

In the end, it's the children

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 created more confusion regarding the school.

According to district administration sources, Tanvir Hasan Soto Monir, lawmaker of Tangail-2 (Gopalganj-Bhunaupur) constituency, sent a letter to re-establish the school on the west bank of the river, while Aparajita Haque, a female lawmaker of the reserved seat from the constituency, requested the school be on the east bank.

Their letters were later sent to the secretary of the primary and mass education ministry from the deputy commissioner's office on September 28 last year for taking necessary steps.

Nazmul Morshed, headteacher of the school, said there were 158 students in the institution before it was closed. "Now, we are in contact with IBI."

Villager Omar Faruk said the education of her two daughters is on halt as the school remains closed.

Other parents echoed the same.

Fazal Ali and Moydan

Miah of the village said they have already shifted their daughters to a local madrasa.

Contacted, Abdul Latif Akand, president of the school's governing body, said, "The school should be relocated to the west bank, as they don't have any educational institution there."

However, Lal Miah, former president of the governing body, said, "Of 158 students, 138 were from the east bank before it closed. So it's only logical to re-establish the school

on this side."

Bhuapur Upazila Primary Education Officer MG Mahmood Izzani said they could not resume educational activities due to conflict between the two sides.

Contacted, District Primary Education Officer Abul Kalam Azad said they are in constant contact with the Dhaka office over the matter.

Hopefully, the primary education directorate will come up with a solution in this regard soon, he added.

general secretary of Chattogram city AL and former mayor, delivered the opening speech with Michael Dey in the chair.

Hasan Mahmud said a quarter is trying to ruin the country's communal harmony by inciting violence. "They talk sweetly. You [people] know

well about those who do so during elections. So, I humbly request you to be careful about them."

Remembering the incident in Cumilla during the last Durga Puja, he said, "I spent a sleepless night that day. The next day, I myself rushed to Rangpur. Because I was in charge of

Rangpur area on behalf of Awami League."

"This country is yours [Hindus] too; none of you will suffer from inferiority. You were born on this soil. You will resist if someone hurts you... Awami League as well as the government are beside you," he said.

said after rescuing the three langurs from Firoz's bungalow, they handed those over to Gazipur Safari Park.

Imran Ahmed, conservator of forest, (Wildlife and Nature Conservation) Dhaka circle, said a team of the Forest Department went to inspect the bungalow after Firoz applied for a deer rearing licence.

"They found the langurs there and explained to him that it is illegal to cage the animals. He understood the matter and handed

over the primates to the team," the forest official said.

"He later said in a written statement that he was unaware of the law. As it was an unintentional mistake on his part, we did not take further action," he added.

Sources at the department, however, said they skipped taking legal action to avoid repercussions from the lawmaker.

Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said

Firoz was spared due to his position.

"This is another example of how they [people in powerful positions] are let off the hook."

He added, "A lawmaker formulates laws and leads by example by abiding them. If they set examples of disregarding the law, how do they expect people to follow the legal framework?

"If the government does not act on this, this trend will never stop," Jamil added.

Asked India to help maintain stability

FROM PAGE 1
 About the Wildlife Conservation Act, he said, "How is rearing a crocodile, a carnivorous animal, permitted? What kind of law is this?"

He suggested the law allow people to rear endangered species. "The entire law has to be changed. If you allow people to rear endangered animals, numbers of the species will increase."

Nigar Sultana, wildlife inspector of Dhaka Forest Division (Wildlife and Nature Conservation),

continuation must be ensured. She is our role model. If her continuation is ensured, our country will stride towards development and become a truly non-communal country."

Yesterday, the minister said he referred to what the Assam chief minister told him and that he exactly conveyed it to the Indian government.

"Travelling to India, I said Assam chief minister thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her 'zero tolerance' policy and her announcement that Bangladesh cannot be a hub for terrorists," Momen said.

He said there are no terrorist activities in Assam and its adjacent areas and they are seeing growing development with increased investment in Assam. Hasina's efforts were credited.

"I conveyed to the Indian government that your chief minister said there is stability as Sheikh Hasina is there. It benefits both

sides," the minister added. "NO REQUEST MADE BY GOVT, AL"

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said Awami League didn't make any request to India regarding staying in power, reports our staff correspondent.

"As the general secretary of Bangladesh Awami League, I want to say that we have a bond of friendship with India. India is our friend in bad times...

But should I make a request to India regarding staying in power? No such request was made by the Awami League," he said.

Speaking at the inauguration of a Janmashtami procession at the capital's Palashi intersection in the afternoon, Quader said no one was given the responsibility by Sheikh Hasina's government in this regard.

"This may be the personal opinion of the person who has said this. It's neither our government's statement nor our party's," he said.

BNP DEMANDS EXPLANATION

UNB adds: BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday demanded an explanation on the foreign minister's recent statement on seeking India's backing to keep the PM in power.

Speaking at a discussion, he questioned whether the AL government has been in power with India's backing. "Ministers from an Awami League rally in Dhaka issued threats and used the language of terrorists. When you're issuing so many threats, then why does your foreign minister seek India's help to sustain your government and your prime minister?" he said.

The BNP leader said,

"We want to know from the government, the foreign minister and also from the Indian government the meaning of what the foreign minister has said. Does it mean that this government is sustaining with India's backing?"

People want to know the meaning of this. It's urgent."

Fakhrul also said questions have been raised about whether Bangladesh would really be an independent state or not, a democratic country or not, and whether its people would get back their rights or not.

Action will be taken against the unscrupulous dealers through mobile courts, he said.

Contacted, Faruk Mia, owner of Sonali Traders, denied the allegations of selling fertiliser to the selected farmers and charging extra price.

Meanwhile, UNO Monirul suspended fertiliser sales in the upazila for a day on Thursday after it received allegations of selling fertiliser to selected farmers.

4 of Munda

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 to be outside at the time, protested, the attackers beat them up.

The attackers fled after police arrived, locals said, adding that the injured were admitted to Shyamnagar Health Complex.

People of the Munda community say they have been living and farming on around eight bigha of land in Antakhalia for generations.

Contacted, Rashidul, who is a resident of

Are we ready to ensure

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 is one of the reasons behind the ageing population, the experts said.

"Our society is not ready to take care of the ageing population. The issue is not well integrated into the government's development strategy and it is also not an integral part of our economic planning," noted economist Hossain Zillur Rahman told The Daily Star.

He said the issue should be viewed from a more strategic viewpoint. "For example, the birth rate is declining. So, would it be wise to open new primary schools? Are we developing facilities in our cities for elderly people?"

"We have to invest in the care economy. Social protection should be expanded, otherwise the elderly will be a big burden for the state," he said.

According to the

Bangladeshis have to pay 68.5 percent of their total treatment costs out of their own pockets.

It said patients spend 64 percent of their health expenses on drugs, while 23 percent is used on hospital expenses and eight percent for diagnosis purposes.

The ruling Awami League in its election manifesto in 2018 pledged that it would ensure health service free of cost for children less than a year old and citizens over 65. But it is yet to be implemented.

The AI government has taken some initiatives like an old-age allowance and a universal pension scheme. "But the government needs

a comprehensive approach to address the issue," said ASM Atiqur Rahman, a professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Social Welfare and Research.

Paraphrasing a John F Kennedy quote, he said, "We could add years to life but could not add life to years. This has become a big challenge for the elderly."

He said the number of people aged 80 years and above are also on the rise, and elderly women form a majority of that group.

"There is no preparation at state level to address this serious problem. There are no steps for long-term care," he said.

Stay alert against communal instigators

FROM PAGE 3
 as the chief guest at the opening ceremony of Mahashovayatra (grand rally) on the occasion of Janmashtami, one of the major religious festivals of Hindus, at Andarkilla JM Sen Hall in Chattogram city.

AJM Nashir Uddin, general secretary of Chattogram city AL and former mayor, delivered the opening speech with Michael Dey in the chair.

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well about those who do so during elections. So, I humbly request you to be careful about them."

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"If the government does not act on this, this trend will never stop," Jamil added.

Tidal surges

FROM PAGE 12
 "All fishing boats and trawlers in the North Bay have been advised to take shelter immediately and remain in shelter till further notice," reads the bulletin.

The BMD daily forecast report says there will be light to moderate rainfall across the country due to the depression and the ongoing mild heatwave may subside and temperatures may drop by two to four degrees Celsius.

Farmers block

FROM PAGE 2

Monirul Hasan, upazila nirbahi officer of Kharol, and Abu Zafar Md Sadek, the upazila agricultural officer, assured that they would get fertiliser as per their requirement.

A list of farmers who did not get fertiliser was being prepared, said Sadek.

He said there has been no fertiliser crisis in the upazila. The farmers blocked the road after they did not get fertiliser. Later, the matter was resolved, he said.

Action will be taken against the unscrupulous dealers through mobile courts, he said.

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Blood clots found in their

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 mobile phones, were found with them.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Mamun's cousin Mohammad Kamruzzaman said Mamun picked him near his school after his work on Wednesday and went to Jolly's school. From there, they picked Jolly and headed towards home. On the way, Mamun dropped him, he added.

Kamruzzaman said as long as he was with them, he noticed nothing unusual in their behaviour.

The deceased's family said the couple started

for home around 6:30pm. They had called Mamun's son Tousifur Rahman Miraj from the vehicle to let him know.

After that, they could not be reached as their phones were found switched off, said Miraj.

Nondolal Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Gacha Police Station under Gazipur Metropolitan Police, yesterday said a case was filed in this connection.

"After receiving post-mortem and viscera reports, it will be possible to know the exact cause of their deaths. However,

we have already started investigating the incident," he added.

Mamun's elder brother Riton on Thursday alleged that the incident was premeditated.

Gazipur Metropolitan Police Commissioner Molla Nazrul Islam said they were looking into whether the couple had any family feud or workplace conflict.

He added that they would also try to know if they had taken any food on the way which might contain poisonous substances or someone gave them poisoned food to kill them.

"After receiving post-mortem and viscera reports, it will be possible to know the exact cause of their deaths. However,

leap in our knowledge of this singular super-predator and help to better understand the ecological function that megafauna species play in marine ecosystems, and the large-scale consequences of their extinction."

Previous research has found megalodons grew to larger sizes in cooler waters than in warmer areas.

Megalodon shark

FROM PAGE 12
 was a strong swimmer, with an average cruising speed higher than today's sharks.

"It would be a superpredator just dominating its ecosystem," said co-author John Hutchinson, of the Royal Veterinary College.