## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

PHOTO: STAR

**Sachetan Nagorik Committee of TIB forms a human chain in front of Chapainawabganj deputy commissioner's office yesterday demanding steps to make Anti-Corruption Commission independent, neutral and effective.**

### Robbers stab expat

UNB, *Sylhet*

Robbers looted valuables from an expatriate's house injuring him seriously at Noarai village in Biswanath upazila early Tuesday. Police quoting locals said, a gang of armed robbers numbering 10/12 stormed into the house of Birendra Das, a Bahrain expatriate, late at night breaking open the door and looted 15 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 30,000 in cash and other valuables. The robbers at one stage stabbed Birendra indiscriminately when he tried to resist them. The victim was admitted to Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital in critical condition.

### Bus strike in Sherpur

UNB, *Sherpur*

An indefinite bus strike called by Sherpur Inter-district Transport Workers Union here Tuesday continued for second day yesterday causing immense suffering to the commuters. Bus communication in 11 internal routes in five upazilas remained cut-off due to the strike. According to the sources, the transport workers union stopped plying of buses on April 27 as its Sherpur branch secretary Shawkat Hossain was assaulted by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver in Nouhata area. However, they resumed service after three hours following the assurance of police officials that they would take proper action in this regard. As no action was taken, the transport workers enforced fresh strike on Monday demanding punishment to CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver responsible for the attack.

### Union leader held with pistol

UNB, *Natore*

A leader of a transport workers union was held along with a pistol and six bullets while he took shelter at a house in Chairman Road area of the district town after firing two shots targeting the son of a state minister Tuesday evening. The arrestee was identified as Kamal Hossain. Police quoting locals said while Sohel Sarkar, son of State Minister for Youths and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar, was going to his town's residence from nearby Harispur area along with some ruling party workers at 7:00pm, Kamal fired two shots targeting him. But Sohel narrowly escaped unhurt.

### Case against CPB men dismissed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

A speedy trial court yesterday dismissed a case against 20 leaders and activists of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Gaibandha filed by Sadar Upazila Jubo League. According to the prosecution of the case, on June 25, 2009 a clash ensued between the activists of CPB and AL at Dariyapur under Gaibandha Sadar over holding a public meeting there. Sohel Mia, an activist of Jubo League filed a case against 20 CPB leaders and activists including district CPB secretary Mihir Ghosh. The CPB secretary and some others were arrested by police and later released on bail.

# River transport workers threaten non-stop strike

UNB, *Bagerhat*

River transport workers have threatened indefinite strike from Friday midnight if their 22-point demand including new pay scale is not met by today.

On March 15 the workers went on a non-stop strike to realise their demands. However, they called off the work stoppage following an understanding reached at a tripartite meeting between representatives of the government, owners and workers on March 18.

Joint secretary of the Vessel Workers Federation Abul Kashem Master said it was agreed at the meeting that a uniform pay scale for all workers based on national pay scale-2009 will be announced and implemented by April 30.

Although the representatives of the government and owners held meetings four times since then, they failed to announce the new pay scale, he added.

Another meeting between the government and vessel owners is scheduled to be held today.

Kashem said if the meeting fails to produce any positive result, they will be compelled to go for indefinite strike across the country from Friday midnight.

To realise the demands, the river transport workers enforced indefinite work stoppage five times in the last two years.

PHOTO: STAR

**Students of APBn High School form a human chain at Muktamancha in Khagrachhari hill town yesterday as part of their awareness campaign against stalking.**

# 17 Bangladeshis handed over by Indian police

A CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

Indian police on Tuesday afternoon returned 17 Bangladeshi citizens to immigration police at Burimari land port in Patgram upazila.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Mekhliganj police station in Kuchbihar district of West Bengal Joydev Saha handed them over to Burimari Immigration police SI Abdullah Hil Kafi at zero point.

Indian Border Security Force and Bangladesh Border Guard members were present on the occasion.

Of the 17 Bangladeshis, seven were identified as Hafizul Islam,25, Rashidul Haque,36, Atoar Rahman,30, Anowarul,26, Maniruzzaman,28, Abu Ali,26, and Rubel,23.

They hail from different villages of Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat while the rest 10 are from different districts, immigration police said.

Quoting Indian police, SI Abdullah Hil Kafi said, these 17 Bangladeshi citizens were jailed in India for three years.

They were arrested by BSF for illegally entering Indian territory, he said.

In Chuadanga, a Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Baradi frontier Tuesday midnight.

The victim was identified as Azad Mondal, 30, son of Karim Mondal, of Nastipur village in Damurhuda upazila.

BDR sources said, Azad along with five other cattle traders while returning from India with cattle BSF troops at Bijoypur camp opened fire on them on Baradi frontier leaving Azad dead on the spot.

Commanding officer Lt Col Sultan Ahmed of 35 Rifles Battalion confirming the incident said they have sent a letter to their BSF counterpart protesting the killing.

## Two commit 'suicide' in Sylhet

UNB, *Sylhet*

Two people allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in separate incidents here on Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Ratan Das, 30, son of late Chittaranjan Das, of city's north Bagbari area and Sadia Begum, 18, daughter of late Manik Miah, of Manikpur village in Kanaighat upazila.

Police said Ratan took poison at his house on early Tuesday following a family feud.

As his condition deteriorated, he was rushed to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital where he died at about 5:00am.

Meanwhile, Sadia Begum took poison at her house on Monday night following a quarrel with her family members.

She was rushed to the same hospital where she died at 11:00am on Tuesday.

# Ban on *jatka* catching extended for a month

A CORRESPONDENT, *Chandpur*

The government has extended the ban on catching *jatka* (hilsa fry less than nine inches) for one more month in the 60-kilometre stretch of the Meghna in Chandpur.

District Fisheries Officer Qazi Iqbal Hossain said though the two-month-long jatka protection programme ended on April 30, the restriction on catching hilsa fry will remain effective until May 31. The fishermen can catch all kinds of fish except Jatka during the period, he added.

Making a long stretch of the Meghna in Chandpur sanctuary for hilsa, the jatka protection programme has been observing since 2006. As per the programme, the government imposes a ban on fishing jatka in the river in March-April every year

The fishermen in the area who have been provided with food support and financial assistance in the last two months will receive rice in May as well.

Enayet Ullah, a fisherman of Baro Station area in Chandpur town, said they each received 30kg of rice in the last two months apart from alternative employment by the government. The Directorate of Fisheries gave cows, goats and rickshaw to the fishermen as alternative employment.

PHOTO: STAR

**Locals rendering voluntary service to make a protection embankment to save their homesteads and farmlands at Gung Kandi and Mollik Kandi villages in Rajoir upazila of Madaripur district from erosion by Kumar River.**

# Steps finally for fresh land for poor Dashmina FFs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Dashmina upazila administration is looking for fresh land for allotment to 19 poor and distressed freedom fighters as a total of 28.5 acres of lands that were allotted to them 10 years ago is still under water.

Lastl week Patuakhali Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Md Eusuf Ali Mollah asked Dashmina Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Azmal Hossain to take immediate step to shift allotment to the 19 freedom fighters who had earlier got allotment papers against lands under water.

Accordance to existing rules, cultivable land should be allotted and so, the allotment was wrong, the ADC said.

When contacted, Dashmina UNO Azmal Hossain said, "I was not here when the allotment was made. Now we are looking for cultivable lands for allotting to the 19 freedom fighters as soon as possible."

Earlier on March 19, The Daily Star ran a report headlined 'Land allotment a mockery for 19 freedom fighters', stating that Patuakhali district administration in 2000-2001 fiscal year allotted 28.5 acres of land to 19 poor and distressed freedom fighters of Dasmina upazila but the underwater lands were of no use of the allottees.

# *Self-help is last help when there is no help*

A CORRESPONDENT, *Madaripur*

People of two villages adjacent to the Kumar River in Rajoir upazila under Madaripur district are working voluntarily to protect the villages from erosion as a portion of the river bank has already gone under water.

The villagers of Gung Kandi and Mollick Kandi are erecting a bamboo enclosure in the eroded portion and throwing logs to check further erosion. They have purchased bamboos and logs at own cost for this purpose.

Local people have expressed their indignation at lack of necessary steps by the government or political leaders to protect the area from erosion.

They said if necessary measures are not taken immediately, river erosion will make about 4,000 families of the two villages homeless.

Ishibpur Union Parishad Chairman Mosharraf Hossain Molla said Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, also the local MP, visited the area last year and assured the local people that necessary steps would be taken to check river erosion.

"I have already informed the higher authorities of the present situation, but to no effect," the chairman said.

## Fratricide

UNB, *Sunamganj*

A man was killed by his younger brother at Shastipur village in Jamalganj upazila on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Rafiqul Islam, 32, son of Shamsul Islam, of the village. Locals said Barek Miah, 28, killed his elder brother following a quarrel over hiring a boat on Monday evening.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

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