

Illegal structures on the railway land at Futani Bazar in Lalmonirhat town.

PHOTO: STAR

Railway land under illegal occupation in Lalmonirhat

Building of unauthorised structures, sale of 'possession' continues

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Over a thousand illegal structures have already been built on grabbed railway lands in different areas of the district while a section of occupiers are illegally selling 'possession' of such lands.

About 500 acres of railway lands worth about Tk 500 crore in the district are under illegal occupation and those are mostly being used on commercial basis, said sources at Lalmonirhat railways' estate office.

"I used two bighas of railway land for ten years after leasing it from the railway authority. Six

months ago, I sold its possession for Tk 2 lakh," said Nazrul Islam, at Fulgachh village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Abdus Sattar, a trader at Futani Bazar in the town, said he purchased one decimal of railway land for commercial use for Tk 50 thousand from Manik Miah in the area a year ago and built a structure on it for running a business there.

"I sold the possession of railway land after leasing it from the railway authority," Manik Miah said.

Over a hundred illegal structures have been built on railway lands for running

business at Futani Bazar and work continues to build many other structures on the railway lands, local trader Meher Ali said, adding that railway officials concerned are not taking any action against the illegal structures due to unknown reasons.

"Alleged railway land grabbers are running business and selling and buying of possession of railway land has become a regular matter here," said Azgor Ali, a local on Station Road in Hatibandha upazila.

Seeking anonymity, a railway estate official in Lalmonirhat said railway

authorities concerned are conducting drives against illegal structures on railway lands in different districts but there is no such drive at its divisional headquarters in Lalmonirhat due to invisible pressure by political leaders.

None was given lease for using railway land on commercial basis, especially at Futani Bazar in the town, said Mohammad Ohidunnabi, divisional estate officer of Lalmonirhat Railway Division.

Estate officials are ready to conduct drives to free occupied railway lands and demolish illegal structures there soon, he said.

2 traders abducted in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Armed criminals abducted two traders for ransom in Alikadam upazila of the district yesterday morning.

The victims are Md Ali, 40, and Saiful Islam, 30. They are from Chokoria area of Cox's Bazar district.

Locals said a gang of 10 to 12 abducted the duo at gunpoint from Kochhopjiri area, 14-km from Alikadam upazila headquarters.

The kidnappers later phoned the family members and demanded Tk 3 lakh as ransom for release of each of

the traders, said upazila chairman Abul Kalam.

Mro National Party (MNP) might be behind the abduction as they have been conducting criminal activities in the area for a long time, the chairman said.

The gang kidnapped one Kashem Soudagar from the upazilla eight months ago. He was freed after paying Tk six lakh.

Lieutenant Colonel Mizanur Rahman, Alikadam Zone Commander, said army personnel are trying to rescue the abducted traders and arrest the criminals.

Clash over forming Eidgah committee leaves one dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A madrasa student was killed and four others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers following a feud over formation of an Eidgah committee and leasing of a local bazar at Jhaugara village in Nandail upazila of the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Ashraf Islam Farid, 20, a second year Fazil student of Achargaon Fazil Madrasa in the upazila, and son of late Abdul Hamid of the village.

Quoting locals, Md Ataur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Nandail Police Station, said there had been a feud between the family of Farid and neighbour Abul Kalam over formation of Jhaugara Eidgah committee and leasing of local Utlal Bazar.

Farid's elder brother Shafiqul Islam Masud, also a local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League, was elected as secretary of the

Eidgah committee just before Eid-ul-Azha, which angered Kalam and his men.

Rivalry was heightened as Kalam leased the bazar, said the OC.

The two groups locked in an altercation over the issue at the village around 10:00pm on Friday, and at one stage, they swooped on each other, leaving at least five people from both sides injured.

Critically injured Farid was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and then referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he died at around 4:00am yesterday, police said.

Of the injured, Anwar Hossain, 26, Rafiq, 35, Kalam, 40, were admitted to Nandail Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to MMCH, police said.

None was arrested in connection with the incident as of 5:00pm yesterday.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Labourer electrocuted

UNB, Manikganj

A labourer died from electrocution at Terosri Bazar in Ghior upazila of the district on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Shamsul Islam, 50, son of late Kashim Uddin, of Basudebbari village. Shamsul used to work at a rice mill at Terosri Bazar. Owner of the rice mill Abdul Aziz said Shamsul came in contact with a live electric wire while he was repairing a machine at the mill around 3:00pm and died on the spot.

Upazila Jamaat amir arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police arrested the amir of Baralekha upazila unit of Jamaat-e-Islami in the district early yesterday. The Jamaat leader Maulana Azir Uddin was arrested from Kutubnagar village of Baralekha upazila in a sabotage case. Mohammad Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Baralekha police station confirmed the matter.

Youth's body found at rail station

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Police recovered the body of a young man at Gongasagar railway station in Akhaura upazila yesterday. The identity of the deceased could not be known. Locals found the body lying at the railway station around 8:00am and informed the police who recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

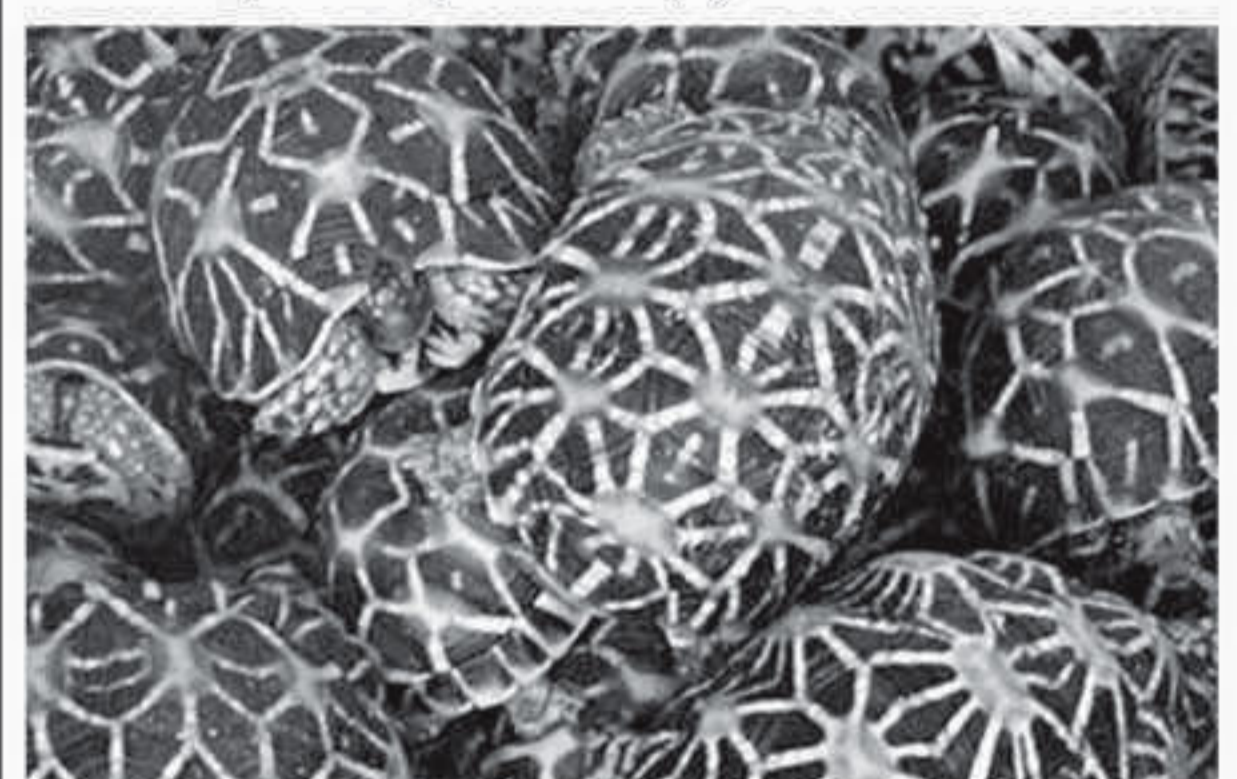


PHOTO: STAR

Border Guard Bangladesh seizes 180 smuggled Indian tortoises from Boropota Bazar near Putkhali border in Benapole under Jessore district yesterday.

180 tortoises seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) men recovered 180 rare turtles from Putkhali border under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday. Lieutenant Colonel Jahangir Hossain, commanding officer (CO), Border Guard 26-Battalion, said, being tipped off, BGB personnel raided Baropota Bazar on Benapole-Putkhali Road at around 10:00am yesterday and seized the tortoises. The tortoises, which were smuggled in from India, were kept in sacks and suitcases, said the BGB CO. The tortoises were handed over to the department of wildlife conservation centre in Khulna. None was arrested in this connection. A case was lodged with Benapole port police station in this regard.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Coastguard seizes 200 kg of hilsa from Urirchar in Swandip upazila under Chittagong district during their drives on Saturday evening and early Sunday as the government has imposed a ban on catching and sale of the popular fish for 15 days from September 24 to help its safe spawning.

28 of 54 detained fishermen jailed in 3 districts

Hilsa, current nets, fishing trawlers seized

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Law enforcers detained 54 fishermen in Chandpur, Chittagong and Manikganj districts yesterday and the day before for catching mother hilsa, defying a 15-day ban till October 9.

Our Chandpur correspondent reported that mobile courts yesterday sentenced 28 fishermen to jail in Sadar upazila.

Coastguards and district taskforce conducted separate drives in the Megna River in the morning and arrested 28 fishermen from Lagnimara and its adjacent areas.

The detainees were later produced before the courts of executive magistrates Rashed Mohammad Kamal and Udayan Dewan. The courts sentenced 19 fisher-

men to one year's imprisonment and nine others to one month's each for netting hilsa, defying the ongoing ban.

Away in Chittagong, coastguard members arrested 12 fishermen along with five trawlers from the Bay near Swandip upazila early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

They also seized 200Kgs of hilsa and 20,000 metres of current net worth around Tk 10 lakh from them.

Foyzul Islam, commander of coastguards' vessel 'Ruposhi Bangla' said law enforcers raided Urir Char Island in the upazila around 5:00am and arrested the fishermen along with the popular fish and nets.

The detainees and the seized fish and nets were later handed over to the

district fisheries department.

Our Manikganj correspondent adds: A mobile court led by Shibalaya Upazila Nirbahi Officer AKM Galib Khan on Saturday fined 14 fishermen Tk 3000 each for netting mother hilsa from the Padma River.

A team of the law enforcers detained the fishermen, seized 1.5 lakh metres of fishing net and 40 Kg of hilsa from them, said Rakibuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Shibalaya Police Station.

The arrestees are Abu Mondal, Soha Mondal, Chhakel Mondal, Adu Fakir, Elem Sardar, Rais Khan, Nurul Islam, Mithu, Ershad Ali, Yusuf, Ershad Mondal, Joynal, Awlad, and Halim Mondal.

Two Jamaat men arrested in arson cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Two Jamaat activists, accused in arson cases, were arrested from Domar upazila on Saturday night.

The arrestees are Nazrul Islam, 45, son of Nurul Huque of Bakdogra village, and Insan Ali, 60, son of Taleb Ali of Betgara village in the upazila.

Nazrul is one of the accused in the case for torching a polling centre in the upazila during the parliamentary elections on January 5, 2014.

Insan Ali was arrested on charge of setting fire to the Mahiganj Awami League office on Friday night.

General Secretary of unit filed a case with Domar Police Station on Saturday, accusing Insan Ali and some others.

Police yesterday produced the Jamaat men in a court that sent them to jail.

Housewife murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A housewife was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband at Dari Shahadiar village under Ataikula Police Station in the district on Saturday night.

The deceased is Arjina Khatun, 24, wife of Md Habibullah of the village. They got married six years ago, police and family sources said.

Both had an altercation over family matters at around 7:00pm on Saturday. At one stage, Habibullah stabbed Arjina, leaving her dead on the spot.

Being informed, police went to the spot yesterday morning, recovered the body and sent it to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Bring Sumon's killers to book

Demand fellow college students at human chain at Bhuapur in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Students formed a human chain on Government Ibrahim Khan College premises in Bhuapur upazila yesterday, demanding arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of Sumon Miah, a first year student of the college.

Earlier, they brought out a procession that paraded the streets at the upazila headquarters.

Teachers of the college

joined the human chain and spoke at the programme.

They expressed their frustration over the failure of law enforcers in arresting the culprits, even a week after the incident.

Sumon, 20, son of Ramjan Ali of Falda village, was abducted by local goons from a wedding party near his house on September 27 and taken to Sujanagar village in adjacent Gopalpur upazila because of enmity

over love affair with a girl, police and local sources said.

The gang tied Sumon to a tree at the village and beat him up mercilessly.

Being informed by locals, the victim's father went to the spot, rescued Sumon and took him to Gopalpur Upazila Health Complex. He died while he was being taken to Tangail Medical College Hospital on September 28.

Sumon's father filed a case with Bhuapur Police

Station the next day, accusing six named and four other unnamed people.

Contacted, Fazlul Kabir, officer-in-charge (OC) of Bhuapur Police Station, said police arrested Rubel Miah, 23, a neighbour of Sumon, from Falda village on Thursday for his alleged involvement in the killing.

Law enforcers are raiding different areas to arrest the rest of the accused, the OC said.



PHOTO: STAR

Students and teachers of Government Ibrahim Khan College in Bhuapur upazila under Tangail district form a human chain on the college premises yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the killers of Sumon Miah, a first year honours student of the college.