



Ripe Burmese grape, locally known as *latkan*, covers this tree at the orchard of Shamsher Zaman, chairman of Belabo upazila parishad in Narsingdi district. The area is well-known for large-scale farming of the citrus fruit.

## 6 Indians languishing in C'nawabganj jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Chapainawabganj*

Six Indian nationals are languishing in the district jail despite completion of their jail terms more than six years ago.

Immediately after end of their prison terms, the jail officials tried to send them back to India. But they failed as the clearance letters from the High Commission of India were not issued. "We are still waiting for those," said a jail official.

Failing to send them back to India, the jail authorities are now facing a lot of problems, officials said.

The Indian nationals held in jail are Bhakta Mondol Ramiya alias Bakhmanta Godem, 45, son of Alok Das Ramiya alias Tasmania Godem of village Gandhi under Matamvelli police station of Lalgonda Telegana district of Andhra Pradesh, Sentu Mondol, 30, son of Sunil Mondol of Badhipara village under Jolongi police station and Babar Ali, 31, son of Azahar Ali, Sapura village under Bhagabangola police station of Murshidabad district in West Bengal, Mohammad Rouf, 38, son of Nazmul Islam of Kumira Jukihat village of Arira district, Mohammad Nuruzzaman, 38, son of Abdul Rahman of Siara Colony of Alahabad district in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Jogindro Urao, 70, son of late Protha Urao of Sandspur

under Bradshaw district in UP.

Bhakta Modal Ramiya alias Bakhmanta Godem was arrested from Sirajganj. A case was filed against him under Bangladesh Control of Entry Act on April 28, 2007. As the court did not find him guilty, the authorities released him on September 30 in 2007.

Sentu Mondol was arrested from Bagha upazila in Rajshahi. A case was filed against him with Bagha police station under Special Powers Act on August 19 in 1997. He was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment on August 8 in 1999.

Babar Ali was arrested from Boalia in Rajshahi city on March 26 in 2007. Rajshahi Metropolitan Magistrate awarded him only three months imprisonment. His jail term ended on June 25 in 2007.

Mohammad Rouf was arrested from Bogra on November 18 in 2005. A case was filed against him under Bangladesh Control of Entry Act and a first class magistrate awarded him 15 days simple imprisonment. Prison term of Rouf was completed on September 12 in 2006.

On completion of their prison terms, the jail authorities tried to hand them over to Indian authorities several times but Indian High Commission in Bangladesh did not show any interest to take them back. Since then all the six have been languishing in Chapainawabganj jail, jail officials said.



A man carries for sale bamboo-made fish traps locally known as *duary*, at Balra in Harirampur upazila of Manikganj district as a good number of locals engage in catching fish in the area during the ongoing rainy season.

## 5 injured as rival BCL men clash

UNB, *Khulna*

BCL rival groups in Government Sundarban College in the city clashed yesterday leaving at least five activists wounded.

The clash marred the cultural function organised to welcome the freshers.

As the situation was boiling up, the authorities declared the college closed today.

Witnesses said the groups led by BCL college unit and former VP of the college clashed for control of the dais and cultural function. The rivals chased each other with brickbats and sticks for about two hours from 11 am that spilled over to the roads in the area.

Panic stricken people ran for shelter while shops pulled down the shutters.

Principal Dipak Kumar Dham said the cultural function was immediately cancelled because of clash by BCL rival groups.

The college will remain closed till Sunday. Further action will be taken at a meeting of teachers following discussion on the of the prevailing situation, he said.

## 3 fake Rab men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members arrested three fake members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Hakimpur upazila on Friday night.

They also recovered 20 bottles of phensidyl from their possession.

The arrestees were identified as Mithu Rahman, 27, son of Md Alimuddin, Md Ruhul Amin, 18, son of Aynal Uddin and Jalal Uddin, son of Azahar Mia of Awalgari of Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat.

BGB sources at Phulbari 40 Battalion said that patrol team of Basudevpur camp under Hakimpur upazila led by Md Aslam Hossain, a company commander saw them moving suspiciously near the border at Basudevpur village on Friday.

As the BGB members asked their identity, they introduced themselves as members of Rab.

At a stage of queries, the three tried to flee the scene but failed.

The fake Rab members were later taken to Hakimpur police station and a case was filed against them.

## 3 firearms recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) have recovered three illegal firearms in Sadar upazila on Friday night.

Maj Mahfuzul Haque, commander of Crime Prevention Company-3 of Rab-12, said acting on a tip off, Rab members went to Bausha Natun Bazar village and recovered a revolver, a light gun (LG) and a pipe gun from a field near the houses of criminals Nurunnaby and Rafique in the area.

None was arrested.

# Thousands marooned in 20 Lalmonirhat villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

Heavy rain and on-rush of water from hills across the border have triggered flash flood in the district.

Several thousand people at Teesta and Dharla river basins and low-lying 20 villages in four upazilas of the district became marooned as most parts of these areas went under water yesterday.

The flood affected areas are Dakkhin Goddimari, Char Downani, Char Sindurna, Char Dawabari, Paruliya under Hatibandha upazila, Char Votmari, Char Kakina, Rudreshwar and Jamirbari villages of Kaliganj upazila, Kadomtola, Balapara, Char Gobordhan villages of Aditmari upazila, Char Kurul, Mogholhat, Char Kulaghat, Char Bowalmari, Rajpur, Char Kalmati, Khuniya Gachh, Char Gokunda, Char Milon Bazaar villages of Sadar upazila, WDB sources said.

Lalmonirhat WDB officials said, Teesta river was flowing below two centimetres below its danger level at Daliya point of Hatibandha upazila while Dharla river was flowing three centimeters below its danger mark at Kulaghat point in Lalmonirhat Sadar yesterday noon.

While visiting flood affected Char Votmari village in Kaliganj upazila yesterday, this correspondent found most areas under knee deep water. Many of the villagers took shelter on government roads and WDB dam.

Villager Nirmol Chandra, 52, of Char Votmari

said, heavy rain in the last two days and water from upstream overflowed Teesta yesterday morning triggering flood in the area.

Another villager Sobhan Mia, 36, said, "Our homesteads have gone under water. So, we have taken shelter on government road." Executive engineer of

Lalmonirhat Water Development Board Enayet Ullah said, Teesta and Dharla rivers were still flowing below their danger marks yesterday.

"The water levels in both the rivers are increasing fast as Indians have opened Gojoldoba Barrage at dawn yesterday", he said.



A boy wades across chest-deep water carrying his younger brother on shoulders to reach the latter to school at Bhotmari village in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat district as flash flood triggered by heavy rain and on-rush of water from hills across the border inundated large areas yesterday.

## Rival AL groups lock in fierce gun battle

30 hurt, 20 of them by bullets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

At least 30 people were injured, 20 of them by bullets, in a fierce clash between two rival factions of local Awami League at Paddabila Bazar in Nariarchar village under Terokhedha upazila on Friday night.

Police said the two factions, one led by lawmaker Molla Jalaluddin (khulna-4 constituency) and the other by Terokhedha Upazila Chairman Sharfuddin Biswas Bachchu, also the organising secretary of Khulna district Awami League, clashed over taking control of the area.

Supporters of the two factions traded over 100 bullets and used spears, iron rods and arrows during the clash that continued for three hours from 7:00pm, police and witnesses said. They said 13 houses at the bazaar were looted and set on fire.

Thirteen of the bullet-hit people are undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College and Hospital while the rest at the upazila health complex and different clinics.

Police and members of

the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) brought the situation under control at around 10:00pm. Police raided Nahirchar village early yesterday and picked up 23 people of both factions from there. They also recovered 156 spears, 28 arrows and 15 daggers the village.

Ten platoons of police and Rab members have been deployed at the village and its adjacent areas to avert any further incident.

According to Additional Police Superintendent Molla Jahangir Hossain, the clash was a sequel to previous rivalry between both factions of the ruling party over establishing supremacy in the area.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Mosharrarf Hossain lodged a case as complainant with Terokhedha Police Station at 3:00pm yesterday, naming 23 arrestees and 2,000 unidentified others as accused.

Lawmaker Molla Jalaluddin and Terokhedha Upazila Chairman Sharfuddin Biswas Bachchu yesterday issued two separate statements, blaming each other for Friday night's clash that left 30 people from both sides injured.

## SNIPPETS

### Housewife killed for dowry

UNB, *Laxmipur*

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband and in-laws for dowry at Charpora Gachha village in Ramgoti upazila Friday morning. The deceased was identified as Rina Bibi, 22, wife of Ibrahim of the village. Local people said Ibrahim and his family members used to torture Rina to bring dowry money from her father. On Friday morning, they picked up a quarrel with her over the issue and at one stage beat her mercilessly leaving her dead on the spot.

### Grocer beaten to death

UNB, *Madaripur*

A grocer was beaten to death near Aruakandi bazaar in Rajoir upazila early Friday. Victim Shipon Biswas Monu, 40, of Aruakandi village was owner of a shop at the bazaar. Family sources said when Monu was going to shop from his house at about 5am a gang of criminals beat him mercilessly and at one stage poured poison into his mouth. Later, the victim died on way to Sadar hospital.

### College girl commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

A college girl allegedly committed suicide at her house early Thursday. Victim Jannatul Firdaus Setu, 22, daughter of Shawkat Ali of village Ramchandrapur in Pabna Sadar upazila was a student of honours class at Edward College. Police said Setu hanged herself from the ceiling of the house after a feud with her mother. Sub-inspector of Pabna police station Mujibar Rahman said the victim had lost Tk 340 from her vanity bag and she blamed her mother for it. When her mother scolded her she committed suicide. However local sources said that the victim had affairs with a boy of her college. Her family members rebuked her for it prompting her to commit suicide.

### 3 get life for killing girl

UNB, *Bagerhat*

A court here on Wednesday sentenced three people to life term imprisonment for killing a speech impaired teenage girl on December 17, 2002. The court also fined the convicts Moinul Sheikh, son of Abdus Salam of village Bansherhula, Al Amin Sheikh, son of Farid Sheikh and Habib Sheikh, son of Siraj Sheikh of village Parasadnagar in Rampal upazila Tk 30,000 each, in default, to suffer four years RI more.

# Police free 2 AL men held for looting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Police released two accused in a case filed under the Speedy Trial Act hours after their arrest in Terokhedha upazila on July 27.

The accused, Khokan Sheikh and Robi Sheikh, were arrested on the night of July 26 on charge of looting a shrimp enclosure at Naliarchar village in the upazila on July 22.

An armed gang looted shrimps worth about Tk 5 lakh from the enclosure owned by Bulbul Ahmed, an activist of Awami League

Terokhedha upazila unit, at around 11:00pm on July 22.

Bulbul lodged a case with Terokhedha Police Station the following day, accusing four people including Khokan and Robi. The case was recorded under the Speedy Trial Act the same day and Sub-Inspector Rafiq Ahmed made investigation officer (IO).

Some locals caught Khokan and Robi at Katenga Bazar on the night of July 26 and later handed them over to the police who let them off at around 6:00am on July 27.

The complainant of the case, Bulbul, told this correspondent that Khokan and Robi Sheikh gave him death threat immediately after being released from police custody.

When asked, investigation officer Rafiq said the officer-in-charge (OC) can release any accused from thana custody.

OC Matiar Rahman, when contacted, claimed Terokhedha upazila chairman Sharfuddin Biswas Bachchu put pressure on him to release Khokan and Robi, also the local AL activists.

"I let them off under duress," the OC added.

Advocate Mominul Islam, coordinator of the Khulna unit of Bangladesh Human Rights Enforcement Society, said the OC or any other police officer has no right to release any accused in a case under the Speedy Trial Act from police station without court order.

The upazila chairman refuted the allegation of influencing the OC to release the two from the police station.

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