

# Sylhet-Meghalaya joint border survey resumes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The joint survey of the Sylhet-Meghalaya border resumed yesterday after suspension of three and a half months.

Sources said, the survey team and BGB officials discussed a few documents on Padua-Protappur border with the Indian land officials.

Acting Commanding Officer of the 5 Battalion of BGB, Sylhet, Major Naim told this correspondent, "We had some preliminary discussion yesterday as the survey is going to resume after months".

Hopefully the job would start in a day or two, he said adding, "We would talk to the Indians again at 10:30 am today".

In the wake of repeated incidents of intrusion for paddy crops and fishing as well as killing of Bangladesh nationals by the BSF and by the Indian Khasia tribesmen, the authorities decided for a joint survey on the Jaintapur, Gowainghat and Kanaighat borders. Accordingly, the survey began on 7 December last year.

But it came to a halt after the 14 December incident, when about 500 armed Indians, backed by the BSF intruded into the Bangladesh territory and occupied some lands on Padua border. However, they retreated in the face of chase by thousands of villagers.

As the preparation for survey work started yesterday morning on Dibirhaor near border pillar 1284

and near 1270 at Padua border, the Indians claimed 55.3 acres of Dibirhaor (water body) and 320 acres on Padua borders that had been in possession of Bangladesh.

However, they failed to produce any documentary evidence in support of their claims, officials said.

Asked about the Indian claims, an official said, we placed our documents on the boundary pillars and accordingly we asked for documents from Indians in support of their claims.

Border sources informed that the Indian Khasia tribesmen had been opposing the survey on Dibirhaor borders in Jaintapur upazila claiming 55 acres of Bangladesh lands.

Same way the Indians pressed for suspending survey on the Sonarhat-

Lynkhat borders, where about 80 acres of Bangladesh land, in addition to the 100 acres on Protappur-Padua borders had been in the Indian possession.

An uneasy calm has been prevailing on about 20-kilometre border area from Sonarhat to Dibirhaor in Gowainghat, Kanaighat and Jaintapur upazilas as the joint border survey on the Adversely Possessed Lands (APL) began on 7 December.

The then BDR chiefs also visited the said borders last year after the untoward incidents with the Indians.

Over a hundred civilians sustained injuries in gunfight and villagers left their homes for days after the clash.

## About half of a brothel's sex workers are children

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A staggering 300 among the 820 sex workers at Kandapara brothel in Tangail town are children while over 100 of them belong to the age group of 12-14 years.

Most of the children are forced to do the work against their will after brokers, who manage them from different area of the country through deceitful techniques, sell them to sardarnis (female brothel runners).

The under-aged children are listed as 'adults' allegedly with the help of a section of corrupt police officials who give them

approval for affidavit through the notary public to get the license in exchange of Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000 per head from the sardarnes, sex workers' sources said.

Besides, police officials during their visits hardly try to know whether a girl has come to this profession willingly or not.

Presently 820 sex workers live at 744 rooms of 59 houses at the one and half century-old brothel. As the demand of child sex workers is high, number of them at the brothel has increased recently, several sex workers told this correspondent.

Although most of the under-aged girls do not

want to work as sex workers, sardarnes force them to do the work through brutal torture.

Kept under strict watch all the time, the ill-fated children do not have any scope to flee from the brothel, said an under-aged sex worker seeking anonymity.

When contacted, Jamil Hasan, acting superintendent of police (SP) in Tangail, said, "Following allegations against police officials in this regard, I have already given responsibility to an additional SP to inquire into the matter. The affidavits will also be checked. I have discussed with the deputy commissioner about the matter."

## Verdict in case against 71 mutineers Apr 25

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) special court-15, yesterday fixed April 25, 2011 for judgment in the mutiny case against 71 jawans of 30 Battalion in Panchhari upazila.

Earlier, the argument between the prosecution witnesses (PWs) and accused concluded yesterday.

The court headed by Khagrachhari Sector Commander Col Abu Wahab Mohammad Hafizul Haque started the trial proceedings at 12:20pm and continued until 04:25pm of the day at Khagrachhari BGB Sector Headquarters.

Two other members of the court were Lt Col Sayedis Saqline and Major AZM Golam Mostafa Al-Mamun.

Deputy attorney general Farhad Ahmad assisted the court while all the 71 accused were produced before the court.

During argument, prosecutor of the case Lt Col Md Zakir Hossain pleaded for justice in the incident that took place at the battalion on February 26, 2009 as a sequel to Peelkhana mutiny on the previous day.

The prosecution acknowledged that the accused violated the order of the then Commanding Officer, challenged officers, looted ammunition, took control over the battalion

and attempted to kill the officers.

On hearing, the court adjourned the trial proceedings until at 10:00am of April 25, 2011 and fixed the day for judgment in the case.

Of the 71 accused, 11 jawans confessed to their involvement in the mutiny and begged for mercy while the rest claimed innocence.

Earlier, on November 28, 2010, Nayek Subedar Md Hazrat Ali of 30 Rifles Battalion filed the case against 71 rebels.

In the case he alleged that the accused joined the mutiny at the battalion on February 26, 2009 expressing solidarity with mutineers at Peelkhana in the capital.



PHOTO: STAR  
Coastguard members in a drive in Dhaleshwary river recovered 35 maunds *jatka* (hilsa fry) from a Dhaka-bound passenger trawler near Kathpatti area of Munshiganj early yesterday. They seized 17 drums full of *jatka*.

## 2 siblings, farmer electrocuted

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two siblings and a farmer were electrocuted in Noakhali and Thakurgaon yesterday.

Two siblings were electrocuted at village Mirzapur of Sonaimuri upazila in Noakhali yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The victims are Bithi, 6, and Srabonti, 5, daughters of Nur Islam.

Humayun Kabir, officer in-charge of Sonaimuri police station, quoting the victims' father said, Bithi and Srabonti were playing near their house around 2 pm. Suddenly they came in contact with an electric wire that was hanging from a pole and died instantly.

On information, police went to the spot and recovered their bodies and sent them to Noakhali General

Hospital for postmortem examination.

An UD case was filed with the police station in this connection.

In another incident in Thakurgaon, a young farmer was electrocuted yesterday afternoon at Torra village under Haripur upazila, reports our correspondent.

Victim Jahangir Alam, 22, was son of Abdul Mannan of the same village.

Local people and hospital sources said, Jahangir was irrigating his Boro paddy field.

At about 2:00pm he came in contact with a live wire as he went to work at an electric shallow pump.

Seriously hurt, locals and family members rushed him to Haripur health complex where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

## Man commits 'suicide' after killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A man allegedly committed suicide after killing his wife on Monday night.

Izazul Islam, a fish trader and Sonia Khatun of Arappur Ukilpara area had been having problem in their conjugal life allegedly due to extra-marital affair of Sonia with another person, locals and police said.

The man beat up his wife and later chopped her to death.

Mukta, daughter of the victim and a class six student, told police that she and her brother Jahid were asleep when the incident took place.

Waking up yesterday morning, Mukta found her mother lying in a pool of blood on the floor and her father hanging from the ceiling.

Rahima Begum, owner of the house, said the couple used to quarrel very often.

No one was arrested in this connection, said Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Jhenidah police station.

Locals said the couple was forced to leave Ashrayan project in the same area for Sonia's extra-marital relation.

## SNIPPETS

### 10,000 poultry culled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

About 2,000 poultry died of bird flu in the last four days while 10,000 fowls of Rangpur Poultry Firm at Lalbagh were culled yesterday evening. District livestock officer (DLO) Dr Mosharraf Hossain said after detecting avian influenza virus in the fowls in local lab, the department sent sample to Joypurhat laboratory and Dhaka. Both laboratories found presence of bird flu virus. "So we culled about 10,000 fowls which were attacked with the virus", he said.

### Students form human chain

CU CORRESPONDENT

Sanskrit students of the oriental languages department at Chittagong University (CU) formed a human chain in front of the university administrative building yesterday demanding two separate examination committees for Pali and Sanskrit. The students made the demand as the syllabus for the subjects are totally different. They said there were always two examination committees for Pali and Sanskrit. But for the first time this year a single examination committee has been formed with the teachers of Pali, they added.

### Schoolboy commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

An eight-year-old school student allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Islamkati village in Tala upazila yesterday. The victim was identified as Hafizul Islam, son of Moksed Ali of Islamkati village. Quoting local people police said, Hafizul, a class three student of Islamkati Primary School in the upazila, took poison and died on the spot. As his parents rebuked him for not going to school, he committed suicide, police said.

### Temple, houses attacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Activists allegedly of Jubo League and Shwechhasebak League torched a temple and vandalised some houses of the Hindu community in Ukiara village of Manikganj yesterday. The attackers also beat up a reporter of a national daily when he went to cover the incident. Biplob Chakrabarty, Manikganj correspondent of the Daily Samakal took first aid at Manikganj Sadar Hospital. "I was under attack at around 10:45 am. The attackers confined me to a house for an hour and snatched away my mobile handset and camera," Biplob said.

### Man dies in boat capsized

UNB, Pabna

A man died as a boat capsized in the Padma River at Najirganj village in Sujanagar upazila Monday. The deceased was identified as Jonab Ali, 35, son of Tofil Uddin of Fulbari upazila in Dinajpur district. Police quoting local sources said day-labourer Jonab worked in the house of one Afsar Mollah of the village. House owner Afsar sent Jonab to the Padma River to receive his relative in the morning by boat. Suddenly the boat sank in the river and he drowned.

### Two held with OMS rice

UNB, Sylhet

Two people were arrested along with 170 sacks of Open Market Sale (OMS) rice at Panchpara bazaar in Balaganj upazila early Monday. The arrestees were identified as Khalilur Rahman, 42, and Abdul Kadir, 22. Acting on a tip-off, police intercepted a truck on Tajpur-Balaganj Road and recovered the OMS rice from it. They arrested the truck driver and his helper. Additional sub-inspector Jahangir Alam of Balaganj PS said, rice trader Bimol after purchasing the rice from three OMS rice outlets was sending it to the district town by the truck.



## Nearly extinct vulture caught in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Villagers caught a nearly extinct species of vulture from a water body at Bandigarh village under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Monday evening.

During a visit to the village on yesterday afternoon, this correspondent saw the two legs of the 1.75-foot long bird weighing about 15-kg wasted up with rope.

Al-Amin, 15, son of Mohammad Azizul, caught the bird from Haribeel (a water body) area at about 7:00pm when the bird was searching food on foot, local said.

Irfanul Haque, 35, of Inua village under Pirganj

upazila, said he saw a similar bird at his village about ten years ago and it is locally known as *hokash pakhi*.

"From the photograph, the bird seems to be an almost extinction species of vulture. They mainly feed on flesh of dead bodies. Now dead animals are generally put under the ground and so, vultures suffer for want of food. Besides they are facing difficulties to make nests due to shortage of big trees," said District Livestock Officer Mosaddikur Rahman.

He said he will decide what to do about the vulture after visiting it soon.



PHOTO: STAR  
Students write at Adarsha College centre in Dinajpur town on the first day of the HSC examinations beginning across the country yesterday, right, Barisal education board Chairman Prof Bimal Krishna Majumder visits an examination hall of visually impaired candidates in the same examinations at Islamia College centre in Barisal city.

## CORPORATE BOOKING

Fantasy Kingdom, Heritage Park and Water Kingdom will be reserved on 7th April, 2011 (Thursday) for the Annual Picnic of Hop Lun (BD) Ltd.

From 8th April, 2011 (Friday) all the parks will remain open for all.



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