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSINGS  
445 Bangladeshis  
returned from  
India in 2 months

BGB chief allays concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 445 Bangladeshis were detained in the last two months while returning home from India without any travel documents.

Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh Maj Gen Md Shafeenul Islam said this at a press conference at the BGB headquarters yesterday.

He also mentioned that 1,102 people were detained last year while illegally crossing the Indo-Bangla border. They included 258 women and 235 children.

At least 253 cases were filed for trespassing during the period, he added.

Shafeenul was briefing reporters on the December 25-30 director general-level conference between the BGB and India's Border Security Force in New Delhi.

Asked whether the BGB was concerned over the recent border crossings, he said they were not worried as the intruders were Bangladeshis.

"They are all Bangladeshis and went to India in search of jobs," said the DG, adding that local union parishad chairmen had verified their identities.

"We are always on guard to prevent

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## No lease if it harms forest

HC directs the govt to preserve, protect  
all forests of the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No forest land, reserve or not, can be allocated or leased out if that could damage the country's forest, the High Court said yesterday.

It also directed the government to protect and preserve all the forests.

Delivering the verdict on a writ petition, the court ordered the authorities concerned not to lease any land of the forest classified under section-4 of the Forest Act 1927 to any shipbreaking yard.

The HC also declared illegal a lease agreement under which the deputy commissioner of Chattogram leased out 7.1 acres of forest land to BBC Steel Ltd, a shipbreaking company, at Uttar Salimpur under Sitakunda Police Station.

On December 26, 2018, the agreement was signed and renewed on March 21 last year.

The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman delivered the judgment after Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) filed a writ petition challenging the agreement.

Details of the HC observation and grounds on which the verdict was delivered could not be known as its full text was not released yesterday.

After getting the lease, BBC Steel Ltd cut some trees there and built a road to establish a shipbreaking yard, Sayeed Ahmed Kabir, a lawyer for Bela, told The Daily Star.

On April 28 last year, Bela filed the petition with the HC seeking necessary order on the government to protect and preserve the forest area at Uttar Salimpur.

The HC on May 13 issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the

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Sudan tribal  
fighting  
kills 48

AFP, Khartoum

At least 48 people were killed and more than 200 wounded in tribal fighting in Sudan's strife-torn Darfur, the Red Crescent said yesterday.

The armed clashes broke out on Sunday night in El Geneina, capital of West Darfur state, and continued until Monday between Arab and African tribes during which several houses were torched, it said.

At least 48 people were killed and their bodies transferred to a morgue in the city and 241 wounded, including 19 in critical condition who were flown to Khartoum for treatment, it said in a statement.

"This morning the situation is calm," it said, adding that several homes had been torched.

The Khartoum government imposed a curfew across West Darfur on Monday and has

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Dinosaurs shrank  
in size, paving the  
way for mammals



MAIL ONLINE

Dinosaurs played a key role in humans' evolution by paving the way for warm-blooded mammals, researchers believe.

Over millions of years the majestic beasts gradually shrank in size while adapting to have a higher metabolism.

This evolutionary process allowed dinosaurs to burn energy from food at a faster rate and regulate their own body temperature – leading the population to flourish.

Warm-blooded animals need a lot more energy than cold-blooded creatures such as reptiles and fish, which rely on environmental heat sources. However, they can live in a wider geographic range and have greater mobility and brain power.

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Boy's body  
found in  
almirah  
Two madrasa  
teachers held

UNB, Gazipur

Police yesterday arrested two madrasa teachers for their alleged involvement in killing a four-year-old student in Gazipur's Kaliganj upazila.

The arrestees were Jonayed Ahmed, 30, and Khairul Islam, 25, teachers of Morash Jamiul Madrasa and Orphanage in the upazila.

Quoting locals, Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station,

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 3

Faz Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-30 12-30 4-00 5-30 7-00  
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 'How is it human?'

India readies detention centres  
amid anxieties over a nationwide  
citizens' count

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

Ali, 25, is an electrician working at India's largest detention centre currently under construction in Assam state's Goalpara district in northeast India.

As he takes a break from his work to rest in front of the centre's hospital block, a thought occurs to him.

"Today I am working here. Tomorrow, it could be a jail for my brother-in-law," he says. "It will ruin my sister's family."

Ali's brother-in-law failed to make it to the National Register of Citizens (NRC), a list published in Assam this year which declared 1.9 million people as "illegal" migrants, who now face either detention in a camp like the one coming up at Goalpara, or deportation.

Spread around nearly 300,000 square feet (28,000 square metres or 2.8 hectares) of land, the detention centre in Goalpara's Matia village, 126km (78 miles) from state capital Dispur, can house 3,000 people.

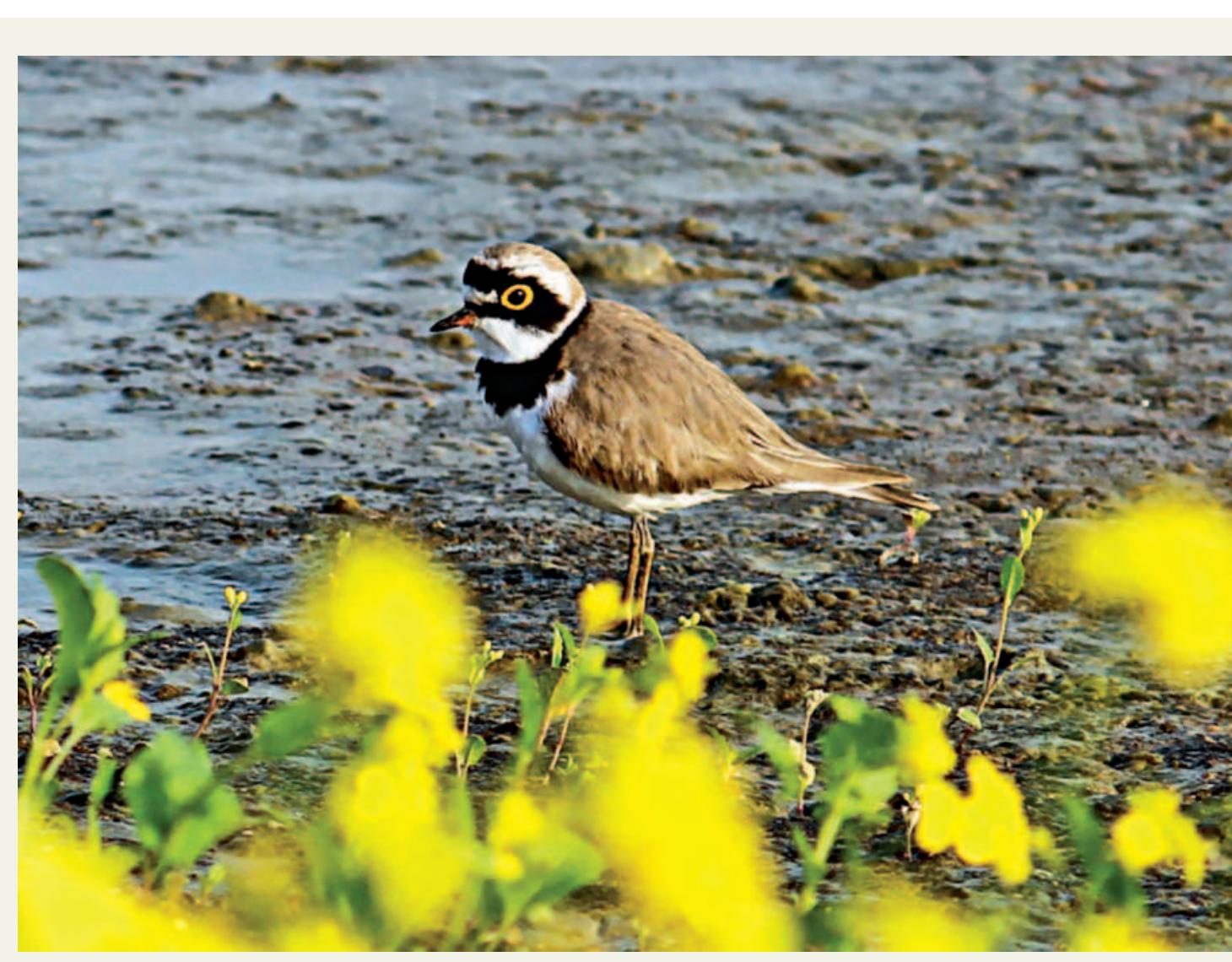
The centre is situated in a remote area of Goalpara with open land on its three sides and a road linking it to the main city of Guwahati in the front.

On one side, the road to the detention centre passes through what is known as the "ghost" mountain.

According to local residents, legend has it that ghosts used to rule the mountain centuries ago and no human was allowed to cross it.

"I feel it is the same situation here. Any person who goes

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A little ringed plover,  
a common sight  
during the winter, in  
Chapainawabganj's  
Namorajarampur.  
For some, it appears  
spectacled, while  
it reminds others of  
old-timey bandits.  
Either way, its unique  
appearance is sure to  
leave a mark. The bird  
is usually seen in low-lying  
areas, near waterbodies.  
The photo was taken  
recently.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN