



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Tangon Barrage area at Chapati village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila assumes a festive look as a large number of people take part in the yearly 'fish catching fair' there yesterday.

AKHAURA, BENAPOLE BORDERS

# Over 700kg hilsa seized while being smuggled

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday seized over 700 kilograms of hilsa while being smuggled to India through two borders.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) of 12 Battalion at Sarail in Brahmanbaria arrested a man and seized 505 kilograms of hilsa fish from his possession on Akhaura By-pass Road yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Md. Rony, 28, of Kalikapur village in Akhaura upazila of the district, reports our correspondent.

According to BGB sources, Rony was smuggling the fish to India by a pickup van. On information, a team of BGB, headed by Subedar Mohosin, intercepted the van and arrested him along with the fish.

The arrestee was handed

over to Akhaura PS and the seized fish was deposited to Akhaura custom office, the BGB sources said.

Our Correspondent in Benapole, Jessor adds: BGB recovered 210 kilograms of hilsa fish from a human hauler in Rail Crossing area of Benapole Checkpost early yesterday.

Checkpoint camp incharge Badsha Mia said, acting on a secret information, a team of BGB-26 raided the area and seized the hilsa fish while being smuggled to India.

The price of the fish would be Tk 2 lakh. The seized hilsa was later handed over to the local customs warehouse, Badsha said.

None was arrested as the smugglers fled the scene sensing presence of the border guards, he added.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### Wild boars kill jhum farmer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A jhum farmer was killed by wild boars while he was returning home from his field at Fitthimachharapara in Ghilachhari union under Rajasthali upazila of the district on Tuesday evening. He was identified as Bhakkan Tangchangya, 45, son of late Dinanda Tangchangya of the village. Locals said, a herd of wild boars attacked him at about 7:30pm and killed him on the spot. Police later recovered the body and handed it over to his relatives yesterday.

### 5 'abductors' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police arrested five alleged kidnappers and seized a microbus from Joydeb Purbopara village under Gangachhara upazila on Tuesday night. Police said, they were arrested while trying to kidnap a 15-year-old schoolgirl from Joydev Purbopara village. The arrestees were identified as Mostakin, 23, son of Aatur Rahman of Joydeb Purbopara village under Gangachhara upazila, Shahidul Islam, 22, son of Khalilur Rahman of Umar village of Gangachhara upazila, Habibur Rahman, 22, son of Abdur Rahman of Bahadur Singh village of Rangpur Sadar upazila, Faridul Islam, 22, son of Belal Hossain and Royel Mian, 25, son of Saidur Rahman of the same village. Other three alleged kidnappers managed to flee the scene, police said.

# A Rangamati road remains in awful state for years

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Rangapani-Asambasti-Tabalchhari road in the town has remained in an awful condition for years.

Rangamati Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) on December 1, 2010 gave work orders to contractors Mujibur Rahman Mujib, Md Tipu and Md Mostafa as lowest bidders to repair the 5.4km road under three packages with an estimated cost of Tk 7 crore, with a one-year timeframe to complete the task.

But most of the work has remained incomplete despite time extension for two times as only Mostafa has nearly finished his portion of the work but the two others have kept their work suspended for months.

Mostafa won the bid with his own firm M/S Al-mas Construction while Tipu and Mujib dropped their documents using the name of M/S Ananta Bikash Tripura, a construction firm owned by an indigenous person in Khagrachhari, said Sohrab Ali, executive engineer of LGED.

The name of M/S Ananta Bikash Tripura was used allegedly to dodge income tax as the government relaxed the tax for the indigenous people through a circular, said LGED sources.

Only the sub-base work has been completed at some points of Swarnatila-Mushroom Production



PHOTO: STAR

Left without adequate repair, Rangapani-Assambasti road in Rangamati town has remained a nuisance for commuters for years.

Centre and Bhedibhedi Sangharom Bihar-Monoghar portions of the road, said sources at Rangamati LGED office.

"After doing a very little work, Mujib stopped it about a year ago on the pretext of non-availability of fund. But he has already drawn Tk 37 lakh as running bill. He sought advance bill which I cannot give," said Sohrab Ali.

"I served 18 notices, asking him to complete the work quickly. I also asked Ananta Bikash to finish the work and he assured me that he will do the work if Mujib

does not do it. I may cancel the work and make the license black-listed if they fail to complete the work by next December," he said.

Mujib, also a local leader of Jubo League, refuted the allegation of seeking advance bill and said, "The executive engineer could not arrange necessary funds and failed to give proper decisions. I could not complete the work due to rain. I have already started the work and it will complete very soon."

Md Tipu, also claiming that he stopped the repair work on his portion due to

rain, said he hopes to finish the work within a very short time.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw that the badly damaged roads were almost unfit for vehicular movement.

Dhirendra Chakma, a ward councillor of Rangapani area under Rangamati municipality, said, "People of my area are suffering a lot due to the awful condition of the road for long. About four months ago, I submitted a prayer to the deputy commissioner to take initiative to repair the road."

# Newsman attacked for report on 'tender sharing'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kustha

A group of people allegedly belonging to the ruling Awami League (AL) attacked a journalist in Jibonnagar upazila of Chuadanga district on Tuesday night, leaving him seriously injured.

Kazi Shamsur Rahman, Jibonnagar correspondent of Chuadanga based Bangla daily Amader Sangbad, is now undergoing treatment at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

Locals said a group of eight to ten people led by Babu, younger brother of AL Jibonnagar municipality unit President Abdul Latif, intercepted Shamsur Rahman while he was returning home at Shaplakuripara in Jibonnagar town from his office, riding a motorbike at around 10:30pm.

They hit Rahman with bamboo sticks and iron rod and immediately left the scene.

According to the injured journalist, the gang swooped on him as the newspaper on Tuesday published a report on a

'secret meeting' between AL leader Abdul Latif and upazila BNP President Ashraful Islam Babu Khan to reach a compromise over a tender.

Rahman said he filed the report on the 'secret meeting' that was held at the BNP leader's house in the town on Monday.

"Latif's brother Babu gave me a threat over cellphone at around 4:30pm on Tuesday for publishing the report in the newspaper," Rahman further said.

He filed a case with Jibonnagar Police Station yesterday, accusing Babu and seven others. Police arrested one of the accused named Manik, son of Robzel Hossain of the upazila town. Shahjahan Ali Khan, officer-in-charge of Jibonnagar Police Station, said drive is on to arrest the rest of the accused in the case.

AL Jibonnagar municipality unit in a statement yesterday claimed that no AL man was involved in the attack on the journalist. The report published in the newspaper was baseless, the statement said.



PHOTO: STAR

A Hindu woman, whose house was vandalised during August 4 attack on Rajapur village in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur, receives a cheque for Tk 20,000 from Relief and Disaster Management Minister Abul Hasan Mahmood Ali at Bolai Bazar in the upazila yesterday. The minister distributed cheques among 49 affected Hindu families of the village.

### 16 sued on murder charge

UNB, Chuadanga

A case has been filed against 16 people in connection with the killing of Jubo Dal leader Abdul Hai Boltu in Alamdanga upazila. Victim's father Abdul Bari filed the case with Alamdanga Police Station on Tuesday night. The accused include joint convener of Alamdanga Pura Swechchhasebak League Jihad-e Julfikar Tutul and Jubo League leader Saidul Alam Shamsul. In the case statement, Bari said the accused had been demanding Tk 1 lakh from Boltu and they killed him following his refusal to pay the amount. Criminals hacked Boltu indiscriminately on his way back home from a local bazaar in the upazila on October 26, leaving him critically injured. He succumbed to his injuries the following day.

### Rival Jubo League men clash

UNB, Chandpur

At least 15 people, including two cops, were injured in a clash between two factions of Jubo League at Teguria in Kachua upazila on Monday night. Local sources said, the supporters of two groups, one led by Mizan and another by Ahsan, locked in a clash at about 9:30pm over establishing supremacy in the area. On information, police rushed in and fired six rounds of rubber bullets to bring the situation under control. Sub-inspector Mobarak Hossain of Shachar police outpost and constable Barkat Ullah were among the injured. The injured were admitted to different hospitals and clinics.



PHOTO: STAR

Driven by the urge to return to the workplace in time after spending the eid holidays with near and dear ones, people take risky ride on the roof of a bus at Bhuapur upazila bus stand in Tangail district yesterday. Highways across the country see similar pictures now as accommodation in vehicles is too inadequate for the large number of passengers during festival holidays.

## HABIGANJ SERIAL BLAST CASES

# Deposition of three PWs recorded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court in Habiganj yesterday recorded deposition of three prosecution witnesses (PW) in the three cases filed for the serial blasts on 17 August, 2005 in Habiganj district town.

The chief of the outlawed Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) along with six others were brought to the court amid tight security in the morning.

Sources said, additional district and sessions judge-1 Faruque Ahmed also rejected the bail prayers of the accused and set the next date of trial on 15 November. Prosecution witnesses Rawshan Ali, Arab Ali and Abdul Mannan, witnesses to the blasts at the three places in the town, later gave their deposition yesterday.

The accused JMB chief Moulana Saidur Rahman, also former ameer of Habiganj district Jamaat, JMB's IT section chief AHM Shamim, also son of Moulana Saidur, JMB activists Azizul Islam Gazi, Hafez Huzaifa, Md Belal Hossain,

Shafiqul Islam and Salah Uddin alias Salehin were produced before the Special Tribunal Judge.

Accused Salah Uddin is still on the run, court source said.

On 17 August of 2005, blasts rocked places near the deputy commissioner office, Sadar Police Station, Habiganj municipal market, Eidgah premises and the district Bar Library in Habiganj district town. It was a part of countrywide series blasts by the organised Islamit outfit. Police later filed 5 cases accusing the JMB men.

On investigation, the Habiganj police filed charge sheet against JMB chief Moulana Saidur Rahman of Khojargaon village in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj, his son Shamim and six others.

The cases were later transferred to the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal in August of 2010. But, those were sent back to the district court as the trial could not be completed within the stipulated time due to absence of judge for months.