



Alamgir Hossain teaching at 'Shishu Pathshala', a free tutorial centre in Jhenidah's Khajura village. He built it on his land 17 years ago for students from disadvantaged families.

PHOTO: AZIBOR RAHMAN

## Tutoring the underprivileged for a better society

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A tutorial centre named 'Shishu Pathshala' has become the beacon of hope for disadvantaged students in Jhenidah municipality.

Students who are unable to pay for private tutors have been getting free tutorials on all subjects since its inception about 17 years ago.

In 2004, Alamgir Hossain, a resident of Khajura village under the municipality, started the free coaching centre in a tin-roofed brick house on 15 decimals of land that he owns in the village. He joined Novel Polytechnic College in Jhenidah town as a mathematics lecturer that same year.

He always had an urge to do something for the disadvantaged as he also faced extreme financial hardship throughout his student years and completed his masters while working fulltime at a pharmaceutical company, Alamgir said when this correspondent visited Shishu Pathshala recently.

With that objective in mind, he

returned home after a 20-year stint at the pharmaceutical company and took the job of a lecturer at the college in Jhenidah town. Soon afterwards, upon discussion with village elders, he constructed the building to offer free tutorials for needy students in the area.

On schooldays, free tutorials are offered in three separate batches -- from 7:00am till 8:30am and 4:30pm till 6:00pm. All the batches are also given lessons on Fridays between 7:00am and 5:30pm, except for a three-hour lunch break that starts at 1:00pm.

Alamgir's wife Selina Kabir and his daughter Meherunnesa, a student, also take turns in teaching at the Pathshala.

Aside from getting free lessons on textbook subjects and stationery, the students get training on computer operations and drawing. During study breaks they take part in singing, recital of poetry and playing various games such as carom, ludo, chess or football.

Oftentimes, patriotic songs are played on loudspeakers while students are taught moral values or ethical principles. They are also taught the biography of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and significance of various historic days of the nation, said Alamgir.

Some days they are taught the importance of trees, effective methods of gardening around the house and techniques to make flower pots or planters from items available in a house.

Tisha Khatun, a fourth grader, said she enjoys her time at the coaching centre where she also gets to learn how to use a computer or take part in various fun activities.

Another student, Mirazul Islam, in second grade, said his day labourer father cannot afford to hire a private tutor for him.

But now he can keep up with studies in his class, as the teachers at Shishu Pathshala help him prepare for all subjects in his class, he also said.

Many of the former Pathshala students, who are now successfully enrolled at different renowned universities across the country, also offer tutorials while they visit their village homes during long weekends or holidays.

Rasul Hossain, a student at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in Dhaka, said his former teacher Alamgir, with support from his wife and daughter, is working towards realising his dream of creating a better society and he had imbued in him the belief that anything is possible.

As a means to be a part of this noble effort, Rasul also offers lessons at the Pathshala whenever he comes home on long holidays, he added.

Pabna University of Science and Technology student Abdul Alim said one of his most favourite teachers, Alamgir, has unparalleled skills in teaching mathematics and he is a man of honour, nobility and modesty.

### 3 of a family found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bodies of a young couple and their 11-year-old daughter were recovered from a pond in Koyna upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Habibullah Gazi, 33, his wife Beauty Begum, 25, and their daughter Habiba Khatun Tunji.

Local UP member Golam Mostafa said Habibullah was a day labourer while his daughter Tunji was a Class VII student.

Habibullah had personal enmity with one of his neighbours, he alleged.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Koyna Police Station Rabiul Hossain said criminals might have killed the three and dumped the bodies in the pond.

### Man to die for killing girl after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A court yesterday sentenced a man to death and his younger brother to life term imprisonment in a case for killing a girl after rape in 2011.

The death sentence awardee is Sahabuddin Khan, 35, son of Sekendar Khan of Dalairchar village in Alfadanga upazila, while the lifer is Sumon Khan, 32.

Judge Dipok Kumar Roy of Faridpur Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal also acquitted two others.

According to the case statement, Sahabuddin developed a love affair with Monira Begum, 18, but his marriage proposal was rejected by Monira's parents.

Later, in a bid to take revenge, Sahabuddin lured the girl, arranged a fake marriage with Monira in March 2011, and started living at a rented house in Alfadanga.

On June 20, 2011, Monira returned to her father's house when she came to know that Sahabuddin deceived her to take revenge against her parents.

On June 27, Sahabuddin's mother called Monira at her house when Sahabuddin and his brother beat her and set her fire, leaving her critically injured. Monira died at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital on July 11, 2011.

### Fire guts vehicles, shops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A devastating fire gutted two oil tank lorries and at least seven shops, two dwelling houses, a pick up and a motorbike at Baghabari port near the Baghabari oil depot early yesterday.

Affected traders and dwellers said the extent of loss caused by the fire could not be estimated immediately.

The fire might have originated from an electric short circuit at a vehicles spare parts shop in the area, Minhazul Haque, an officers at Baghabari Fire Station, said.

Baghabari Fire Station Officer Rezaul Karim, said, on information, seven firefighting units from Baghabari, Shahzadpur and Ullapara of Sirajganj and Bera of Pabna rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control around 4:00am, after four hours of frantic efforts.

The fire spread very fast as there were petrol, octane, engine oil and LP gas cylinders stored everywhere and soon engulfed the adjacent establishments and stationed vehicles, Rezaul added.



Teachers of different colleges in Manikganj bring out a 'peace procession' in the district town yesterday and then took part at a human chain programme in front of Manikganj Press Club, protesting the recent communal attacks in several parts of the country and demanding punishment of the attackers.

PHOTO: STAR

## NEWS

### Reza Kibria, Nur float new party

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government system to hold the next parliamentary election.

Replying to a query from reporters, Reza Kibria said, "I think movement on issues centring on Election Commission is not that much important. Our main demand is a neutral caretaker government."

He added, "We will discuss with all the political parties about the caretaker government issue. We hope that they will cooperate with us on restoring democracy in the country."

Asked with whom this new political party will form an alliance, Reza said, "Time will tell. Our target is to nominate candidates in all the 300 seats, but everything will depend on the situation."

Asked who is funding the party, Reza said, "As the party belongs to the mass people, it will be run by funding from the mass people. We will not run the party with the funding of billionaires."

When asked what is new in this party, Nur said, "The country's two major political parties are

family centric. In our party, the next leadership will be elected in a democratic manner. We are talking about institutionalising democracy."

Earlier, the launching date of the new party was fixed twice but it was postponed due to various complications including renting the venue.

The launching ceremony was further delayed due to attacks and vandalism on the houses of the Hindu community members in different parts of the country recently.

### Bullets fired from Liakat's revolver

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licensed revolver of Liakat Ali," said a court source, quoting Mizaur as saying.

Judge Mohammad Ismail of the Cox's Bazar court recorded the witnesses' statement, said the court's Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam.

Yesterday, the court proceedings began around 10:30am and continued till 2:30pm. All 15 accused in the case were present.

The court began recording witnesses' statements in the sixth

phase on Monday and it will continue till today. Twenty-four witnesses have testified in the case in the last two days.

In the previous five phases, a total of 34 witnesses have testified since August 23 when the court began the trial through recording the statement of Sinha's sister Sharmin Shahriar Ferdous, also the complainant of the case.

According to the charge sheet, 83 people are witnesses in the case. On June 27, the court framed charges against the 15 accused.

Of them, 12 are police personnel, including former Teknaf Police Station OC Pradeep Kumar Das, inspector Liakat Ali, sub-inspector Md Shahjahan, and assistant sub-inspector Liton Mia. The four were suspended later.

Sinha, 36, was killed in police firing at a checkpoint of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) on Marine Drive road in Teknaf's Shamlapur area on July 31 last year.

Sharmin filed the murder case with Cox's Bazar Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court on August 5.

### Confusion on 'cracks'

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damage or any major accident."

Confusions and concerns were created over reported development of cracks on the flyover pillars as the two agencies -- CDA and Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) -- gave two different opinions about it.

The CCC is the authority responsible for maintenance of the flyover while CDA implemented the project.

"Apparently, these are cracks," said CCC Executive Engineer Shahin UI Islam. "But details cannot be known until it is inspected by technical experts."

Seeking anonymity, a sub-assistant engineer of CCC, who visited the spot at around 11:30am yesterday, said cracks might have been created from the depth of the structure.

He, however, emphasised the importance of further inspection to reach a conclusion.

CCC Mayor Md Rezaul Karim Chowdhury also visited the

spot and told journalists that construction flaws could be the reason behind the cracks.

Meanwhile, the city dwellers suffered in traffic congestion after authorities closed down the flyover. Temporary shops were removed from the bottom of the pillars.

CDA began the construction of the flyover connecting Shulakbahar and Bahaddarhat in 2010. Fourteen people were killed when the girder of the under-construction flyover collapsed in November 2012.

On October 12, 2013, the prime minister inaugurated the flyover.

Later in 2017, the 326m long and 6.7m wide ramp was attached to the flyover to facilitate traffic movement.

"In December 2019, we handed over the flyover to Chattogram City Corporation but they did not take care of it properly as overloaded trucks always cross it," said Mahfuzur Rahman of CDA.

However, CCC's Executive Engineer Shahin UI Islam alleged

that it was CDA's responsibility to put height barriers on this flyover to control movement of heavy vehicles. But CDA did not do it.

CCC's Chief Engineer Rafiqul Islam while visiting the spot with the mayor told journalists that the ramp was not including in the main design. It was attached later, reports Prothom Alo.

The faulty design or movement of heavy vehicles might have caused the cracks, he added.

### Lemurs

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the University of Turin in Italy.

Rhythm was defined as "durational patterns that consist of sounds and silences," she said.

The indri's singing sounds like lower and higher howling pitches that pierce through the air.

The researchers wanted to see if the black-and-white lemurs had categorical rhythm -- the ability to create different types of rhythm patterns.

### Owner swindled

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individuals including day labourers, garment factory workers, rickshaw pullers, and vegetable vendors are victims of the company.

Whenever customers wanted their money back, the company staffers used to issue cheques that bounced in most cases.

They used to threaten, and sometimes physically assault customers when the latter went to their office, asking to return their money.

Jashim placed his family members, including father-in-law Motaleb Sarker, wife Lucky Akter, and sister-in-law Shahela Nazneen in top positions of the company.

Apart from Karnaphuli Multi-purpose Co-operative Society, Jashim claimed he established at least seven other institutions, namely Modern Diagnostic Centre, Jashim International Overseas Ltd, Jashim Tours and Travels, Jashim Welfare Foundation, Karnaphuli Real Estate Ltd, Jasim Students Consultancy Firm and Jashim Knit Composite Ltd.

However, Rab officials found them to be name-only institutions.

Rab is still trying to arrest Jashim.

### 3 arrestees

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Amin, a resident of Block-D8 of Kutupalong Camp-1, and Mohammad Anas and Nur Mohammad, both residents of Block-B of the same camp.

Nine Rohingya men have been arrested in the case so far. One of them, Azizul Haque, was part of the five-member killing squad, said a senior police officer in Cox's Bazar. He gave his confessional statement in the court on Saturday afternoon, reports UNB.

Another accused named Md Elias confessed to his role on October 10.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said, "An atmosphere of unrest had developed over drug dealing and establishing supremacy [in the refugee camps]."

He told reporters at the Secretariat that some young men were roaming in the camps claiming that they are members of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army.

Quoting Azizul, police said 19 Rohingya men were involved in the plan to kill globally-recognized Rohingya leader Muhib.

The Armed Police Battalion arrested three other accused based on information given by Azizul.

### Asia suffered hottest year

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insecurity, health risks and environmental degradation on the rise."

The report comes days before COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference being held in Glasgow from Sunday to November 12.

The report also laid bare the total annual average losses due to climate-related hazards.

China suffered an estimated \$238 billion, followed by India at \$87 billion, Japan with \$83 billion and South Korea on \$24 billion.

But when the size of the economy is

considered, the average annual losses are expected to be as high as 7.9 percent of gross domestic product for Tajikistan, 5.9 percent for Cambodia and 5.8 percent for Laos.

A quarter of Asia's mangroves are in Bangladesh. However, the tropical storm-exposed country's mangroves decreased by 19 percent from 1992 to 2019, the report said.

### PROLONGED DISPLACEMENT

Increased heat and humidity are forecast to lead to an effective loss of outdoor working hours across the continent, with a potential cost of many billions of dollars.

### Nazrul seeks China's support

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occasion of China's entry into the UN, he said the Government of Bangladesh considered this as a victory for the people of a great nation who had achieved independence from colonial powers through armed struggle. He added the people of Bangladesh were now engaged in a similar struggle and they "seek China's support for their right to freedom and self-determination".

### 'NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT ESSENTIAL'

Bangladesh National Awami Party (Muzaffar) expressed its willingness for a political solution provided independence of Bangladesh was accepted, West Pakistani soldiers were withdrawn from Bangladesh and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was released. In a statement released today, NAP (M) President Muzaffar Ahmed said to accelerate liberation, complete unity of all the fighting forces in the shape of a National Liberation Front was essential.

### ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Dhaka-Comilla-Chittagong sector, Mukti Bahini fired with mortars on the Pakistani position at Nayanpur in Comilla district and killed five enemy soldiers. On the same day, Mukti Bahini guerrillas ambushed Pakistani troops at Gilatala,

killing three soldiers. In another ambush, Mukti Bahini killed two and injured three Pakistani soldiers at Jaynagar. Another group of Mukti Bahini fired with mortars on the occupation army position at Koteswar, Comilla. In this action two enemy soldiers were killed and three injured.

Mukti Bahini killed 17 occupation soldiers, including one major and one captain, in Kaliakoir area of Dhaka district by blowing up a vehicle carrying enemy troops. On the same day, freedom fighters killed 25 razakars and captured 23 rifles in the same area.

In the Rangpur-Rajshahi-Dinajpur sector, the freedom fighters ambushed a mixed Pakistani patrol in Jagatpur area of Rangpur district, killing nine enemy soldiers and injuring four. In another operation, Mukti Bahini ambushed a column of Pakistani vehicles and destroyed one jeep and one truck. In this action, 25 Pakistani soldiers belonging to 25 Punjab Regiment lost their lives. Five dead bodies of the enemy were recovered by Mukti Bahini from the area. A large number of Chinese weapons were also captured.

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### Coup triggers deadly unrest

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"immediate release", while diplomats in New York told AFP the Security Council was expected to meet to discuss the crisis.

Sudan's top general Abdel Fattah al-Burhan defended the army's seizure of power yesterday, saying he had ousted the government of Hamdok to avoid civil war.

Speaking at his first news conference since he announced the takeover on Monday, Burhan accused politicians of incitement against the armed forces. He said Hamdok was confined in his own home and had not been harmed.

Burhan also said the military's action did

not amount to a coup, as the army was trying to rectify the path of the political transition.

Meanwhile, Sudan's ambassadors to Belgium, France and Switzerland announced their defection yesterday.

They condemned the coup and declared their diplomatic missions as "embassies of the Sudanese people and their revolution", according to the information ministry.

Despite the previous day's deadly violence, protesters remained on the streets of Khartoum overnight and into yesterday. Shops around the capital were shuttered following calls for a campaign of civil disobedience.