

Random sand lifting from river poses erosion threat

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Four sand traders have continued sand lifting from three spots within five kilometres of the Bangalee River in Nimgachhi union of Dhunat upazila under the district for one month, threatening croplands and dwellings on the both banks of the river.

Visiting the locations a few days ago, it was found that men of Kamrul Islam and Sujan Mia were using

two shallow machines at Dhaliaghata for lifting sand, creating large holes in the riverbed.

Sand lifters Shakil Mahmud and Tariqul Islam have also set shallow machines one km and three km upstream of the river and continued lifting huge amount of sand for selling in the town for high prices.

Locals seeking anonymity said they dare not protest the harmful act as the sand

lifters are influential people in the area.

This correspondent failed to contact the sand lifters as their cell phones remained off.

Contacted, Sujauddoula Ripon, chairman of Nimgachhi union parishad, said,

"Ignoring our forbiddance, the sand lifters have continued the callous act, posing threat of erosion. Besides, the government is being

deprived of huge amount of revenue due to the illegal sand lifting."

Hafizur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer of Dhunat, said except the government-approved sand lifting zone of Bererbari area of the river, there is no permission for lifting sand from any location in the upazila.

"I will send an official to see the matter and legal action will be taken against the illegal sand lifters," he added.



Illegal sand lifting by shallow engines from the Bangalee River at Dhaliakandi Ghat in Dhunat upazila under Bogra district creates deep holes in the water body, posing threat of land collapse and erosion in the area.

SNIPPETS

Robber held with bombs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Members of the Rapid action Battalion (Rab) arrested a robber and seized three bombs and a sharp weapon from his possession in Gangni upazila of Meherpur district early yesterday. Abdur Razzak, commander of Rab-6 in Gangni, said the elite force, acting on a tip-off, raided the house of Ziarul Islam at Chorgoal village at around 3:30am and arrested him. Rab personnel seized the bombs and the weapon from him. The Rab commander said Ziarul was wanted in seven robbery cases filed with Gangni Police Station. Ziarul was yesterday produced in a Meherpur court that sent him to jail.

Idols vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Criminals vandalised five idols of Maizpara Kali Temple in Tindokan area of Sreenagar upazila in Munshiganj district early yesterday. Maizpara Kali Temple President Dulal Mandal said, "Everything was all right when we left the temple last night. A sweeper found the idols vandalised when he came in the morning." Munshiganj Superintendent of Police (SP) Biplob Bijoy Talukder said criminals vandalised the idols at night. Police are investigating the incident and trying to arrest the culprits involved, he added.

They won't

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though many paid fees and service charges several months ago.

Asked whether the government contacted the ICAO for extension of the deadline, the home minister said he did not know anything in this regard.

Kamal also contradicted the foreign minister as to how many haven't got the MRPs.

Speaking on the issue in parliament on Thursday, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali put the number at over 11 lakh.

The Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP) could not specify the exact number, but its Director General Zeaul Alam told reporters that the number would not be more than 2.5 lakh.

The home minister too relied on the DIP data and claimed, "Our figure is correct."

However, officials at different Bangladesh missions abroad said the DIP estimate was incorrect.

At least three to four lakh expatriates in Saudi Arabia, around one lakh in the United Arab Emirates, around one or two lakh in Malaysia and several lakhs in some other countries did not get the MRPs, according to the officials.

ARSON CASE

11 BNP men sent to jail on surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court yesterday rejected the bail prayers of 11 leaders and activists of BNP Agailjhara upazila unit in an arson case and sent them to jail.

They are accused in a case for setting fire to BRTC bus and a goods-laden truck in the upazila during the nationwide blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance on January 13 and February 8 this year.

The BNP men surrendered to the District and

Sessions Judge's Court at noon and sought bail. Judge Anwarul Haque rejected their bail petition and sent them to prison.

The accused are Agailjhara upazila BNP leaders Ashish Baroi and Razzak Faikir, Chhatra Dal President Hemayet Talukder, General Secretary, Kamrul Islam Jewel Molla, upazila Sramik Dal President, Shamsul Haque Khokon, and BNP activists Mizan Molla, Bachchu Molla, Anowar Hossain Anu, Shipon Howlader, Milon Molla, and Mizanur Rahaman.

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