

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 Dibir haor (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 Dibir haor borders in Jaintapur upazila claiming 55 acres of Bangladeshi lands.

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

Lynkhata 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 Dibir haor 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 sardarnis, 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, sardarnis 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 underaged 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 Panchhara upazila.

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 Peekhana 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 Peekhana in the

capital.

Two people were shot and wounded by rival group during a clash at Gosaipur village in Nabinagar upazila Monday.

The injured were identified as Jaru Mia, 55, and Hannan Mia, 40, of the village.

Police said, there was a longstanding dispute between former UP Chairman Abul Bashar and Jaru Mia over establishing supremacy in the area.

As a sequel to the conflict, Bashar along with his men equipped with lethal weapons attacked supporters of Jaru Mia in the morning.

In Beanibazar, Sylhet, at least 30 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers at Charkhai bazar in Dahal village on Monday.

Local sources said, the clash ensued between two groups of people of Dahal and Baroigram villages following an altercation between Abdul Khalil of Baroi village and Milad of Dahal village over a trifling matter.

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



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 shot as rival villagers in B'baria clash

UNB, Brahmanbaria

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Man commits 'suicide' after killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

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.

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.

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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, Satkhira

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 Shwechchhasebok 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 Samokal 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 capsiz

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 Afzal Mollah of the village. House owner Afzal 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.

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.



CONCORD

Abdulla, Dhaka (next to Fantasy Kingdom)



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Abdulla, Dhaka



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