

Free Ratargul swamp forest canal from encroachment

Demand environmentalists, lawyers at Sylhet press confce

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) yesterday called on the government to take immediate steps to make all forest areas, including Ratargul swamp forest canal, free from encroachers and pollution.

They made the demand during a press conference at Muslim Sahitya Sangsad in Sylhet city.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to a caretaker

government; Prof Saleh Uddin Ahmed, vice chancellor of Sylhet Metropolitan University; E U Shahidul Islam Shahin, vice president of Bapa, Sylhet unit, Ronald Halder, international bird specialist, Sharif Jamil, joint secretary of Bapa, Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bapa, Sylhet unit addressed the conference, among others. Sayeda Rizwana Hasan, chief of Bela presided over the programme.

The speakers said lack of regular maintenance, rampant dredging and setting up of illegal structures are

threatening the forests.

They said when they visited the Ratargul forest they found that many places have been encroached upon, which has led to pollution of large areas of the forest. They criticised the authorities for their indifference towards encroachment and pollution.

Rasheda K Chowdhury said, "The tranquility Ratargul swamp forest offers is invaluable. Birds chirping, submerged trees, boat ride through the forest -- all these things will turn any gloomy day into a cheerful one. But this time the scenario was

completely different. The weather was fine, water level had risen significantly, but there was something new which was not supposed to be in the midst of such a unique forest, a six-storied watch tower, she said.

Abdul Karim Kim said many development projects are currently underway. They are expected to be completed soon. In the very middle of a marshy land, blessed with amazingly beautiful flora, a concrete structure is certainly a thing he never expected to see, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

A large number of locals join a procession in Debiganj upazila headquarters in Panchagarh district yesterday condemning the gruesome killing of Jogeswar Dasadhikari, priest of Sri Sri Shonto Gaurio temple at Sonapota village in the upazila on Sunday.

Expat, boy found murdered in Noakhali, Comilla

STAR NATIONAL DESK

An expatriate and a teenage boy were found murdered in Begumganj upazila of Noakhali and Daudkandi upazila of Comilla yesterday and on Sunday night.

Our Noakhali correspondent reported that police on Sunday night recovered the body of an expatriate in Saudi Arabia from Talua village in Begumganj upazila.

The deceased is Abdus Zaher, 58, a resident of the village.

Police arrested deceased's wife Rehana Begum, 42, and

son Abdul Hannan, 24, suspecting their involvement in the killing.

Victim's younger brother Kabir Hossain said Zaher and his wife Rehana often engaged in altercation over money-related issues since Zaher came to Bangladesh about two months ago.

They locked in an altercation early Friday and one stage, Zaher beat up Rehana mercilessly and went out of his house, police quoted Kabir as saying.

Zahed's son Hannan filed a general diary (GD) with Begumganj Police Station the same day.

On suspicion, police picked up Rehana and Hannan for quizzing on Sunday. Officer-in-Charge Golam Kabir of Begumganj Police Station said.

According to their confessional statements, police recovered Zaher's body from a ditch beside his house around 11:00pm and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC added.

Away in Comilla, the body of 16-year-old Soheli Mia, son of Nazrul Islam of Goliarchar village in Daudkandi upazila, was found floating in a ditch yesterday, reports a corre-

spondent.

Victim's elder sister Lucky Akhter said after receiving a phone call around 9:00pm on Saturday, Soheli went out of his house and did not return home.

Soheli's mother Shilpi Akhter filed a general diary with Daudkandi Police Station the following day, Sub-inspector Feroz Ahmed of the police station said.

Locals spotted his body in the morning and informed the police, who recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Two rescued 8 days into abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Police rescued two abducted people from Latiban area under Panchhari upazila of the district yesterday, eight days after their abduction.

They are contractor of Al-Farah Trading Corporation Saifuddin Sahin Gaji and its manager Ruhul Amin.

Majid Ali, superintendent of police (SP) of the district, said police arrested one Shukumar Dev from Kalonipara area on Saturday. On the basis of his information, police went to Latiban area and freed the abductees from there, he said, adding that the abductees managed to flee, sensing the presence of the law enforcers.

The duo were admitted to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

Regional political parties might be involved in the incident, but the SP did not disclose more for the sake of investigation.

The criminals abducted Saifuddin Sahin Gaji and Ruhul Amin from Taltala area of the upazila on February 14 as they refused to pay illegal toll.

Five injured in attack at Shikalbaha Power Plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Five staff members of a private company at Shikalbaha 225 megawatt power plant were injured when they came under attack by a co-worker and some locals at the site located under Karnaphuli Police Station in Patiya upazila of the district yesterday.

The injured, Abdul Malek, Roni, Fuad, Azad and Imran Ahmed, were admitted to a private clinic in the city, said officials of the power station.

Contacted, Mohammad Moniruzzaman, senior assistant director of Power Development Board (PDB), said an Indian company, LNT, is the contractor of the under-construction 225 megawatt power plant and the company gave sub-contract to a local company, UML.

A security guard appointed by the UML had locked in an altercation with an official of the company on Saturday afternoon and he left without joining duty in the night shift.

He came back yesterday morning with some locals and attacked the staff of the company, said Moniruzzaman.

Contacted, Mamun Al Basri, executive engineer of PDB, said Nuruzzaman came with some locals and attacked UML staff with iron rods and sticks. The security guard was suspended and filing of a case in this connection was under process.

Contacted, Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station, said they were investigating the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Six hundred kg of jatka (hilsa less than ten inches long) seized from the Dhaleshwari River in Munshiganj district yesterday was distributed among different orphanages and madrasas.

Satkania upazila chairman suspended

Charge-sheeted in sabotage case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A upazila parishad chairman in the district has been suspended as he was charge-sheeted in a sabotage case filed in 2013.

The accused is Jashim Uddin, chairman of Satkania Upazila Parishad.

Jashim Uddin was sus-

pended from his post as a Chittagong court on February 1 took into cognizance a charge sheet against him in the case filed during the blockade sponsored by BNP-Jamaat in 2013, said Julia Moyn, senior assistant secretary of Local Government Department.

"Yesterday, we have received a copy of the

gazette," said Mohammed Ullah, upazila nirbahi officer. The gazette was issued on February 16.

In 2013, nine cases were filed for his involvement in subversive activities during the BNP-Jamaat led blockade, said Farid Uddin Khandakar, officer-in-charge of Satkania Police Station.

Clash over naming mosque leaves 4 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

At least four people were injured in a clash over naming a mosque in Babur Haat area of Dimla upazila town under the district yesterday.

Injured Abdul Mottaleb Fusu, 35, Ratan Miah, 25, Rebeka Sultana, 38, and Nazma Golap, 48, were admitted to the upazila health complex.

Locals said a decade ago, the mosque was built on a land donated by a number of locals, including late Mofizuddin Ahmed, father of one Shah Alam, a filling station owner.

Around 10:00am yester-

day, the devotees at a meeting on the mosque premises gave a particular name of the mosque to be included in the list of Islamic Foundation to get various facilities.

At one stage of the meeting, Shah Alam gave proposal to name the mosque having similarity with his father's name as his father donated the land.

A good number of people at the meeting supported the proposal but Shamsul Huque, commander of Dimla upazila unit of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, opposed it, claiming that according to the land docu-

ment, his father owns the land and Shah Alam's father had no right to donate the land for the mosque.

Shamsul Huque demanded that the mosque should be named after his father's name.

Shortly afterwards, both the groups equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other, leaving at least four people from both sides injured.

Shamsul Haque later filed a case, accusing six people, said Ruhul Amin, officer-in-charge of Dimla Police Station, adding that they arrested one in this connection.

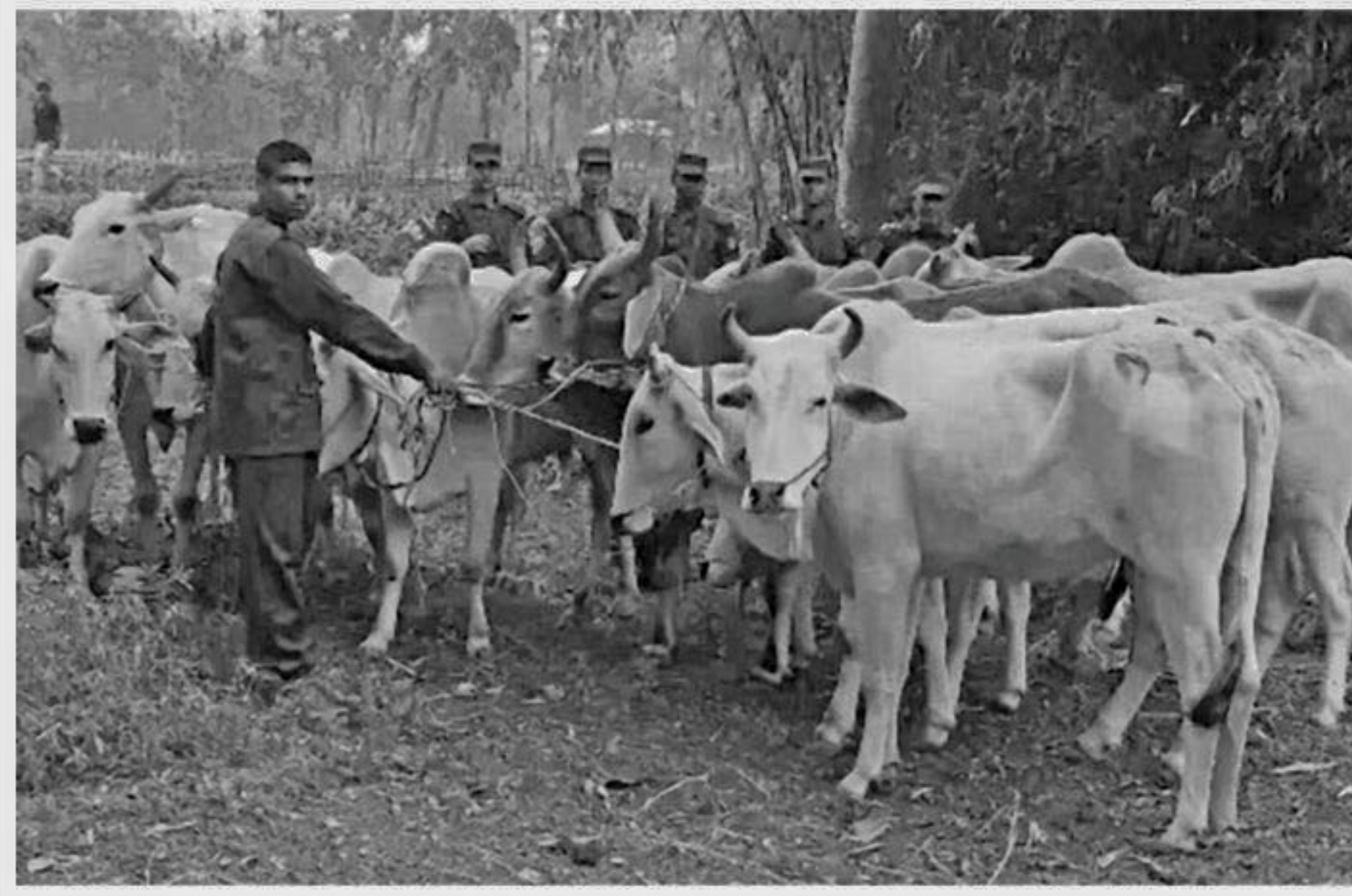


PHOTO: STAR

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh seize 14 Indian cows at Kaizarchar in Tilay union of Bhurungamari upazila under Kurigram district yesterday.

Admission Announcement

MBA (Evening) Program

Faculty of Business Studies

Comilla University, Comilla

Specialty Areas: Management Studies (HRM, IM)-MGT, Accounting & Information Systems (AIS), Marketing (MKT) and Finance & Banking (F&B).

Admission Requirements: A bachelor degree or its equivalent in any field is the minimum educational requirement. For detailed application procedure, instructions and others, visit Comilla University website: www.cou.ac.bd.

- **Last Date for Application** : March 16, 2016 (Wednesday)
- **Admission Test** : March 18, 2016 (Friday)
- **Class Start** : April 07, 2016 (Thursday)

The Application Form can be downloaded from the university website or collected from Janata Bank, Comilla University or Kandirpar Branch, Comilla. Filled in application form along with a Bank Draft issued from any branch of Janata Bank or cash of Tk. 1000 payable to 'FBMS-CoU' Janata Bank, Comilla University and submitted to Janata Bank, Comilla University or Kandirpar Branch, Comilla.

***The program is conducted on Thursday, Friday & Saturday for the convenience of the students.**

Contact Details: Program Directors: MGT-01915749957, AIS-01718171581, MKT-01712561508 and F&B-01737004919.

Dr. Mohammad Ahsan Ullah
Dean
Faculty of Business Studies

14 return home from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Fourteen Bangladeshi girls returned home through Benapole check-post on Sunday night after serving three years in an Indian jail.

Indian immigration police handed them over to their Bangladeshi counterparts. The returnees are from different areas of Khulna, Brahmanbaria, Magura, Barisal and Narail districts.

Indian police arrested them from Mumbai for entering the country without valid documents in 2012.

Later the arrestees were produced before a Mumbai court that sentenced them to three years' imprisonment, said Tariqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Benapole Immigration Police.

Immigration Police handed them over to Benapole Port Police Station the same night.

MANARAT DHAKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Plot (CEN) # 16, Road # 104, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212

ADMISSION TO PLAYGROUP & NURSERY

Forms for Admission to Playgroup and Nursery for academic session 2016-17 are now available in College office and it will continue upto 24 March 2016 on working days between 09.00 am to 02.00 pm.

Age limit:
Playgroup : Below 3.5 years of age (As on 01 July 2016)
Nursery : Below 4.5 years of age (As on 01 July 2016)

Last date of submission: 24 March 2016

Requirements: Two copies of passport size photographs and a copy of birth certificate.

Note: In the interview the presence of father and mother is essential. Interview date will be informed at the time of submission of application to the College office.

For further information, please contact: 01949800800, 55060039-41.

Mehdi

Brig Gen (Retd) Md Mehdi Hassan Pramanik, psc
Principal
Ex-Principal, Sylhet Cadet College, Sylhet & Adamjee Cantonment College, Dhaka