

# Kids attend classes under open sky as lone classroom collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Students of Amtali Shishu Kalyan Primary School in Barguna's Amtali upazila had been attending classes in a dilapidated tin-shed house of Ebatedai Madrasa for long but it collapsed on Wednesday and since then they have been attending classes under the open sky.

Headmaster Sanjida Khanam said Shishu Kalyan Primary School was set up in 2015. Advocate Arif-ul-Hasan, a member of Barguna Zilla Parishad, established the school on his own initiative to educate destitute children in the area. Since then, the school has been operating in the building of local Khontakata Begum Nurjahan Government Primary School and later in the abandoned tin-shed house of Hasania Ebatedai Madrasa in Kalibari village.

The madrasa building has become more vulnerable due to several cyclones. The room of the madrasa collapsed last Wednesday. After the incident, teachers and students of the school became helpless.

The school currently has 119 students, five teachers and one staffer, said the headmaster.

"As there was no school building, we used to take classes in a madrasa room. As the madrasa house collapsed, we are now sitting under a tree and taking classes on the sunny day," she added.

During a visit, this correspondent found the teachers conducting classes at that spot where the madrasa house collapsed on Wednesday.

Saramani, a fifth grader, said "We have to suffer a lot for attending classes under the open sky during rain."

Mahinur Begum, a guardian of the school, said it is very important to build a building here considering the



Students of Amtali Shishu Kalyan Primary School in Barguna's Amtali upazila attend classes under the open sky as their lone classroom collapses on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR

education of the destitute and helpless children.

Founder of the school Arif-ul-Hasan said, "We set up the school to educate distressed children. At present the school does not have a building. If the authorities concerned construct a building here, the

children will get the opportunity to learn in a good environment."

Upazila Primary Education Officer Mojibur Rahman said the Shishu Kalyan Primary School needs a building on an emergency basis. Academic activities at the school are being badly hampered due to

lack of building.

Amtali Upazila Nirbahi Officer and also the School Management Committee President Kawsar Hossain said recommendations will be sent to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education for immediate construction of the school building.

## This year's Lalon death anniversary event cancelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The 131st death anniversary programme of philosopher-poet-song composer Fakir Lalon Shah, attended by thousands on October 7, each year, will not be organised this year at his shrine in Chheuria of Kushtia.

The philosopher's death anniversary last year and the 'Dol Utsab' -- organised at the shrine on March 28 to celebrate his birth anniversary -- this year were also cancelled due to health rules imposed to curb the Covid-19 pandemic.

Taking the coronavirus situation into consideration, the executive committee of Lalon Academy, at its meeting held on October 7, made the decision unanimously in favour of cancelling this year's death anniversary programme at the shrine, said Mohammad Saidul Islam, deputy commissioner (DC) of Kushtia, at a press conference on October 12.

About four to five lakh people including followers, admirers and researchers from home and abroad gather at the shrine on such occasions, but government restrictions on public gatherings -- for containing the spread of the coronavirus outbreak -- are still in force, as "the current situation is not conducive to holding a large gathering," the DC also said.

The DC of Kushtia is the ex officio president of Lalon Academy -- an elected body that administers all events and activities at the shrine of Lalon. An un-elected ad hoc committee is currently conducting activities of the academy.

Meanwhile, irked by the unanticipated decision, many Bauls and Lalon disciples said they already arrived in Chheuria to attend the death anniversary programme, but now they were having difficulty finding accommodation near the shrine.

Fakir Alauddin Shah, a Baul who is a regular at programmes at Chheuria, said the restriction on entry to the shrine is hurtful to followers of Lalon.

## Seven killed

FROM PAGE 12 managed to flee. A case was lodged with Trishal Police Station in connection with the incident.

The OC said the bodies would be handed to the victims' families. Reckless driving remains a major reason for road accidents in the country for many years.

This year, the country has already witnessed a 40 percent rise in road crashes than the previous year, according to a police report.

## Vaccination

FROM PAGE 12 countries that started Covid-19 vaccination for children.

6 DIE, 293 GET COVID Six more people died from Covid-19 in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a DGHS press release.

With this, the total number of Covid deaths in the country now stands at 27,752 and the death rate is 1.77 percent.

At least 293 new infections were recorded during the period, taking the number of people infected to 15,65,174, added the release.

The positivity rate was 1.88 percent against 15,580 samples tested across the country in the 24 hours.

At least 442 Covid patients recovered during the period.

The number of recoveries rose to 15,27,333 and the recovery rate was 97.56 percent.

Among the six deceased, four were men and two women.

## Taliban to announce

FROM PAGE 12 1996 to 2001, has faced international fury after effectively excluding women and girls from schools and work across the country, while incrementally stripping away Afghans' freedoms.

The Taliban permitted girls to attend primary school from the start, but have maintained that neither the girls nor their female teachers could return to secondary school yet.

Taliban officials have said that can happen only once the girls' security and strict gender segregation can be ensured under the group's restrictive interpretation of sharia law, adding that more time is needed to put this framework in place.

Abdi noted that, as he spoke, "millions of girls of secondary school age are missing out on education for the 27th consecutive day." He said the UN has urged the Taliban authorities now governing Afghanistan "not to wait" on educating girls.

Abdi said he had visited Afghanistan the week before and met with Taliban authorities. "In all my meetings, the education of girls was the first issue that I raised."

He said he had received "affirmations" of the Taliban's commitments to allow all girls to attend school.

As for secondary school, he said they were allowed "only in five provinces," but added that the UN is pushing for the right to be implemented throughout the country.

A 14-year-old girl identified as Asma this week expressed both her frustration with the situation and her determination to pursue an education.

"Will I be able to go to school or not? This is my biggest concern. I want to learn everything, from the easiest to the hardest subjects. I want to be an astronaut, or an engineer or architect... This is my dream," she told Amnesty International.

"Education is not a crime," she added. "If the Taliban announce that getting an education is a crime, then we will commit this crime. We will not give up."

## An effective guerilla force

FROM PAGE 12 that it would continue in the future also.

ON THE WAR FRONT In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini raided enemy position in Ampara area and inflicted 30 casualties on them. At night a group of Freedom Fighters raided Pakistani troops near Dinajpur.

In another operation, Mukti Bahini today killed 2 enemy soldiers near Kurigram while they ambushed the enemy. Mukti Bahini removed railway track between Kurigram and Ulipur disrupting train communication. On the same day, Mukti Bahini blew up a Pakistani truck carrying jute on Dinajpur-Sayedpur road.

In Fulgazi area of Noakhali district, Mukti Bahini ambushed Pakistani troops killing 2 and

injuring 4 enemy soldiers.

Mukti Bahini today destroyed two power pylons between Sylhet and Chatak disrupting electric supply. On the same day they engaged Pakistani troops in Phulpur area and killed 4 enemy soldiers.

Martin Woolcott, in a dispatch from Dhaka to the Guardian on October 17, 1971, writes: "New guerrilla groups infiltrated into the Dacca area in the past three weeks have begun a vigorous offensive, disrupting the calm which followed the bombing of the Intercontinental Hotel early in September. The new groups tried to shell Dacca airport, At Dacca satellite port they exploded bulk gas pipes and burnt a huge quantity of jute awaiting shipment. As part of their campaign to close educational institutions, they bombed the university medical school after warning students to leave."

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

## Remembering a Crack

FROM PAGE 2 dangerous operations on army convoys and important installations in Dhaka flawlessly. Each successful operation demonstrated that the long-cherished independence was just a matter of time.

Imbued with determination and passion for his motherland's independence, Masud Sadique Chullu joined the band of young guerrillas that eventually became a dreaded force even to the well-trained Pakistan military.

The man, who fought for freedom and dignity of the motherland, breathed his last in 2017. Yesterday was his death anniversary.

Born on March 29, 1945, in Keshabpur of Jashore, Masud was 26, a fresh science graduate from Dhaka College, when he joined the Crack Platoon.

Valiant freedom fighters Shaif

Imam Rumi, Bodiul Alam Bodi, Abdul Halim Chowdhury Jewel, Habibul Alam, Kazi Kamaluddin, Shahadat Chowdhury, Fateh Ali Chowdhury and Mofazzal Hosen Chowdhury Maya were some of the members of this famed platoon.

The guerrillas stunned the Pakistani authorities by organising multiple attacks on police checkpoints and electricity substations, highlighting the growing tension in the country.

Prominent war crimes researcher Mofidul Hoque once said the urban guerrilla group, Crack Platoon, was of a special character in the country's Liberation War.

"Crack Platoon is a special and important chapter of the war, and Masud Sadique Chullu played an integral part," said Mofidul, a trustee of the Liberation War Museum.

## Nasa launches probe

FROM PAGE 12 Mission, told reporters on a call. Lucy will also make three Earth flybys for gravity assists, making it the first spacecraft to return to our planet's vicinity from the outer solar system.

"Each one of those asteroids, each one of those pristine samples, provide a part of the story of the solar system, the story of us," Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's Science

Lucy's first encounter will be in 2025 with asteroid Donaldjohanson in the Main Belt, between Mars and Jupiter. The asteroid is named after the discoverer of the Lucy fossil.

Between 2027 and 2033, it will encounter seven Trojan asteroids -- five in the swarm that leads Jupiter, and two in the swarm that trails the gas giant.

## DU in-person classes

FROM PAGE 12 its residential halls to its fourth year honours and master's students who got at least one dose of Covid vaccine.

Second- and first-year honours students were allowed into the halls from October 10, maintaining Covid safety protocols.

COVERING ACADEMIC LOSS The DU academic council in a meeting a few months ago had decided to cut the durations of semester and academic year to cover academic loss.

It decided that a semester would end in four months instead of six months and the academic year in eight months instead of 12, DU Pro Vice-Chancellor (academic) Prof ASM Maksud Kamal told The Daily Star yesterday.

Before the closure last year, the DU did not use to hold any classes and exams on Saturdays. But from now on, the authorities of all departments and institutes can take classes on Saturdays if they want, the academic council further decided.

## Airstrikes kill

FROM PAGE 12 Yemeni tribes who supported the pro-government forces.

Almost 20 loyalist troops and tribesmen have been killed in the past 24 hours and 47 wounded, the official added.

Another military official gave the same tolls. Yemeni Information Minister Moammar al-Eryani accused the rebels of targeting residential areas.

The Huthis began a major push to seize Marib in February and, after a lull, they have renewed their offensive in recent weeks.

Tens of thousands of people have been displaced in the province this year, nearly 10,000 of them in September alone, according to the UN migration agency.

The UN this week called for a halt to fighting in Abdiya, where it said the movement of aid and some 35,000 people has been "extremely restricted", including for 17,000 "extremely vulnerable" people who found refuge there from conflict in other areas of Yemen.

With about 139 refugee camps in Marib province, according to the government, hosting around 2.2 million people, many displaced civilians have become caught in the line of fire once again.

## Asean excludes Myanmar junta

FROM PAGE 12 Singapore's foreign ministry described the move as a "difficult but necessary decision to uphold Asean's credibility".

Mustafa Izzuddin, global affairs analyst at consultancy Solaris Strategies Singapore, called the exclusion "a political stopgap measure for Asean to assuage international criticism".

It sent a "political signal" to the junta "that Asean is not one to be pushed around", Izzuddin added.

And independent Myanmar analyst David Mathieson said that "in Asean terms this is a real slap in the face".

Myanmar, mostly ruled by the military since a 1962 coup, has been a thorn in Asean's side since it joined in 1997.

Elections in 2015 overwhelmingly won by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party ushered in the start of civilian

rule -- but this was cut short by the coup.

Asean has been under international pressure to address unrest that erupted after the putsch, including massive protests; renewed clashes between the military and ethnic rebel armies in border regions; and an economy spiralling into freefall.

The bloc has expressed disappointment at a lack of cooperation from the junta, which continues to crack down brutally on dissent. More than 1,000 civilians have been killed, according to a local monitoring group.

Part of the consensus was to allow a long-delayed visit by a special envoy, Brunei's Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof.

Asean has insisted that he meets with all parties concerned, but the junta rejected any proposed meetings with people on trial, among them Suu Kyi, who is facing various charges.

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Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of the Work	Online Tender Closing and Opening date
618909	KU/PD/ 264-1/2021	Procurement and Installation of Digital Fabrication Tools & Survey/on-field Data Collection Tools (Package-01)	01 Nov, 2021 01:00 pm
618910	KU/PD/ 264-2/2021	Procurement and Installation of Climatic study of building & Data collection & management on rural/urban coastal settlement, heritage building & architectural conservation & coastal geo-morphology	01 Nov, 2021 12:30 pm
618911	KU/PD/ 264-3/2021	Procurement and Installation of Building Material Testing Equipment	08 Nov, 2021 12:30 pm
618913	KU/PD/ 256-1/2021	Procurement and Installation of Scientific Equipment for Sculpture Discipline of Khulna University (LOT-01)	01 Nov, 2021 12:30 pm
618914	KU/PD/ 256-2/2021	Procurement and Installation of Scientific Equipment for Sculpture Discipline of Khulna University (LOT-02)	01 Nov, 2021 12:00 pm
618915	KU/PD/ 256-3/2021	Procurement and Installation of Scientific Equipment for Sculpture Discipline of Khulna University (LOT-03)	01 Nov, 2021 11:45 am
618918	KU/PD/ 265-1/2021	Procurement and Installation of Scientific Equipment for ECE Discipline of Khulna University (Mechatronics Laboratory LOT-1)	01 Nov, 2021 11:30 am
618916	KU/PD/ 265-3/2021	Procurement and Installation of Scientific Equipment for ECE Discipline of Khulna University (Communication Laboratory LOT-2)	01 Nov, 2021 12:00 pm
618917	KU/PD/ 265-2/2021	Procurement and Installation of Scientific Equipment for ECE Discipline of Khulna University (Biomedical Engineering Laboratory LOT-3)	01 Nov, 2021 11:30 am

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Signed  
(Engr. Md. Mahubus Sobhan)  
Director (In-charge), P & D