

4 held with arms, bullets in 2 districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Four people were held with arms, bullets and drugs in Chapainawabganj and Jessore districts in the last two days.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in separate drives arrested two drug peddlers and an arms trader in Sadar and Shibganj upazilas of Chapainawabganj yesterday and the day before.

They also seized a pistol, two magazines, four bullets, 28 bottles of foreign liquor and 183 Yaba tablets from their possession, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees are arms trader Imam Hossain, 25, of Namo Jagonmathpur village in Shibganj upazila, and drugs peddlers Harun ur Rashid, 48, and Rubel Ahmed, 21, of Mora Pagla village in Sadar upazila.

They were handed over to Sadar and Shibganj police stations, said ASP Shahidar Rahman of Chapainawabganj Rab camp.

In Jessore, the law enforcers arrested a man with a shutter gun and one bullet in Stadiumpara area of the town early yesterday.

The arrestee is Sahabur Rahman alias Mahbubur Rahman, 38, son of Sheikh Shamsur Rahman of the town, reports our correspondent.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-6 raided the area and arrested Mahbubur with the firearm and bullet.

A case was filed in this connection.

Lightning kills 2 in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two people were killed and three others injured by lightning in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur yesterday morning.

The deceased, Sumon Mia, 25, son of Mofazzal Hossain, and Abdur Razzak, 30, son of Abdul Matin, were residents of Arifpur village in the upazila.

Locals and witnesses said a thunderbolt struck five people while they were working in paddy field at the village around 9:00am, leaving them seriously injured.

Later, they were rushed to Pirganj Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared the duo dead, Officer-in-Charge Rezaul Karim of Pirganj Police Station said.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals including schoolchildren cross large water bodies on country boats that serve as the only mode of transport for people of 90 villages in three upazilas of Sunamganj district during the monsoon. The photo was taken from Nabinagar area of Sunamganj Sadar upazila a couple of days ago.

Boat only transport for 90 Sunamganj villages

MINTU DESHWARA with ANDREW EAGLE

Familiar to generations of Bangladeshi school-goers, 'A Journey by Boat' is a common passage and essay topic. But in Sunamganj these days it's more than an abstract lesson. In around 90 villages of 3 upazilas, for students and the community at large, boat is currently the only means of transport.

As a result of the rainy season and perilous flooding, boats have been selling like hot cakes in Sunamganj over the past few weeks, and not all are especially seaworthy. Yet, anticipating that floodwaters will not recede any time soon, boats are popular.

"We can't use the Nabinagar - Sunamganj Road," says rickshaw puller Munim Ali from Nabinagar village in sadar upazila. "It's been devoured by the river. We have to travel by boat."

"We haven't been able to attend class for six days," says Class VIII student Nurul Alam, of Elahi Box High School in Tahirpur upazila, "because our school is across the river and it's difficult to cross."

Surma River boatman Moju

meanwhile says he and his colleagues are reaping good profits due to high water levels. "When water is low we lose money," he says. But customers are not pleased.

"We are forced to pay hiked boat fares," complains one passenger, Mabrul Hosain from Tahirpur upazila. "We have no alternative to reach Sunamganj town."

Another passenger agrees. "The boatmen often misbehave if anyone refuses to pay their increased fares," says Sirazul Islam from Doarabazar upazila. "I have used this route regularly for the last 3 years but even I do not escape harassment for higher ticket prices."

But there is no alternative, he adds.

According to Sirazul, some villagers are calling for the establishment of a government sponsored boat service until the water recedes, but there has been no response from the government.

Doarabazar upazila chairman M Idris Ali says 5 unions in the upazila have been forced to rely on boats as transport for the past week or so. "Anybody going to office,

school or college or for business purpose must use a boat," he says. "If government sponsored services were available fares could be kept in check to the benefit of locals."

The upazila nirbahi officer of Tahirpur upazila, Mohammad Khaledur Rahman says such a government sponsored initiative isn't easy to implement but if locals demand it the administration must take action.

The cost of inflated fares is particularly onerous on the poor, who previously travelled on foot. "To reach Sunamganj sadar from Doarabazar town now costs at least Tk 100," says NGO staffer Sajal Rozario.

For some who cannot afford such "luxury" the only option is to choose makeshift vessels made from bamboo sticks or banana trees.

Many locals also blame the Water Development Board for the crisis, alleging it has not taken any action to reduce or control the floodwaters. The board's deputy divisional engineer Dipok Kumar Das says a lack of funds is impeding their efforts to take effective flood control measures.

But he hoped the situation would improve if the government allocates funds for the purpose.

Barrister Enamul Haque Imon who works for the Sunamganj district administration says, however, that higher authorities have been informed about the issue. He further alleges that the Water Development Board's inaction has less to do with a lack of funds and more to do with fund mismanagement and corruption.

Perhaps along with the poor those who suffer the most are students. According to district primary education officer in Sunamganj, Hazrat Ali, during a recent field visit he observed most students only had the option of boat if they wanted to attend class.

"The Jadukata, Cholti, Surma Rivers and Tangaur Haor continue to swell," he says. "It's really risky for students since most of the boats that carry them are not at all seaworthy vessels."

For now the students and general public of Sunamganj are learning a new lesson: while in the textbook 'A Journey by Boat' might be a curiosity, in reality it's all too often burdensome.

AWFUL ROAD IN BOGRA They wait for 45 years, yet sufferings go on

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

The 5km-long mud road from Abadpukur to Palla-Shudin area in Sadar union under Adamdighi upazila of the district has been causing sufferings to the people of six villages due to the negligence of the authorities concerned during the last 45 years.

Repeated requests by the people of the villages to the lawmakers, chairmen and even to government officials concerned, for making a brick road for smooth movement of the villagers, have fallen on deaf ears.

Travelling on the road, especially during the rainy season, is hazardous. Accidents take place in the knee-deep water, and it sometimes becomes impossible to reach the destination.

Locals said around 10 thousand people of Palla, Shudan, Digla, Holudgar and surrounding villages under the upazila have to use the 5km-long link road to Abadpukur-Adamdighi road and face huge sufferings due to its muddy condition.

Golam Rabbani, an elderly resident of Palla village, said public representatives have been giving assurance since liberation that they would build a road there, but they forget the issue after getting elected.

43 detained as drive against

FROM PAGE 20

Police detained these people in the last 24 hours since Wednesday noon, report our correspondents.

Acting on a tip off, Nykkhongchhari police arrested Nurul Alam, president of Nykkhongchhari, Alikadom and Lama upazilla unit of Shibir from Aziznagar area under Lama upazila on Tuesday, Anisur Rahman, Investigation Officer of the monk murder case in Bandarban said.

The IO added that police has found links between Shibir and the monk murder in their investigation.

Seventy-three year old U Damma was hacked to death on May 14 at his temple Chak Nirvana Bouddha Kyang in Baishari union under Nykkhongchhari upazilla of the district.

The monk's murder was similar to recent incidents of secret killings of people belonging to different faith and ideologies, Abul Khyer, officer-in-charge of Nykkhongchhari police station, said.

Rajshahi police said they arrested Akbar Ali, 53, member of the banned militant outfit JMB from his village home at Boro Bihanoli at 11:00am yesterday. Ali donated funds to Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh chief Siddikul Islam alias Bangla Bhai in the past.

Local people said Akbar Ali owned a large brick kiln at Bhotkhali area in Bagmara and he also inherited a large property of some 50 bigha land. He used to donate funds to JMB while the militant outfit unleashed a reign of terror at Bagmara upazila in 2004.

After JMB and JMB were banned years ago, Akbar went into hiding causing the closure of his brick kiln.

He returned to the area after things quietened down and started a poultry farm. He got involved with JMB and recently engaged in reorganizing the outfits' members, the OC said.

He fled the area when the recent anti-militancy drive began, and police caught him acting on a tip off when he returned home, said Selim Hossain, OC of Bagmara police station.

In Sylhet, law enforcement agencies in a joint drive arrested 31 men and recovered 25 books on Jihad and a large number of sharp weapons from different areas of Zakiganj upazila in Sylhet yesterday morning.

Of the arrestees, 22 are Jamaat-Shibir activists, said Sugyan Chakma, Additional Superintendent of Sylhet district police. Police could not confirm identities of the other nine.

In Pabna, police arrested seven Jamaat-Shibir activists including a female activist of Jamaat with cocktails and jihadi books

from Chandaikona area of Raiganj upazila under Sirajganj district on Wednesday night.

The arrestees were holding 'secret meeting' for carrying out subversive activities, local police claimed.

They were sent to jail through court.

Of the arrestees Fahima Akter is the organizer of Mohila Jamaat in Chandaikona village while the six others are the members of Shibir, police said.

THREE FEMALE STUDENTS ARRESTED

Meanwhile, police arrested three female students of Comilla Victoria Government College for their suspected link to militancy activities early yesterday.

All three were members of Islami Chhatri Sangstha, female student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami. Some jihadi books were recovered from their room.

Abdullah Al Mamun, additional superintendent of police, Comilla, said police conducted a raid around 12:30am Wednesday on Nawab Foyzunnesa Dormitory of the college following information from the college authorities about suspicious movements and behaviours of some students.

(Our Sylhet, Pabna, Comilla and Bandarban correspondents contributed to the report.)

Schoolgirl raped, 1 held

A CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

A nine-year-old girl was raped allegedly by one of her neighbours at Shehla village in Purbadhala upazila of the district on Tuesday.

Police arrested the alleged rapist Mohammad Harunur Rashid, 45, of the village, the same night.

Quoting locals, police said Harun lured the girl, a Class II student at a local government primary school, by giving chocolate and took her to his house when none of his family members were present and raped her there.

Hearing screams, villagers went to the spot, caught Harun and handed him over to the police.

SNIPPETS

Housewife killed for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband for dowry at Ichhapur village in Chowgachha upazila of Jessore district on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Sonia Akhter, 27, wife of Touhidur Rahman of the village. Police and family sources said Touhidur often tortured Sonia for Tk 20,000 since their marriage. He beat her mercilessly, leaving her dead on the spot, following an altercation over the issue on Wednesday night. Locals caught Touhidur and handed over him to police. The body was sent to Jessore Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said M Mashiur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Chowgachha Police Station.

Vulnerable youths

FROM PAGE 20 for brainwashing."

Termining the recruiters "good psychologists", the DMP official said they do not approach a boy and ask him to join jihad at the outset. Rather, they observe him, collect his information and then approach him.

He added that the "motivators" also target youths from impoverished families and give them financial assistance.

"They have a huge supply of cash... The poor boy is not only motivated by the promise of heaven after death but also given financial incentives," said the top police official.

Talking about seven of the nine militants identified on Wednesday, he said two were students of North South University, while another one graduated from there; three were madrasa students and another one was barely educated.

He informed that all the militants left their homes in the last four months to two years.

"We contacted many of their families who admitted that they [militants] did not keep in touch with them. Some had very little contact but none of their families had any specific phone number or address," Monirul said.

The process of silent radicalisation and brainwashing begins well before they leave home, Monirul explained. "They leave home at the final stage."

He also talked about some writings by militants seized by police, and some information gleaned from arrested militants.

"The writings say 'when you are caught by law enforcers, imagine that you are a dead body. You are not in your senses. Even if they apply third degree method on

you, imagine that you have no senses," Monirul said.

Distorted ideologies and interpretations of religion and verses of the holy Quran and Hadith taken out of context are used in brainwashing the boys to such a point that they lose all rationality.

"(If) a murtag or kafir is standing in front of you, kill him. You will go to heaven if you kill him," Monirul quoted the writings.

When the new recruits are at the primary stage of being brainwashed, they do not live together. They meet each other when they have reached the final stage. By that time they forget everything of whatever background they are from, the DMP official said.

"After a prolonged training and brainwashing, the differences between those from madrasa and those from North South disappear. They are only driven by blood thirst."

Monirul added that the statement of a case filed in connection with the Kalyanpur incident mentioned some names of persons who provided militants with finance, arms, and shelter.

"Police also found some documents, but the militants destroyed two of their laptops, burnt the cash and some documents," he said.

"But we got hold of some documents from which we identified some militants. We are trying to catch them and bring them to book."

Monirul opined that until the masterminds and trainers are brought to book, they would keep recruiting new boys.

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Corrigendum Notice No-3

This is to inform all concerned that the following correction have been made in the "Invitation for Tenders" by this office Memo No. ২৫.৩৬.০০০০.৪১০.১৪.১৮৬.১৪-২০৩৫ উন্নয়ন শাখা-২ তারিখঃ ৩০/০৫/২০১৬খ্রিঃ। IFT No. 02/2015-16 Dated 30/05/2016 for "Construction of 6 (six) storied Hospital Bldg. with 10 (ten) storied foundation having one basement in/civil, internal sanitary & water supply, internal electrification, external water supply, underground water reservoir, gas connection and compound drain at Sirajganj."

Description	As mentioned in tender notice and in tender document	To be replaced as
1	2	3
Tender last selling date	Original tender notice Corrigendum notice-2	10/07/2016 during office hours 26/07/2016 during office hours
Tender closing date and time	Original tender notice Corrigendum notice-2	11/07/2016 12:00 noon 27/07/2016 12:00 noon
Tender opening date and time	Original tender notice Corrigendum notice-2	11/07/2016 03:00pm 27/07/2016 03:00pm

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum will be a part and parcel of this tender.

Kazi Rezaul Karim
Superintending Engineer
Population Project Cell (PPC)
Purta Bhaban, Dhaka

VACANCY NOTICE

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces the vacancies for the following positions with National Capacity Development for Implementing Rio Conventions through Environmental Governance project under Service Contract modality.

- Project Coordinator (SB4 level)
- Project Assistant (SB2 level)

The duration of the Service Contract (SC) is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/jobs/>.

Applications should be received no later than **Sunday, 7 August 2016**.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.