

3 fishermen electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

At least three fishermen were electrocuted in Gomostapur upazila on Monday night.

The deceased were Asadul Haque, 22, Abdul Bashir, 18, and Monirul Islam, 16, of Bibhison village.

Police said 10 fishermen went to catch fish in Moishala Beel (water body) by two boats.

When Asadul was rowing a boat, suddenly the oar came in contact with a live electric wire. Asadul along with Bashir and Monirul died on the spot. Two other fishermen were also electrocuted when they went to rescue the three and fell into the water.

Later, locals rescued the two.

Tk 4cr Indian goods seized

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Law enforcers in separate drives seized huge Indian goods worth about Tk 4 crore from Jessore and Joypurhat yesterday.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized a truck loaded with Indian motor parts, imitation jewelry and cosmetics worth about Tk 2 crore from near Navaron Bazar in Sharsha upazila of Jessore in an abandoned condition, reports our Benapole correspondent.

In another drive, police seized a truck loaded with 9,000 pieces of Indian saris worth Tk 2 crore from Joypurhat bus terminal, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

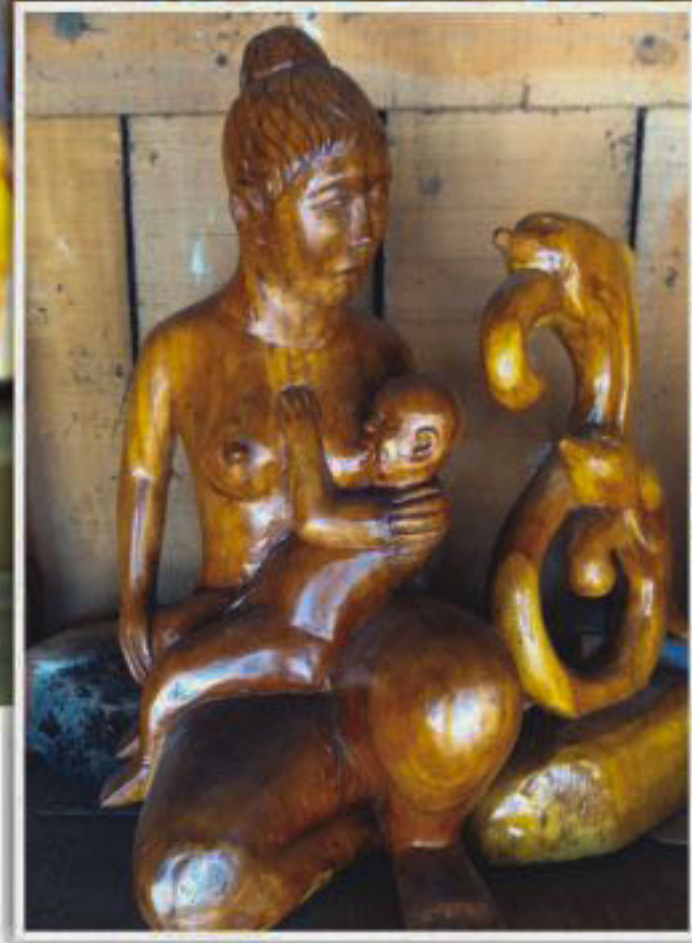
2 trains collide in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two people were seriously injured in a head-on collision involving two trains near Chirirbandar railway station in the district yesterday afternoon.

Rail communications between Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh remained suspended after the accident which caused derailment, said Stationmaster Shahidul Islam of Chirirbandar railway station.

The injured are Jahangir Alam, 40, and Ziaul Haque, gang-car operators of Toma Construction, a contracted company of Bangladesh Railway. Jahangir lost his right leg in the accident.



Hrang Fori Marma making artistic idols with wood at his shop at Zadipara in Bandarban town. Inset, one of his superb creations -- a mother feeding her baby.

PHOTO: STAR

Unique artistry of indigenous man

SANJOY KUMAR BARIUA, Bandarban

He works with left out wood pieces, making them into impressive artworks.

Engaged in the creative work for decades, Hrang Fori Marma, 60, a man of indigenous Marma community in Zadipara area of Bandarban, has become familiar with the people visiting the hill town, a well-known tourist spot of the country.

One of his remarkable creations is representation of motherly affection -- a woman feeding her baby.

He also carved images of many notable personalities including poets Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

His creative works include sculptures of animals, birds, nature, gods and goddess that reflect artistic touch.

"I also carved many historical things for the Bohmong royal family of Bandarban. Through my work I would like to remind the world that we have a rich tradition in arts and crafts," said Hrang Fori.

"I am lucky enough as I got opportunity to work for 14th to 17th Bohmong chiefs Raja Maung Shwe Prue, Aung Shwe Prue, Kasine Prue Chowdhury, and U Chaw Prue of the dynasty," he recollected.

"I took to wood carving because I feel

confident in it and enjoy it enormously," he said.

Quite a few important personalities including Bir Bahadur U Shwe Sing, state minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry, and a few Bohmong chiefs received Hrang Fori's artworks as gifts.

"Coming from ordinary surroundings, Fori has made a remarkable contribution to wood carving art," said U Chaw Prue Marma, 17th Bohmong chief of Bandarban.

"His work is amazing. I bought a wooden deer made by him," said a tourist coming from Comilla.

Now at an advanced age, Hrang Fori feel that artistry as a profession hardly enables one to lead a decent life with family.

"Now I have to struggle to survive with six members of my family. Although my son helps me in the work, often he expresses worry about financial insecurity if we solely depend on this profession in future," he said.

"Now there are very few people who want to engage in this profession. Patronisation from the government and affluent people is needed to preserve this rich handiwork industry," said Fori, who still maintains an indomitable spirit to go ahead with his artwork and passing down the tradition to generations.

Challenged Aminul fights for survival

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A hearing and speech impaired man with other physical challenges is struggling to survive with family by selling newspapers at Lalmonirhat Railway Station.

The man, Aminul Islam, 43, son of a freedom fighter, lives at a slum of Shaheed Shahjahan Colony area in Lalmonirhat town with his wife and three children.

"Aminul Islam is second of my three sons. His two brothers are normal but he is deaf and cannot move his hands and legs normally due to problems since birth," said his father Abdul Gaffar, 65, a freedom fighter.

"Aminul Islam read up to Class II in a local school but could not continue. Later he started selling newspapers in the railway station about 16 years ago.

"He earns Tk 100-120 from selling newspapers daily which is too scanty to meet up family's need. But we never see him taking any help from anybody," he added.

Aminul's wife Jahanara Khatun said, "We can hardly provide meat or fish to our children as my husband's earning is too little. Our children get new dresses only one time in a year. We have no savings."

"I help my husband to take meal as he can't move his hands with ease. Sometimes Aminul weeps as he fails to fulfil our children's demands.

"Our children get help from my father-in-law but he is not so solvent. We want to see our children educated. But we are worried due to poverty," Jahanara said.

Of their three children, Afroza Khatun is a student of Class II, Afsana Khatun reads in Class I, and Jahidul Islam is four-year-old.

Shamim Ahmed, a railway employee in Lalmonirhat station, said he and several other railway staff purchase newspapers from Aminul Islam everyday.

"After paying the newspaper bill, we sometimes offer additional money to Aminul, but he won't receive it," he said.

Water lilies mean solvency to many haor people in monsoon

MINTU DESHWARA with ANDREW EAGLE

When skies are grey during the monsoon months, the white faces of water lilies brighten the liquid landscape of Hakaluki Haor. But the flowers which populate large areas within the haor do more than buoy spirits. For many, water lilies mean survival.

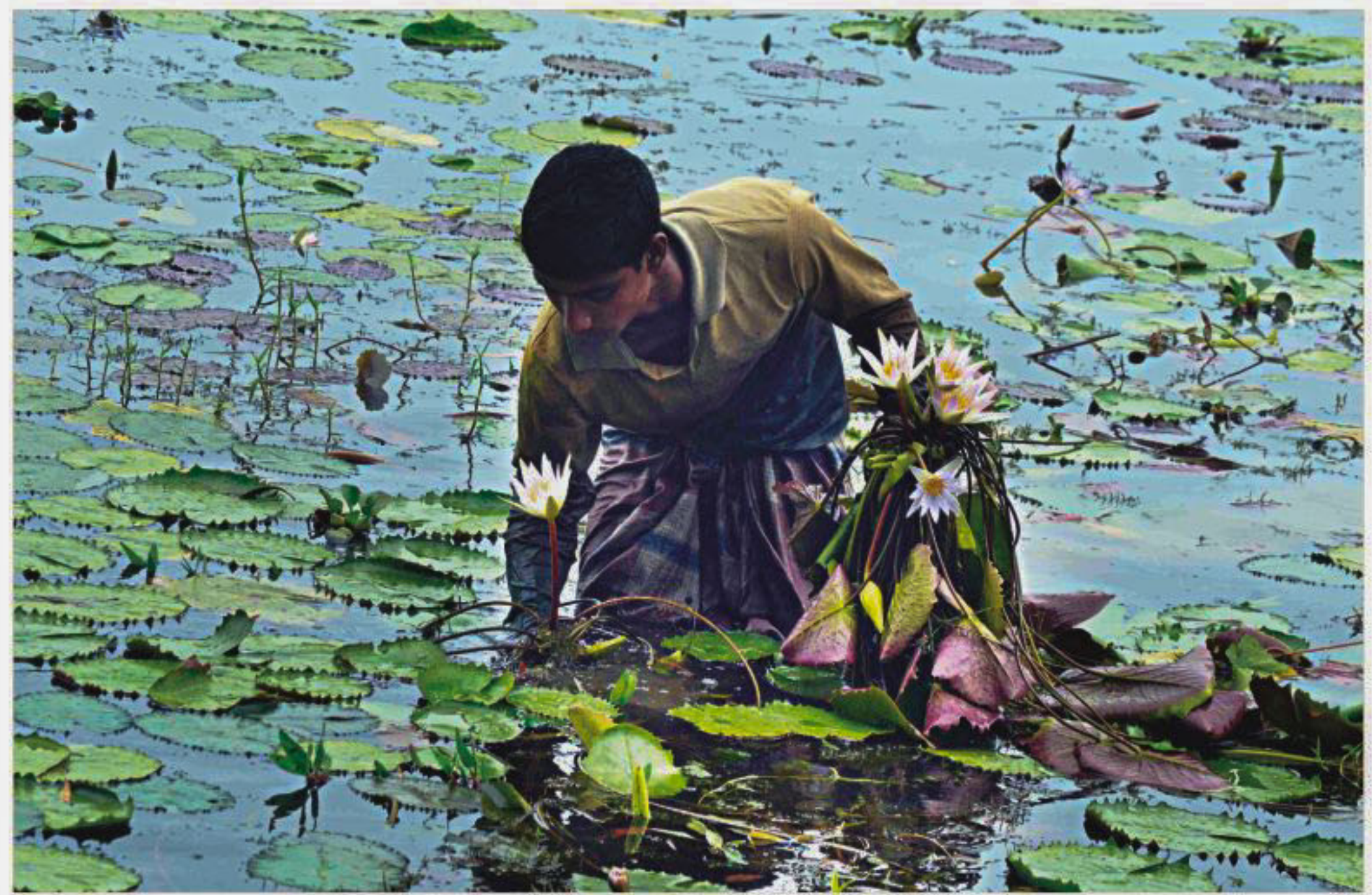
"Five in our family spend morning to night collecting lilies," says Abdur Razzak from Chandpur village in Sylhet's Fenchuganj upazila. "Later, my wife, son and daughter clean and sort them into bundles ready for sale."

His neighbour, farmer Ayub Ali is also involved in trading the common kitchen ingredient. "From late in the afternoon," he says, "with the lilies tied into bundles we sell them on the side of the Dhaka - Sylhet highway."

According to Ayub, a bundle of ten or so lily stems sells for up to Tk. 40, a rate that provides him between Tk 300 - 500 per day as minimum daily earnings.

In this way, the humble water lily is a valuable lifeline for thousands of struggling and economically marginal families across Kulaura, Juri and Barlekha upazilas in Moulvibazar and Fenchuganj and Osmaninagar upazilas in Sylhet; and the additional income source is particularly welcome during the rainy season when would-be labourers and farmers in the haor areas find other work hard to come by.

It is such seasonally unemployed workers who rely on lily harvesting the most, as a means to maintain solvency through the employment lean season.



A man collects water lilies, available in most water bodies during the rainy season, from a haor in Chandpur area under Fenchuganj upazila of Sylhet for sale. The plants, taken as a popular curry, also serves as a seasonal earning source for many struggling families in the region.

PHOTO: STAR

Fortunately there is no shortage of demand. In towns of villages, lilies, known as a nutritious food, are mashed, fried and added to various traditional dishes.

Divisional deputy director of the livestock

department Dr. Achintya Kumar Saha says many poor farmers in Sylhet's haor areas maintain their livelihoods through lily harvesting and sales at this time of the year.



Defying challenges including hearing and speech impairment and problem in movement of hands and legs, Aminul Islam sells newspapers in Lalmonirhat Railway Station area.

PHOTO: STAR

ARREST OF CRIMINAL IN RISHA MURDER Accolade for three men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police yesterday arranged a reception for three people who helped to capture Obaidul Kader, 28, the killer of Suraiya Akhter Risha, a Class VIII student of Willes Little Flower School in Dhaka, from Sonarai Bazar of Domar upazila in the district.

Meat trader Dulal Hossen, 45, son of Aftabuddin Ahmed of Horinchara village, detained the killer on August 29 with the help of three-wheeler driver Ismail Hossain, 22, son of Yasin Ali of Sonarai village, and Sonarai union parishad member Shahjahan Ali, 35, son of Abdul Basit.

At yesterday's reception on the premises of Domar Police Station, Nilphamari Superintendent of Police (SP) Zakir Hossain as chief guest handed over crests and envelopes containing certain amounts

of money to the three recipients.

Domar police and community policing forum arranged the programme.

The SP emphasized the need for co-operation between people and police to eliminate crime from the society.

Local public representatives, political leaders, and a large number of people attended the ceremony presided over by Domar Police Station OC Ahmed Raziur Rahman.

"I helped arresting the killer out of responsibility as I have a daughter who is of the same age as victim Risha," said Dulal Hossen, who as the first detector of the absconding killer, informed the police through cell phone.

Obaidul Khan, a tailoring shop employee, stabbed Risha near her school in the capital on August 24, and she succumbed to her injuries on August 28.

BSF picks up Bangladeshi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi from near the zero line at International Border Pillar in Chargaon area under Chargaon border in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj on Monday night.

The detainee is Nayan Mia, 40, son of Meher Ali of Chargaon village. Nayan might have mistakenly entered the zero line for collecting stones, said officials of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Lt Col Nasir Uddin Ahmed, commanding officer of BGB-8 Battalion, said they have written to BSF to return Nayan immediately.

Tender Notice for Cargo Lifts

Name of the tender	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of four-1500 Kg Cargo Lifts for the expansion project at SMC Enterprise Ltd, Bhaluka, Mymensingh.
Tender security	2% of the total quoted amount.
Availability of tender document	Schedule is available free of cost at www.smc-bd.org . In addition, hardcopy is also available at 12th floor, SMC Tower, 33 Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213.
Date and time for availability of documents	September 07-25, 2016 between 8:30am to 5:00pm.
Tender dropping and opening place, date and time	Dropping by 3:00pm on September 26, 2016 in the tender box at 11th floor, SMC Tower, 33 Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213. Tender will be opened at 3:30pm on the same day.

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ATTEMPT TO RAPE WIDOW Threat to withdraw case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A man, accused in a case for trying to violate a widow in Sonatola upazila on June 4, is threatening the victim and her family members to withdraw the case.

The 39-year-old, a resident of Char Madhupur village in the upazila, said criminals have been threatening her repeatedly over mobile phone to withdraw the case or face dire consequences.

In fear, she and her two minor children left their house and started staying at her relatives' houses, added the victim.

Police and victim's relatives said 55-year-old Naya Mia, son of late Mohar Ali of the village, had been giving illicit proposal to the woman for long.

As she turned down the proposal, aggrieved Naya tactfully entered her room by cutting its rope used for locking the door, while she was asleep with her daughter and son and tried to rape her on June 4.

Hearing screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and rescued the victim. Naya, however, fled the scene, sensing the presence of the villagers.

The victim lodged an attempt to rape case with Bogra Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal accusing Naya Mia on June 5.

The Victim alleged that since the filing of the case, Naya and his men had been giving threat to withdraw the case.

Expression of Interest (EOI) for HVAC

Name of the tender	Design-build HVAC contractors for designing, supplying, installing, testing and commissioning of HVAC system for the expansion project at SMC Enterprise Ltd, Bhaluka, Mymensingh.
Availability of tender document	Schedule is available free of cost at www.smc-bd.org . In addition, hardcopy is also available at 12th floor, SMC Tower, 33 Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213.
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