



A bright red flower, with a touch of pink and yellow. Fully bloomed, the rare Nagalingam can fill anyone's heart with joy as it carries the colours of love, resistance and hope, all at once. This photo was taken at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'It was to establish supremacy' Say political leaders on JL factional clash in Ctg

ARUN BIKASH DEY

The two factions of Jubo League had clashed in Patiya, Chattogram on Tuesday to establish supremacy, said political leaders and locals.

Three people – Jamir Uddin (52), Md Saiful Islam (35), Md Iqbal Hossen (40) – were shot and wounded in the incident. They were transferred to a private hospital from Chattogram Medical College Hospital yesterday, said CMCH sources.

Locals and political leaders said one of the factions is led by Shahadat Hossain Sabuj and the other by Ayar Mohammad alias Babar, former assistant general secretary of Patiya upazila unit of Jubo League, who is loyal to JL central joint secretary Badiul Alam.

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Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-12	12-30	4-45	6-27	8-00
JAMAAT 4-22	1-15	5-00	6-37	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
20	22		6:27
21	23	4:06	6:27
22	24	4:05	6:28

It's all about second chances

Pirojpur's attempt to educate the elderly

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

"I never knew there's so much beauty and fun hidden inside a book," said 44-year-old Salma Begum, who learned to read and write very recently.

"I had to blindly trust anyone who could read to let me know the contents of important documents. Now I'm self-sufficient in that regard, and use my own signature instead of thumb impressions," added a delighted Salma.

This has been possible for a special programme going on at Pattashi Model Government Primary School Centre in Pirojpur's Indurkani upazila.

People aged 15 to 45 years and above – devoid of the opportunity for education in their early years – are being provided with reading and writing lessons at different learning centres in the upazila under the "Basic Literacy Project", run by the ministry of primary and mass education and supervised by Bureau of Non-Formal Education.

The project is being carried out in 114 upazilas under 64 districts and is currently in its second phase.

In Pirojpur, the programme is being run in Indurkani and Nazirpur upazilas.

"My afternoons were usually filled with gossip sessions with neighbours.

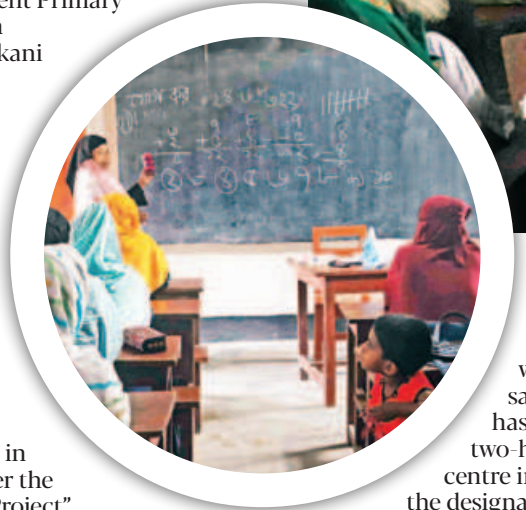


PHOTO: STAR

Now I have finally found something productive to do with the free time," said Tuli Begum, who has been taking regular two-hour lessons at the centre in the afternoons, the designated time for women learners. She has already made good progress with reading and writing.

"Our school and college-going children also help us at home with reading and writing when we face trouble," said Nasrin Begum, another learner.

"I come from a low-income background. My parents married me off at an early age, and I didn't get an education," said Farida Begum. "But now I realise its necessity,

and so I'm pursuing it."

The same enthusiasm was seen among the male learners as well.

"Now I don't have to depend on others with necessary documents," said Md Afser Ali Sheikh, who has already mastered reading and writing.

Hanufa Akter, a teacher at the centre, said, "The women are very eager learners. The programme has initiated a transformation among the learners in general."

"It is a bit difficult to teach the elderly. But I enjoy it fully," said trainer Md Shafikul Islam.

Non-government organisation Rupashi Bangla Unnayan Sangstha (RBUS) is implementing the project in Indurkani.

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Momen questions quality of the US rights report

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has questioned the quality of the US human rights report on Bangladesh, noting that Bangladeshi officials at the US Embassy in Dhaka prepared the initial draft collecting information from media reports and some NGOs.

He said NGOs always see negative things everywhere and there is another group of people who only seek asylum abroad and give a negative picture of the country to avail of advantage.



The minister made the remarks while responding to questions from reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

The government is of the view that the tendency to impose values of other countries in the name of human rights violations are "regrettable and uncalled for."

"Some opinions came... and we

rejected it," said the foreign minister, referring to the State Department's recent "2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices".

He said opinions are not human rights and Bangladesh's human rights priorities are right to food, right to education, right to shelter, right accommodation and healthcare. "These are human rights."

The foreign minister said they had a very good discussion in Washington and both sides want

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TRANSPORT, AMBULANCE Strike spells misery for people



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaajpur

Commuters and patients suffered immensely due to strikes enforced by transport workers and ambulance drivers in Dinaajpur yesterday.

The strike was, however, withdrawn around 6:00pm after police assured them of looking into the issue, said Fazle Rabbi, president of Dinaajpur Transport Workers Union.

Earlier, the agitating transport workers blocked different roads, including the Dinaajpur-Rangpur highway and Dinaajpur-Gobindaganj regional road, parking buses to obstruct vehicle movement.

A large number of goods-carrying trucks from different districts, including Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, got stuck at various places due to the strike.

Plying of Dhaka-bound buses also remained suspended following the strike. The transport workers enforced the strike after a case was filed against some fellow workers following a clash with human-hauler drivers in Baluadanga area of Dinaajpur Wednesday night.

On the other hand, ambulance drivers of the government-run M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital and private ambulance drivers clashed on Wednesday. The driver of an ICU-supported ambulance of the hospital was carrying the body of a deceased instead of patients, claimed private ambulance drivers.

The clash ensued when some private ambulance drivers protested and filmed the incident as the ambulance is designated for carrying critical patients only.

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Disaster avoided, for now Road construction through Lathitila forest halted after forest department's intervention

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has taken an initiative to construct a road through Lathitila Protected Forest in Moulvibazar's Juri Upazila.

However, forest officials said LGED did not take any no objection certificate (NOC) from the forest department before initiating the project. According to forest officials, the forest's ecology and biodiversity may be endangered if the road is constructed.

The construction is currently suspended after forest officials' intervention. Around two months ago, the LGED floated a tender to construct a one-kilometre road from Lathichhara to Rupachhara through the forest.

The project was assigned to "Paradise Construction", a local firm, and the estimated cost was Tk 96 lakh, according to LGED officials. The work started on April 2 and was scheduled to be completed by September 29.

It was after bricks were set on the

pathway to demarcate the road when the issue was noticed by forest officials.

"The LGED office did not inform us anything about the project beforehand," said Salah Uddin, a beat officer of the Lathitila forest department.

It is a natural forest covering 5,630.40 acres of land. There are many species of trees, bamboo groves and wild animals. All their lives will be endangered if the road is constructed through the forest.

ALAUDDIN Range Officer, Juri Forest Department

"Later, we sent an official letter to LGED's upazila office requesting to cancel the project immediately," he told this correspondent.

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The road through Lathitila Protected Forest was being constructed under the initiative of LGED, without the forest department's approval. The construction is currently suspended after forest officials' intervention.

PHOTO: STAR

Health declaration must to enter Bangladesh

CAAB issues directives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Incoming passengers to Bangladesh will have to fill up online health declaration form (HDF) within three days of their departure for Bangladesh, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has said in a latest circular.

Issued on Wednesday night, CAAB said following the link <http://healthdeclaration.dghs.gov.bd>, the filled-up form with a QR code can be downloaded and printed.

Before boarding, airlines should ensure that passengers have the health declaration form with the QR code, it also said.