

SNIPPETS

11 return from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Eleven Bangladeshi teenagers returned home yesterday through Benapole check post after serving two and a half years in an Indian prison. Indian Border Security Force (BSF) handed them over to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) camp at Benapole check post in the afternoon. Nazrul Islam, commander of the camp, said the teenagers entered Indian territory three years ago without valid documents through Jessore border point in search of jobs. Later, Indian police arrested them from Mednipur in West Bengal. A case was filed against them and an Indian court sentenced them to two and a half years imprisonment each for illegally crossing the border without valid documents.

Early marriage bid foiled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A teenage girl was saved from early marriage at Chesirampur in Kathalia upazila of the district on Wednesday. Shila Barai, 16, daughter of Dhonu Barai of Agoiljhara in Barisal district, was going to be married with Sona Hawlader, 45, son of late Dhirendranath Hawlader of Chesirampur in Kathalia upazila, at night. On information, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sharif Mohammad Faizul Alam along with police rushed to the spot, foiled the marriage and arrested five people including the bridegroom. They were produced before a mobile court, led by the UNO, which sentenced the bridegroom to one month's imprisonment and fined four others Tk 1000 each.

Robber hurt in clash with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested an alleged robber, who was injured in a gunfight between his gang and police in Shimultoli area under Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat district, early yesterday. The arrestee is Sardar Sanwar Hossain, 45, son of Nasir Uddin of Binashira village under the upazila. He is accused in a number of robbery cases, police said. Police raided Shimultoli area after getting a tip-off that a gang was preparing for a robbery. As the police team arrived there, the robbers opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate, leaving Sanwar injured. Police recovered two sharp weapons and iron rods from the spot. The robber was taken to Joypurhat Modern Hospital but the doctors shifted him to Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra as his condition worsened, said Ashraf Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Fire guts 2 shops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

At least two shops were gutted in a fire at Tushkhali Bazar in Mathbaria upazila of the district yesterday. Locals said the fire originated from a shop, owned by on Tareq Jamaddar and soon engulfed another adjacent shop of the bazar around 9:30am. Mohammad Alam, a member of the fire fighting units, said the fire might have originated from a cellphone charger blast.

3 held with Yaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested three people along with 1235 Yaba tablets from different areas of Mymensingh and Kishoreganj districts early yesterday. The arrestees are Faruk Hossain, 45, Jewel Mia, 22, and Shafiqul Islam, 30. Assistant Superintendent of Police Mohammad Ibrahim of Armed Police Battalion-2, said police arrested Faruk and Jewel from Tatarkandi area in Kishoreganj and seized 1140 Yaba from their possession. In another drive, the law enforcers arrested Shafiqul from Mymensingh Sadar upazila with 95 Yaba pills.

Thousands suffer for want of bridge over river in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

As many as 30,000 people of 13 villages under Satpua and Pugaldigha unions in Sarishabari upazila of the district have been suffering for years for want of a bridge over a river at Char Sarishabari village.

The river (locally known as Char Sarishabari Madhya Nadi) divides the 13 villages into western and eastern sides.

The western side includes a portion of Char Sarishabari and eight other villages -- Rakhalgachha, Ghoramara, Takuria, Char Adra, Char Jamira, Char Sataria under Satpua union, and Char Manikpatol and Brahmanjani under Pugaldigha union -- where around 22,000 people live.

Another portion of Char Sarishabari and four villages -- Dasherbari, Shishua, Baghmara and Char Mulbari -- under Satpua union are located on the eastern side of the river, where 8,000 people live, said Abdul Hakim Sarkar of Char Sarishabari village and former chairman of Satpua union.

The 22,000 people living in the villages on the western side are the worst sufferers as they have to cross the river to reach high schools, madrasas, colleges, upazila headquarters, upazila health complex, Sarishabari railway station, banks, dif-



PHOTO: STAR

In absence of much needed concrete bridge, people of 13 villages have to use country boats for crossing this river flowing through Char Sarishabari village in Satpua union in Sarishabari upazila under Jamalpur district.

ferent government and non-government offices and markets.

As RDM Pilot High School, Reaz Uddin Talukdar High School, Sarishabari Alia Madrasa, Sarishabari College and Mahmuda Salam Girls' College are located in the upazila town, around 2,000 students of the western side face great difficulty in attending their institutions due to the lack of a bridge over the river.

The other commuters, including farmers, office

and market goers and patients, are facing the same ordeal, villagers said, adding that the situation has been prevailing for years as the authorities concerned have never come forward to solve the problem.

A large number of farmers, carrying agro-products, face troubles every time they have to cross the river by boat to reach Aramnagar and Shimla Bazar in the upazila town in order to sell their products, said farmers Sohrab Fakir of Ghoramara village and

Shahid Mandol of Char Manikpatol village.

In the rainy season, the river naturally becomes wider and has strong current. There is heavy rush on both sides of the river, specially during haat days, and the commuters face troubles in crossing the river as the number of boats is inadequate, villagers said.

"During the rainy season, we face severe problems as it takes longer to cross the river by boat. As a result, we often fail to attend the classes in time, which ham-

pers our education," said a number of students who are studying at RDM Pilot High School and Sarishabari College, adding, "There is a dire need of a bridge for smooth communication."

Farmers of the villages on the eastern side of the river have to cross the river to cultivate crops on their lands located on the western side. They have been facing the troublesome situation, specially during harvest time, for years, said farmers Isahak Ali and Suruj Ali of Dasherbari village.

The farmers of Char Sarishabari village, who are divided by the river, are the worst sufferers as they have to cross the river frequently to reach their lands on both western and eastern sides for cultivation, said the villagers.

"If a bridge is constructed over the river, it will surely help us to grow agro-products and carry the items home and to the markets," they added.

Contacted, Amjad Hossain, engineer of LGED Sarishabari upazila, admitted that thousands of commuters are really in need of a concrete bridge at Char Sarishabari village.

"I will write to the higher authorities concerned about it soon so that they can respond to the matter and immediately come forward to solve the problem," the engineer added.

3 drug peddlers get life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A court here yesterday sentenced three drug peddlers to life term imprisonment.

The convicts are Abdul Karim, 30, son of Amir Hossain, Jahangir Hossain, 33, son of Mozammel Haque, and Mohammad Kawsar, 34, son of Alauddin Anu of Hakimpur village in Sadar upazila. Of them, Karim was tried in absentia.

District and Sessions Judge Enamul Bari also fined them Tk 25,000 each. In default, they are to suffer another two years in jail.

According to the prosecution, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested the trio with 200 grams of heroin at Tero Roshia village in the upazila on January 18 in 2011.

Later, a case was filed against the arrestees under Narcotics Control Act with Sadar Police Station.

On February 23 the same year, police pressed charge sheet against the trio.

After examining witnesses and evidence, the judge found them guilty and pronounced the verdict.

In Dinajpur, Rab arrested two alleged drug peddlers with 300 Yaba tablets from Sheikhpura area in the district town early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees are Modassed Hossain alias Biplob, 32, son of Mozammel Haque of Sheikhpura, and Tariqul Islam, 19, son of Fazlur Rahman of Nimtola area in the town.

On secret information, the elite force raided the area and arrested the two at the Yaba, said Major Abdullah Al Mahmud.

14 punished for illegal sand lifting from Padma

Four dredgers, two boats seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested 14 illegal sand lifters and seized four dredgers and two boats used for carrying sand from the Padma River at

Najirganj in Sujanagar upazila under the district yesterday.

A mobile court awarded the arrestees jail terms and fine the same day.

Hundreds of dredgers are engaged in illegal sand lifting at the different places of the Padma River for long, said locals and officials.

Acting on a tip, an operation team of Rab-12 from its Pabna camp raided Najirganj, a big sand lifting point in the mighty river yesterday morning.

The elite force seized four dredgers and two boats and arrested 14 people on charge of illegal sand lifting from the spot.

In the afternoon, the arrestees were produced before a mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Md Soleman Ali, Sub Inspector Ahmed Ali Bishwas of Pabna Rab camp said in a press release.

Of the arrestees, Md

Billal Hossain, 29, Md Rasu Prang, 25, Md Harun, 50, Md Sujon, 30, Sabuz Miah, 35, Ibrahim, 23, Abdur Rahim, 50, Md Ali Hossain, 40, were awarded one year's imprisonment while Md Rafikul Islam, 35, Md Nuruzzaman, 30, and Md Johurul Islam, 26, got six months' jail term.

They hail from different areas of Munshiganj, Sirajganj, Bhola, and Patuakhali districts.

Three others, boatmen Md Ishhaque Majhi, 52, Aziz Mondol, 58, and Md Abul Mondol were fined Tk 50 thousand each, the press release said.

"The drive was conducted to check illegal sand lifting from the Padma. Fourteen people were arrested but many other sand lifters managed to escape. Such drives will continue," said Pabna Rab's Deputy Director Sheikh Moniruzzaman.



PHOTO: STAR

Puffed rice is being put into a large sack to carry it for sale in market as the item, taken as a common element in iftar, sees rise in demand during the ongoing Ramadan. The photo was taken from Sreepur upazila under Gazipur district a couple of days ago.

Criminals loot sugar-laden truck from highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Armed criminals looted a sugar-laden truck from Dhulivita area on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Dhamrai upazila of Dhaka early yesterday.

Alamgir Hossain, owner of the truck, also a resident of Bewtha village in Manikganj town, said a

gang of 10/12 criminals waylaid the Manikganj-bound sugar-laden truck with a microbus around 3:30am when the truck reached Dhulivita area.

The gang picked up truck driver Rajab and his helper Sagar after tying their legs, hands and gagging mouths.

They later took control of the steering of the loaded truck and fled with the vehi-

cle towards unknown destination.

An hour later, the gang threw the duo beside the highway near Khilkhet area in the capital, Alamgir said.

Officer-in-Charge Rezaul Haque of Dhamrai Police Station said injured driver Rajab filed a general diary (GD) with the police station in this connection yesterday afternoon.



PHOTO: STAR

Medical services at the 20-bed hospital in Kuakata of Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali district has remained suspended following assault on a doctor by a patient's relatives on Monday.

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