



PHOTO: STAR

Patuakhali district administration knocked down over 60 illegal structures to free the Shibbaria River from encroachment in Kalapara upazila yesterday.

# Illegal structures demolished to free Shibbaria River

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali district administration yesterday started demolishing illegal structures on both sides of the Shibbaria River under Kalapara upazila of the district.

Two mobile courts led by executive magistrates Alamgir Hossain and Abdul Wadud dismantled over 60 illegal structures on the first day of the drive.

The district administration has launched the drive

to demolish over 100 illegal structures built on both sides of the river, said Suren Chandra, assistant land officer of Mohipur land office.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) filed a write petition (No 8936/2014) with the High Court (HC) on October 12 this year, seeking steps against the people who built illegal structures, encroaching upon the Shibbaria River.

A two-member team, led by Lincoln Bayen, Barisal division coordinator of BELA, visited the spot on February 3 this year and collected information, photos and other documents relating to the encroachment on the river. Lincoln along with his team member Md Wahiduzzaman visited different points, including Mohipur, Alipur, Laxmibazar areas of the Shibbaria River.

The district administration

started knocking down the illegal structures on both sides of the Shibbaria River after The Daily Star on January 22 published a report captioned 'River Grabbing in Patuakhali' on page 2.

Two famous fish landing stations--Mohipur and Alipur--are located on both side of the river. It is also a safer place for the fishermen who take shelter here during cyclone, flood and tidal surge.

## Abducted girl rescued, youth held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Beanpole, Jessore

Police yesterday rescued a Class Seven student of Benapole Mariom Memorial Girls School from Boroachra village in Benapole municipality town and arrested a youth in this connection.

Matiur Rahman, sub-inspector at Benapole Port police station, said the 13-year-old girl was picked up on a car by a gang led by Sagor Ali in Benapole office area on her way to school at around 9am on Thursday.

The alleged abductor was identified as Sagor Ali, 19, son of Yusuf Ali of Boroachra village in Benapole.

The girl was rescued from Boroachra terminal area after her parents informed police.

## 65 fake PSC examinees in one school!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mobile court on Thursday expelled 65 fake PSC examinees of Ananda School in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj district and also fined six teachers of the school.

The school is run by a non-governmental organisation to implement the government programme to stop drop-outs and increase literacy rate.

During a visit to Boro-Hoar School and College centre, a team led by Ullapara Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Shamim Alam, identified the fake examinees of Ananda School and expelled them.

Teachers of the school hired the boys, most of them passed the PSC examinations last year, to appear in the examinations on behalf of the school, the UNO said, adding that they did this immoral act to get fund from the government.

The court fined six teachers of Ananda School Tk 10,000 each for taking the fake examinees to the centre. They are Md Emon Ali, Marzia Yeasmin, Nasrin Akhter, Mukta Khatun, Sultana Razia and Murshida Khatun.

The district administration formed a three-member committee, headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Shafikul Islam, to investigate the matter. The committee has been asked to submit its report in seven working days.

## One arrested with answer scripts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Police in a drive arrested a man along with 50 answer scripts of Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore district on Friday night.

The arrestee was identified as Rabiul Islam, a muezzin of Navaron Puraton Bazar Jam-e-Mosque and son of Abdul Aziz of Parberapani village.

Police said, acting on tip-off, a police team along with Jhikargachha upazila nirbahi officer Azmul Raqib raided the area and arrested Rabiul along with 50 answer sheets at night.

# Diarrhoea patients crowd Natore Sadar Hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

At least 50 people of Natore municipality have been admitted to Sadar Hospital with diarrhoea in the last two days.

In addition to the disease, the patients suffer a lot as they have to take treatment on the floor of the hospital amid cold weather due to acute crisis of beds.

Abul Hossain, a resident of the area, said "I was attacked with diarrhoea on Thursday night after taking water from supply line".

Angury Begum, another diarrhoea patient, said

sometimes the supply water becomes very dirty and contaminated.

"But we have to take the water as there is no other option", she said.

Dr Abul Kalam Azad, resident medical officer (RMO) of the hospital, said most patients started coming to the hospital from Thursday afternoon.

We have already diagnosed the stools of the patients and found infections, he said, adding that they were suffering from waterborne diseases.

Contacted, Sheikh Emdadul Haq Al Mamun, mayor of the municipality, refuting the charges, said

that the water is supplied to the townspeople after purification and so there is no scope of contamination.

Civil Surgeon Ferdous Nilufer said, of the 50, only 16 patients were at the hospital till yesterday while the rest went home after taking treatment.

In response to a query, she said as there were only six beds for diarrhoea patients at the Sadar Hospital, so others had to be treated on the floor.

"I have already asked the sanitary inspector Bazlul Huda to collect samples of the supply water and sent it to Dhaka for laboratory test", she said.



PHOTO: STAR

Diarrhoea patients being treated on the floor as Natore Sadar Hospital has only six beds for them.

# Rival faction attacks AL office in Jhinaigati

Convener, other leaders injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

Around twenty people, including convener of Jhinaigati upazila Awami League (AL) body ASM Warez Nayeem, were injured in an attack on the local Awami League office by a faction of party in the upazila on Friday night.

Police, quoting party men and locals, said the central committee of AL had announced holding of the party's Jhinaigati upazila council on December 4.

Angered, a rival group led allegedly by former Jhinaigati upazila unit Jubo

League president Abul Kalam Azad and another leader Abu Taher, who were deprived of positions in the recently declared committee of the party, attacked Warez Nayeem and his supporters at AL office in the area at about 8:30pm.

The attackers, numbering about 20-25 and equipped with sticks and billhooks, also vandalised chairs and tables at the AL office.

Critically injured Warez Nayeem, 50, committee member Majibor Rahman, 52, former upazila BCL chief Harunur Rashid, 35, and five others were hospitalised.

Later, supporters of Warez Nayeem vandalised a few auto-rickshaws at Julgaon village at about 10:00pm and blocked the Sherpur-Jhinaigati Road protesting the attack. The protest was continuing till filing of this report at 2:30pm.

On information, police rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control.

Contacted, Azad told this correspondent that Nayeem had formed different committees at his will, depriving the devoted leaders and workers of the party.

# Housewife beaten to death 'for dowry'

Another found dead

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A young housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband and in-laws over a dowry-related feud at Muslimpur Tolghar village in Shibganj upazila early Friday.

The deceased was identified as Mousumi Begum, 22, wife of Mizanur, a resident of the village, reports UNB.

Locals said, Mizanur had married Mousumi four years ago.

After their marriage, Mizanur and his family members often tortured Mousumi for dowry.

Mousumi's father Mozammel Haque alleged Mizanur and his family members beat up Mousumi mercilessly in the dead of night, leaving her dead on the spot.

They later hung the body with the ceiling of her room to show it as a case of suicide, he said.

Police later arrested Jesmin's husband Mizanur Rahman, mother-in-law Mili Begum and sister-in-law Tanjila Khatun.

In Sherpur, police recovered the body of a housewife from her residence at Uttar Kharia village in Sribordi

upazila on Friday. The deceased was identified as Sujin Begum, 20, wife of Sujin Miah, of the village.

Police quoting locals said, Sujin married Jesmin, daughter of Abdul Jalil, a resident of Pashchim Jhinia village of the upazila, eight months ago, reports the news agency.

Sujin used to lock in quarrel with his wife over trifling matters and torture her since their marriage, locals said.

On Friday morning, local people saw Jesmin's body hanging from the ceiling of her bedroom and informed police.

Jesmin's mother Sajeda Begum alleged that Sujin used to torture Jesmin for dowry and killed her over the issue.

However, Sujin's family members said, Jesmin committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room.

Whether it is a case of suicide or murder, it would be confirmed after the autopsy report, said Shawon Mahmud Apu, sub-inspector of Sribordi Police Station.

# Zeal Bangla mill starts cane crushing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Cane crushing started at Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills Ltd in Dewanganj upazila on Friday with a target to produce 12,375 metric tonnes of sugar in 150 working days this season.

Abdur Rouf Khan, managing director of the mill inaugurated the cane crushing around 5:00pm on Friday.

The mill has a target to produce 12,375 metric tonnes of sugar by crushing 1.5 lakh MT of sugarcane cultivated on eleven thousand acres of land under the sugar mill this season, said Mofizur Rahman Khan, general manager (agriculture) of the mill.

Last year, the mill had produced 11,400 metric tonnes of sugar by crushing 1,47,605 MT of sugarcane.

# Yaba seized

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered 10,000 pieces of Yaba tablets at Hila Customs point in Teknaf upazila here yesterday.

Tippled off, a team of BGB raided in the area and seized a boat along with some sacks containing crabs at about 9:30am.

Later, the border force recovered the Yaba tablets searching the sacks.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Thirty-five bicycles were distributed among girl students in Barisal on Friday under the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust Fund. The programme was held at Barisal Circuit House after a workshop there.

## Hotel boy murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A teenage hotel boy was murdered here and his body was recovered from a paddy field yesterday morning. The boy was identified as Md. Rana, 15, son of Moteleb Hossain of Telipara village under Paschim Shivrapur village under Sadar upazila and worked at a hotel in Gopalganj area. Police said, the villagers noticed the body at a paddy field at Chandganj village and informed them. The body was later sent to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital for autopsy. The boy was murdered and his body was dumped in the field, police said.

## Housewife tortured for dowry

UNB, Jessore

A housewife was tortured and her two legs were broken allegedly by her husband over dowry at Bhaina Rajapur village in Sadar upazila on Friday night. The victim was identified as Laboni Akter, 23, wife of Ezajul Haque of the village. Locals said, Laboni, daughter of Liakat Ali, was married off to Ezajul four years back. Since then, Ezajul used to torture her, demanding Tk one lakh as dowry. Ezajul picked up a quarrel with Laboni at about 10.00pm over the issue. At one stage, he beat Laboni with an iron rod mercilessly, breaking her two legs. Later she was rushed to Jessore Medical College Hospital.

## Dispute over graveyard body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Local criminals yesterday vandalised hundreds of chairs and tables at a function at the central eidgah in Khalghat area of the town yesterday, protesting the formation of the new central graveyard committee. Azizur Rahman, general secretary of the committee, said they called a general meeting on the eidgah premises over formation of a new committee of the graveyard. They postponed their meeting around 10:00am when a police team rushed to the meeting spot and asked them to stop the meeting following an order of a local ruling party leader, added Azizur. All of a sudden, around 11:00am, a gang came to the spot and started vandalising the chairs and tables in presence of the law enforcers and left the scene. Contacted, Jasimuddin, officer-in-charge of Sadar Model Police Station, however said police went there to stop a picnic arranged by some locals of the area.

## Guard stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A security guard was found dead in Old Bus Stand area of Sadar upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Akbar Ali, 55, a security guard at Old Bus Stand Bazar and hailed from Teliapara village in the upazila. Mehedi Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said police recovered the body around 9:30am on getting information. The body bore several injury marks, added the OC. The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately. Police suspected that criminals stabbed him to death elsewhere and later dumped the body in bus stand area.

## EXPULSION OF BCL LEADERS

# Haji Danesh univ closed in fear of backlash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The authorities of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) yesterday closed the university for 16 days from today, apprehending law and order situation on the campus over expulsion of three BCL leaders.

Following a meeting held with the deans of all faculties and the hall superintendents earlier on the day, the authorities issued a notice in this regard at 2:00 and also asked the students to vacate their dormitories by 5:00pm.

Campus sources said, the HSTU authorities took the decision in the wake of protest by the university unit of BCL against the expulsion orders.

On November 27, three BCL leaders were permanently expelled from the university for cheating in the admission test, using a hi-tech device on November 4.

The disciplinary committee expelled the three on the basis of the report submitted by the probe committee on November 25.

The expellees are Arun Kanti Roy, a PhD student and general secretary of the HSTU unit of BCL, SM Zahid Hasan, a fourth year student of business studies and organising secretary of the BCL unit, and Anindya Dutta, a second year student of telecommunication and electric engineering and executive committee member of the unit.

Police have been deployed on the campus to avert any untoward incident, said Dr Shahadat Hossain Khan, student adviser of the university.

Addressing a press conference on the campus at around 4:30pm, BCL university unit protested the authorities' decision to close the university. Iftekharul Islam, president of the unit, demanded immediate withdrawal of expulsion orders against the three party men.

During the admission test on November 4, teachers of the university caught a student named Md Abul Hossain with the device and handed him over to the police. Based on his statement, the HSTU authorities temporarily expelled Arun Kanti Roy and SM Zahid Hasan.

The authorities formed a three-member probe committee headed by Prof Mizanur Rahman of soil science department on the day. Two other members of the committee are Dr Shahadat Hossain Khan of soil science department and Dr Anis Khan of agronomy department.

The academic activities of the university have remained suspended since November 17 as BCL enforced an indefinite strike, demanding withdrawal of the expulsion orders issued on November 4 against the BCL leaders and demanding removal of the vice chancellor.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Gaibandha unit, brought out a procession in the district town before holding the cultural body's 16th conference at local Shilpakala Academy yesterday.