

NEWS SNAPS

Three listed criminals caught with arms

UNB, Sylhet
Police arrested three listed criminals along with arms from Taltola area of the town Thursday.

Police said acting on a secret information, they arrested Sohel, Foysal Ahmed and Md Abdus Salam Emdad from a confectionery shop along with three foreign-made revolvers and three rounds of cartridge. They were caught while taking preparation for committing crime.

Two muggers arrested from B'baria

UNB, Brahmanbaria
Two muggers were caught red-handed from Kandipara area of the town Wednesday during their bid to rob a rickshawpuller.

The arrested were identified as Shipon, 22, of Kandipara and Shipon, 20, of Puniat of the town. A case was filed against them.

Workshop on usage of bio-tech at BAU

UNB, Mymensingh
A daylong workshop on "Use of Biotechnology for Sustainable Agricultural Development" was held at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) here Thursday. State Minister for Agriculture

Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir inaugurated the workshop as chief guest. Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Md Mustafizur Rahman chaired it.

Work on primary schools goes on

UNB, Madaripur
Work on 121 non-government primary school buildings is progressing fast in Madaripur at a cost of Tk 6.61 cr.

Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the project under the Primary Education For All programme.

Shots from districts



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources A K M Mosharrar Hossain clap with the Girl guides of Vidyamaye Government Girls' School in Mymensingh who render a chorus at the opening day of the district Girl Guides Camp-2002 at N Girls' High School at Muktagachha upazila on September 26. Thirteen schools took part in the camp where Amena Khatun, Headmistress of the school presided over.



PHOTO: STAR

Processionists parade the main thoroughfares of Jhenidah town in a procession on Sunday last on the occasion of Child Rights Week. Bangladesh Shishu Academy and district information office jointly organised a procession. Later a discussion was held at the local Shishu Academy auditorium.



PHOTO: STAR

Participants parade the main streets of Faridpur town in a colourful procession. The district administration, social service department and some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) arranged the procession on October 1 in observance of the International Elderly Day.

Smuggling of Indian clothes thru' Rajshahi borders up

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Smuggling of Indian clothes, women's wears in particular, has become rampant through different Rajshahi borders just before the Hindu festival Durga puja.

Smuggled cloths worth crores of taka have been entering into the city almost openly every day.

On the other hand, imported garlic and gold are being smuggled out to India.

Different markets of the country including Rajshahi, Natore, Pabna, Naogaon and Bogra are being flooded with smuggled clothes every day.

Bangladesh Rifles and other law enforcing agencies seize negligible portion of smuggled clothes. Godagari thana police on October 1 seized Indian clothes worth Tk 32.40 lakh. On Tuesday night, the anti-smuggling task force here in a pre-dawn raid at two houses in Shamsadipur, near the charghat border, seized 3,361 pieces of Indian sarees and other clothes worth Tk 2.18 cr.

Senior BDR officials informed that the rate of smuggling of Indian sarees is several times higher than previous years.

Indian clothes are entering like 'flood water' through various borders including Mirganj, Lalpur, Charghat, Sahapur, Shampur, Katakhal, Borokuthi, Keshabpur, Berpara, Sonaikandi, Bidirpur, Godagari, Chapainawabganj, Shbganj, Volahat, Patnitola, and Sapahar.

The anti-smuggling task force sources informed that they complained to BDR sector commander in Rajshahi

regarding BDR's failure to seize the huge amount of Indian clothes.

Local people also expressed their resentment over the open smuggling at Rajshahi borders.

UNB reports from Chapainawabganj: Paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in a drive seized huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Tk 33 lakh from Pirojpur area near Sonamasjid land port recently.

On information, BDR raided the area last week and seized the smuggled goods, including engines of truck and other spare parts.

The seized goods were handed over to local Customs office here.

Another report says: An alleged hundi trader was arrested along with 1.42 lakh Indian rupees from Kironganj frontier of Shibganj upazila last week.

The hundi trader identified as Taifur Rahman was handed over to police. A case was filed against him.

Meanwhile, a huge quantity of smuggled goods seized from the district in different times was destroyed at the No-6 battalion Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters here recently.

The goods were burnt in presence of newsmen of different dailies and news agencies last week.

The smuggled goods included 435 bottles of Indian phensidyl, 146 bottles of wine, 53 kgs of mustard, 58 VCD sets, 53 VCD remote controllers and 17 television sets.

Besides, six fans, 19 radios, 17 LG multi-channels, 160 electric switches, two sound boxes, three VCD cassettes and two charge lights were also destroyed.

Hatikumrul in Sirajganj a safe den for smugglers

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj

Indian goods like sugar, salt, cosmetics goods, saree, steel pots, phensidyl, heroin are being smuggled into Bangladesh illegally through the border along the northern districts every day.

All the goods come from border areas by the smugglers through trucks, buses, trains and microbuses. Those are stocked at Hatikumrul bazaar which is now a safe den for the smugglers. A section of unscrupulous traders purchase and carry these goods to other parts of the country. Many goods enter through the northern and southern parts of the country from the borders of Hilli, Mogholhat, and Burimari every day by road. These are stocked at Hatikumrul

through river way via Sirajganj-Bhuapur and Jamuna Bridge. A good number of smuggled goods are sent to Dhaka through Hatikumrul.

Paying bribes locally called "selami" to the members of the law enforcing agencies, smugglers pass the goods everyday through Hatikumrul via Jamuna Bridge. Besides, a large number of Indian goods rush Bangladesh through Hilli of Dinajpur, Mogolhat and Burimari of Lalmonirhat, Bhurungamari, Sonarhat, Roumari, Chilmani of Kurigram, Sona Masjid of Chapainawabganj and the border areas of Thakerganj. Money collected as bribe is distributed among police, BDR personnel and other members of law enforcing agencies. The government is losing a huge amount of money as revenue and

many industries of the country may shut down as these smuggled goods are coming through illegal way. On the other hand one section of influential persons and unscrupulous people are becoming rich by doing such malpractice.

When contacted, the officer-in-charge of Sholonga police station, Nawser Ali told this correspondent, many political activists and some local touts take toll money from them and every month he has to send a handsome amount of money as "selami" to the higher authority. Even he has to donate to the higher authority's wives costly sarees, he said. He informed that it is an open secret so, he is engaged to earn money through dishonest ways to spend the money to woo them.

Four traffickers get life

UNB, Satkhira

A court here Wednesday sentenced four people to life imprisonment on charge of trafficking children.

The court also fined them Tk 5000 each, in default, to suffer one year more RI.

The convicts were identified as Moksd Majhi and his daughter Amena Khatun of village Issaripur of Shamnagar upazila, and Moriam and her brother Romzan of village Dolabala in Kaliganj upazila.

According to prosecution, police arrested the convicts while trafficking two children from India to Bangladesh on September 25, 1999.

After examining the records and witnesses, the judge of Woman and Child Repression Prevention Tribunal Md Afzal Hossain delivered the verdict.

BNP-AL clash leaves 35 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Violent clash between the supporters of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Awami League (AL) at village Majhayeel in Magura Sadar upazila left at least 35 people injured, 12 of them seriously on September 23.

Four houses were destroyed during the clash.

A long standing rivalry over establishing supremacy in the village has been prevailing between Raghobdayeer union BNP unit general-secretary Anwar Hossain Mandal and a local AL leader, and UP member Abu Bakarmian of the aforementioned village.

On the night of September 22 some villagers took some sugar-canes from their rival's land resulting in an arbitration meeting in the morning where both the groups exchanged hot words.

At one stage both the feuding groups equipped with lethal weapons looked in a clash leaving at least 35 people injured. The clash lasted for about one hour, witnesses said.

Seriously injured persons were identified as Amir Hossain, 60, Zahirul Islam, 20, Amjad Hossain, 45, Halim Shikder, 35, Yunus Ali, 40, Daud Hossain, 25, Kamrul Islam, 30, Tariqul Islam, 30, Abu Bakar, 50, Tojammel Huq, 55, Rafiqul Islam, 30, and Rakan Mandal, 35. They were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

On information police from the local camp rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Pneumonia claims newborn baby in B'baria

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Pneumonia has broken out in Nasirnagar upazila of the district.

A newborn baby Alam Hossain of Sreeghar village of the upazila died of pneumonia at Nasirnagar Health Complex Wednesday.

Besides, some 12 pneumonia-affected children were admitted to the health complex on the day.



PHOTO: STAR

The Dholai in Companyganj upazila of Sylhet devoured a vast tract of land in four years rendering hundreds pauper. River erosion is a chronic problem in this area.

Agony of Bangladeshis in enclaves

BSS, Joypurhat

Residents of Bangladeshi enclaves in India are passing their days in great distress with the pains and agonies of living like foreigners on own soil.

Culprits and miscreants as well as Indian Border Security Force (BSF), police and a section of politicians are allegedly inflicting inhuman suffering on these enclave people for the last 55 years.

Over 315 men have been killed, numerous injured and abducted, and hundreds of their homes have been set afire and looted since the partition of 1947.

There are stories of many women being raped and abused by the Indian miscreants in the Bangladeshi enclaves which are practically besieged for decades, enclave people told recently.

According to official sources, there are 51 Bangladeshi enclaves with a total area of 7,110.02 acres in the Indian territory in Koochbehar of West Bengal. They are under the administrative jurisdictions of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram of Bangladesh.

They say, the actual size of the population of Bangladeshi enclaves is not known but it may exceed one lakh with 60,000 adult people.

On the other hand, there are 111 Indian enclaves of Koochbehar district with an area of 17,158.05 acres in Bangladesh territory in the districts of Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and

Panchagarh. The approximate population of Indian enclaves is around 1.5 lakh.

Of the Bangladeshi enclaves 16 are under Bhurungamari and two are under Fulbari upazilas of Kurigram, and one under Aditmari upazila and 32 under Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat.

Among the 111 Indian enclaves, 12 are situated under Sadar, Bhurungamari and Fulbari upazilas of Kurigram, 59 are located in Sadar, Hatibandha and Patgram upazilas of Lalmonirhat, four in Dimla upazila of Nilphamari, 36 in Sadar, Debiganj and Boda upazilas of Panchagarh.

An accord was signed between Bangladesh and India in 1974 to exchange the enclaves, which is known as the Mujib-Indira accord. As per constitutional requirement, Bangladesh government immediately ratified the accord in the parliament but the Indian parliament repeatedly declined to do so.

As per the accord, Bangladesh handed over a total of 2.64 square miles of Indian Berubari enclave and its surrounding areas immediately to Indian. But in exchange, India partially solved the problem of Dahogam and Angurpota enclaves in 1996, a long time later.

In the months of April and May in 2000, Indian miscreants set ablaze many houses in Moshaldanga enclaves. More than 400 enclave people then crossed into mainland Bangladesh. But the Koochbehar district magistrate did not allow Bangladeshi officials to enter into the Moshaldanga enclaves with humanitarian assis-

tance.

On May 26, 2000, a battalion commander level flag meeting between BDR and BSF was held in the border to solve the Mashaldanga issue. BDR handed over to BSF a list of 78 Indian who attacked the Moshaldanga enclaves. But no action was taken against them.

In spite of repeated requests, the district officials of Kurigram and of Lalmonirhat were not allowed to enter into Bangladesh enclaves through the Indian territory to prepare voter lists in last 12 years.

As a result, the Bangladeshi nationals living in enclaves cannot exercise their right to franchise in any election.

The Bangladeshi enclave people alleged that they were virtually living under the full control of 'Indian miscreants' at different levels. Their sorrows, woes and cries do not reach the authorities concerned.

This awful situation was explained by Bosiron Bewa, 52, Sojiron Bibi, 28, Ayron Bibi, 37, Saibal Bibi, 32, Noorjahan Bibi, 32, Monser Ali, 52, Habibar, 27, Jalal 24, Nawsher, 27, Iman Ali, 34, Fazle Hossain, 50, Hossain Ali, 60, Chairon Bibi, 42, Aminul, 27, Khalil, 16, Nurul, 42, Toni Mia, 43, Jahangir, 26, Safar Ali, 47, Nekbar Ali, 60 and many others of different Bangladesh enclaves.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, they said their children do not get access to education either in institutions of India or those of Bangladesh.