

# 5 kids abducted by BSF yet to be freed

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Five children, abducted by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) from Hariapur in Thakurgaon three days ago, were not released as of yesterday while Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Saturday sent back five Indian nationals who had been pushed into Bangladesh territory by BSF the same day.

Earlier Commanding Officer of 2 Rifles Battalion Lt Col Ershad Hossain told The Daily Star that at a flag meeting on Friday evening, BSF officials assured releasing the five detained Bangladeshi children on completion of legal procedure within a day or two, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

At the flag meeting held on Hariapur Border, BSF officials alleged that the Bangladeshi youth and children were cutting

barbed wire on the border. BSF abducted picked them up from Hariapur Border under Hariapur upazila in Thakurgaon district on Friday morning.

The victims are Pania, 18, son of Denial Islam, Mohammad Salauddin, 18, son of Abdul Kuddush, Mintu Miah, 5, son of late Nazrul Islam, Abdur Rahim, 8, son of Atauddin and Shetabul Islam, 10, son of Joyнал Abedin of bordering Minapur village.

The children set nets in the low-lying areas near pillar No 354 on Hariapur border on Thursday evening for fishing, BDR and local sources said. On Friday morning the five children went to the spot to bring fishes when BSF members from Moldakhanda BSF camp entered 'no man's land' and picked the five Bangladeshi children up.

Our Chapainawabganj Correspondent adds: BDR sent back five people of a Hindi speaking Indian family through the Rokonpur border of Gomostapur upazila in Chapainawabganj on Saturday night.

The Indians -- Elias Ali, 35, his wife Momtaj Begum, 31, two sons Fayed Ali, 14 and Intaj Ali, 5, and daughter Shahina, 2, had been pushed into Bangladesh by the BSF through Gababari border of Gomostapur upazila at around 7:00am on Saturday.

They spoke Hindi and did not understand Bangla, BDR sources said, adding that earlier Delhi police arrested them from Nizamuddin Kaligate area.

Lt Col Fazlur Rahman, commanding officer of 43 Naogaon Rifles Battalion, confirmed the incident of sending back the five Indian nationals.



Criminals kill fish worth about Tk 1.5 crore by pouring poison in a water body on 14 bighas in Bandighi area of Bogra Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU

# Over 400 roadside trees felled for 'safety and beautification'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Over 400 trees on both sides of a seven-kilometre stretch of Mongla-Khulna highway were felled in last one week allegedly on instructions of the Mongla Port Authority.

Most of these trees are 30 to 40 years old, said local people while expressing their sharp reaction to the indiscriminate felling of trees. Besides, branches of a large number of trees on both sides of the road from Mongla to Digraj were also felled, they alleged.

When asked, Deputy Manager (property) of Mongla Port Authority Hiru Mia said the trees and branches of others on

the road from Mongla bus stand to Digraj were felled with permission of the authorities concerned.

He said 15 woodcutters were engaged for cutting down the trees on daily payment basis. "We have taken this decision for safety and beautification of Mongla-Khulna highway."

Port sources said, the road falls under the jurisdiction of the port authority.

Money earned by selling the felled trees and branches of others will be deposited with the accounts department of the port authority, Hiru further said.

Chairman of Mongla Upazila Parishad Iddris Ali Ijaradar, when contacted, strongly condemned felling of trees on

both sides of the highway from Mongla to Digraj. He said these trees largely contributed to protect life and property of the people in this area during cyclonic storms Sidr and Aila.

Mongla Port Authority Chairman Commodore M Faruk could not be reached over phone despite several attempts for his comment on felling the trees in the name of beautification of the area under the jurisdiction of the port.

Sheikh Noor Alam, chief executive of an environmental organisation named Gathon, has demanded formation a high level committee by the government to probe the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Over 400 trees on both sides of Mongla-Khulna highway were felled in the last one week triggering protests by locals.

# Accused BCL man held in Polash murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday arrested BCL activist Md Mozibur Rahman Russel, one of the FIR-named accused in Udayendu Singha Polash killing case.

Polash, also an activists of BCL MC College unit, was stabbed to death by his rival party men in the city's Shaplabagh area on July 12.

Son of Bireswar Chandra Sinha of Bhandarigaon under Komolganj upazila of Moulvibazar district, Polash was an honours third year mathematics student of the college.

On July 14, Polash's father filed a murder case with Sylhet

Kotwali Police Station against 14 activists of BCL MC College unit including eight named and six unnamed ones. The named ones are Fazlur Rahman Jashim, Md Delwar Hossain, Shipon Khan alias Kala Shipon, Shahidul Haque, Russel Ahmed, Gias uddin, Mostafizur Rahman, Sanjay Kumar Chowdhury.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Abdur Rahim of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station told this correspondent that Russel was arrested at his village home at Dimai in Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar district in the morning.

Russel will be produced in the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court today with a remand

prayer, the SI said, adding that efforts are on to arrest the other FIR-named accused in the case.

On July 16, police arrested Ripon, president of the recently dissolved MC College hostel Chhatra League unit, in a room of the hostel as a suspect in the murder case.

On expiry of his two-day remand, the Judicial Magistrate's Court sent him to jail on July 21.

Police picked up Ayub Ali, a friend of the deceased, about two hours after the killing on July 12. After primary interrogation, he was sent to the jail through the court on July 13 under Section 54 as a suspect in the incident, police said.

# Robbers loot cash killing contractor

UNB, Narsingdi

Highway robbers looted cash Tk 1.40 lakh leaving a contractor dead and his brother injured at Mahmudbagh in Belabo upazila on Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Dulal Miah, 30, of Chartola village of Ashuganj upazila of Brahmanbaria district.

Police said when Dulal and his brother Helal, 25 were going to Dhaka from Ashuganj in a microbus a gang of bandits halted their vehicle at Mahmudbagh at about 11:00am.

They took away cash Tk 1.40 lakh from their possession after stabbing the two brothers, leaving Dulal dead on the spot.

# Muggers stab female Sust student

Two arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two muggers stabbed a female student of Shahjalala University of Science and Technology (Sust) and took away her vanity bag and mobile phone in the city's Subidbazart area yesterday morning.

Jeniffer Rahman, 4th year student of the Environment Engineering department came under attack when she was going to the campus at about 6:30 am. She reached Sylhet by a bus from Dhaka in the morning.

She was admitted to Jalalabad Ragib-Rabea Medical College and Hospital.

Locals and police said, two muggers on a motorbike stopped her rickshaw and stabbed on her leg and forehead.

The patrol police in Chouhatta area stopped their motorbike and recovered the bag and mobile while checking them out of suspicion.

Police detained them and later came to know the story.

Arrested muggers, Dulal of Major Tila and Sohel of Shaplabagh were later sent to jail through the magistrate court in the afternoon.

# 2003 BOMB BLAST IN DINAJPUR

# Two JMB men jailed each for 20 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two militants of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were jailed each for 20 years yesterday in a 2003 bomb blast case.

The court also fined each Tk. 5000, in default, to suffer two more months in jail.

Another accused in the case acquitted as the court found him innocent.

The convicts are Anwar Sahadat alias Obaidullah 30, son of Md. Hafez Shahidullah of Rajbati village of Dinajpur town and Saidur Rahman 26, son of Majedur Rahman of Haldibari village of Parbatipur upazila of the district.

Hafez Habibur Rahman 32, son of Md. Abdul Kader of village Bhabainagar of Dinajpur Sadar

upazila was acquitted as the prosecution could not prove him guilty.

Police yesterday produced the accused in the court amid tight security.

Court sources said, police arrested three wounded members of the JMB from a hideout of the outfit from Chhotogurga in Dinajpur town after a bomb blast in February 13, 2003.

Police also recovered huge bomb making materials and books on Jihad from the den.

Md. Wazeduzzaman, the then SI of Dinajpur police station later filed a case with Dinajpur police station accusing them.

After a long hearing of the case, Judge of Special Court Md. Rafiqul Alam yesterday delivered the verdict in presence of the accused in a crowded court room.

# 24 'Allar Dal militants' remanded for 3 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Twenty-four members of banned Islamist outfit Allar Dal, arrested here on Saturday, were taken on a three-day remand yesterday.

A judicial magistrate court yesterday granted the remand after police sought 10 days remand of the arrestees.

Earlier, police produced them before the court for remand for interrogation.

Police said, during primary interrogation the arrestees confessed to their involvement with the activities of Allar Dal. Many of them said they were linked to the outfit for a long time while some others have been newly enlisted. All claimed themselves as the followers of Allar Dal kingpin Matin Mehdi.

The militants further said that they avoid prayers under the Imam in the mosque. As the Imams are paid for that their leadership is not

acceptable as per Islamic rules. Besides, the militants said they prefer to recite Bengali version of Al-Quran during prayers.

While visiting the Rother bazaar areas locals told this correspondent that during the secret meetings of Allar Dal here nearly hundred devotees used to gather from fur flung areas of Gaibandha, Pabna and Nilphamari districts.

Being suspicious, local people on Saturday informed police and encircled the house of Haji Moinuddin.

Sensing police presence the main leaders of the outfit and many other activists managed to flee the scene, locals said.

During primary interrogation police extracted some important information about the outfit. Combing operation is on to net the leaders of the outfit, said Sahadat Hossain, police superintendent of Gaibandha.

# Fresh areas flooded in Gaibandha

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Fresh areas in Gaibandha were inundated yesterday while the flood situation in Lalmonirhat marked slight improvement from Saturday night.

Fresh areas of Gaibandha Sadar, Fulchhari and Shaghata were flooded yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The badly affected areas are Goderhat, Boali, Badiakhali, Rasoolpur, Bhaserpara, Balashi, Ketkirhat, Kalasona, Ratanpur, Mashamari and

Nilkuthi villages where thousands of people were marooned and aman seedlings and vegetables went under floodwater.

Three children drowned in floodwater in Shaghata and Sundarganj upazilas yesterday. Four-year-old Khushi of village Kumarpura under Shaghata upazila fell into floodwater from bed at night and drowned.

Ruhel of Patilbari village in the same upazila drowned in floodwater as he fell from banana raft and Habibur

Rahman, 8, a student of class two of Kuthipara Primary School in Sundarganj upazila drowned in the surging water while crossing a bamboo made bridge.

Meanwhile, at least 100 metres of the flood control dyke at Haldia in Shaghata upazila collapsed yesterday inundating 14 villages and snapping road communications with other parts of the upazila.

Erosion also took an alarming turn at Shaghata Sadar union, where the police sta-

tion is now on the verge of being devoured.

Five primary schools in Shaghata union have also been eroded away rendering 350 flood-hit families shelterless.

In Lalmonirhat, flood situation started improving from Saturday night as water levels of main rivers Teesta and Dharla fell below danger mark.

Water has started receding from most homesteads and people who took shelter on government roads, schools and college are returning to their homes.

But a few areas of Goddimari and Sindurna villages of Hatibandha upazila and Kalmati, Bongram and Bowalmari villages of Sadar upazila are still reeling under floodwater, reports a correspondent.

Several thousand people in those areas are facing untold problems as they are not getting food and pure drinking water.

Mozammel Haque, 48, a flood affected person at Bowalmari village of Sadar upazila said that the people of his village are still struggling with one foot water. "We are facing severe scarcity of food and drinking water," he said.

Mogholhat UP chairman Habibur Rahman Habib said, over a thousand families in Bowalmari village have been facing the worst flood as the village is in Dharla river shoal.



Flood water submerges Balashi river port area in Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha as the situation worsens in the district yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# 3 remanded in cop killing case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday granted four days' remand for three outlaws arrested in the case for killing three policemen at Dhalarchar in Pabna on Tuesday last.

Police had produced the three outlaws -- Md Nader Pramanik, 52, and Md Wazed Ali, 45, and Md Abdur Rahim, 45 -- to the court with prayer for 10 days' remand, said officer-in-charge of Bera police station Sheikh Jilur Rahman.

Police arrested Nader Pramanik from Hassampur village in Sujanager upazila

and Wazed Ali from Masumdia village of Bera upazila under Pabna district on Thursday while Md Abdur Rahim, a village quack, was arrested from his Goalnagar village house in Bera upazila under the district early Saturday.

Pabna Superintendent of Police Jamil Ahmed said police found their involvement in outlawed activities.

Trader Md Tajul Khan, arrested early Saturday at remote Somepur village of Rajbari district in connection with killing of three policemen in Pabna, will be taken to Pabna and produced before court, said Pabna Assistant Superintendent of Police

Mosharaf Hossain Niazi.

"Tajul has disclosed some important information on the killing of three policemen. He played a vital role in the planned killing as he called the cops there in the name of selling wood. He was present during the incident caused by 10 to 12 criminals," said SM Ainul Bari, Rajbari police superintendent.

On Tuesday last, outlaws shot dead sub-inspector Md Kafil Uddin, nayek Abdur Wahed and constable Shafique Ahmed of Dhalarchar police camp at Daspara in Bera upazila under the district.