

2 Bangladeshis arrested with 4 gold bars at Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Customs intelligence officials detained two Bangladesh nationals and seized four gold bars from their possession in Benapole border area yesterday.

The arrestee, Harun-Al-Kabir, 45, son of Abdul Gafur Talukdar, is a resident of Chasara area in Narayanganj, and Ariful Islam, 33, son of Safiqul Islam of Gazaria upazila in Munshiganj.

Deputy Commissioner Abdus Sadek of Benapole Customs said, being tipped-off, a team of the custom intelligence raided the no-man's land area in the morning and arrested the duo along with four gold bars weighing 40 tolas.

The gold was being smuggled to India, said Sadek.

The seized gold was deposited at Benapole Custom House later in the day.

Bhashani univ teachers' assoc office-bearers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Dr Muhammad Shahin and Dr Mohammad Iqbal Mahmud have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the teachers' association of Mawlawi Bhashani Science and Technology University.

The election was held on Tuesday, 11 years after formation of the previous committee in 2006.

Executive committee members are Ali Newas Bahar, Abdul Gaffar Khan, Monmon Binte Aziz, Dr Mohammad Joynul Abedin, Abu Jafar Shiblee and Mahmuda Binte Latif.



School kids along with other people take a risky ride on a small boat in a flooded area to attend their classes. The photo, giving a typical picture in the haor areas during the ongoing rainy season, was taken from Kontinala in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Risky boat rides to attend school

Many schools in haor areas resume classes, exams as flood situation slightly improves in Moulvibazar, Sylhet

MINTU DESHWARA, MOULVIBAZAR

With floodwater slowly receding in Moulvibazar and Sylhet, many schools in submerged areas have resumed classes after a long break, but most of the students have to take risky ride on small boats to attend education institutions in the two districts of Sylhet division.

"I feel worried while going to school on a small boat in Hakaluki Haor area. We have to face added trouble when it rains," said Sahena Islam, a student of Gourcharon Nurul Islam Dakhil Madrasa in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar.

"We started classes on July 15 after a long closure. Most of the students are coming to school on small boats," said Ahmedur Rahman Chowdhury, vice-

principal of the madrasa.

Namor Ali, vice-president of Gourcharon Government Primary School managing committee in the same upazila said, "We remain anxious as the school children pass the waterway in boats amid risk. We have asked the guardians to send their kids with own responsibilities."

Raihan Ahmed, an intermediate second year student of Fenchuganj Business Management College in Fenchuganj upazila of Sylhet, said he has to take boat rides to go to attend classes as roads in the area have become unusable due to damage by floods.

Md Abdul Alim, district primary education officer of Moulvibazar, said, "Most of the school students are coming to classes

on boats. It is a bit risky although Haor kids know how to swim. Teachers of flood-affected schools have been asked to arrange additional classes to make up the loss due to closure of classes during the serious floods."

Tahmina Khatun, deputy director of primary education department in Sylhet, and Zahangir Kabir Ahmed, deputy director of secondary and higher secondary education department in the division, said the school authorities in flooded areas take decision whether to run classes, considering the risk of students who have to come by boats.

"As many as 152 primary schools in Moulvibazar kept the classes suspended due to the floods. Forty of them resumed

classes during the last few days," said district primary education office sources.

In Sylhet, 161 primary schools had to suspend classes but all of them have started classes by now.

According to secondary and higher secondary education department in Sylhet division, 80 high schools in flooded areas suspended classes and terminal examinations. By now 80% of them have resumed regular school activities.

Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board in Sylhet, said the Kushiara was flowing 2cm above the danger level at Shewla point yesterday.

The situation will improve further if there is not much rain in next few days.

Woman hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A middle-aged woman was hacked to death inside her house in Sakhipur upazila of the district on Tuesday.

The deceased was Rawshanwara Begum, 55, of Chhotochowna village in the upazila.

Police and family members said Rawshanwara had been living at the house alone since her husband's demise for the last few years.

The victim's daughter lives at her husband's house while her son stays in Sakhipur municipality area.

Neighbours found her room locked from outside around 9:00pm. When they called her on mobile phone, no one answered. Later, they found her body lying on the floor and informed police.

The body was sent to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy, they said.

Later, a case was filed in this connection, said Alamgir Ashraf, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Sakhipur Police Station.

Six drug peddlers detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Six drug peddlers were arrested with Yaba, Phensidyl, cellphones and money in cash yesterday.

Rab arrested Rafiqul Islam, Ratan Mia, Atiqur Rahman, Popy Akhtar, Shahidul Islam, and Saidur Rahman during separate drives at Choksurapur Chaporpara and Godarpara in the town.

Rab-1 Co company Commander Major SM Morshed Hasan said the elite force conducted the drives in the areas and arrested the culprits. They recovered 150 Yaba tablets, 250 bottles of Phensidyl, Tk 41,100 in cash and four cellphones.



PHOTO: STAR

Hanif Mia reaps muskmelon at his field in Pathorghata upazila of Barguna. The photo was taken recently.

Kid killed by brother-in-law

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A minor girl was killed by her brother-in-law at Kursha Nagar village in Trishal upazila of the district on Tuesday.

The victim was Ema Akhter, 6, a primary school student and daughter of Jalal Uddin.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Trishal Police Station Md Jakir Rahman said Jasim Uddin Titu of Trishal Nampara married Ema's elder sister Sharmin Akhter one-and-a-half-years ago.

There was dispute between the husband and wife over Titu's alleged illicit relationships, police said.

The couple had an altercation on Friday and Sharmin went to her father's house saying that she would not continue her relationship with Titu.

On Monday, Titu went to his in-laws' house to take back Sharmin. On Tuesday, Titu went out of the house with Ema.

As they did not return home, Ema's parents searched for them but could not find them. Later, they informed police.

Titu was arrested from Purbadhalia upazila of Netrakona on Tuesday. He confessed during interrogation that he strangled Ema.

Police recovered Ema's body from a water body in the village yesterday.

Titu was produced before a court that sent him to jail, the OC said.

Off-season muskmelon brightens Hanif's life

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A farmer of Chototenga village in Pathorghata upazila of Barguna has earned good profit by growing muskmelon the off-season, encouraging other farmers to do the same.

Hanif Mia, 50, said he grows many kinds of seasonal vegetables and fruits on his three-acre farm round the year. Muskmelon normally grows from February to May in the area, he said, adding that he started growing melon in the off-season to earn more from the juicy fruit.

"I cultivated muskmelon on 50 decimals of land in my farm at a cost of around Tk 30,000. I planted seeds in first week of May and the fruits were ripe by the middle of June. I sold them in the local market for Tk 70,000," Hanif said.

Many locals and buyers from outside come to his farm, which is about five kilometres west of Pathorghata upazila town, to buy melon, he added.

"The fruits are totally chemical-free as I use compost fertilizer instead of chemical fertilizer or insecticide in my farm, so buyers are happy to buy them," Hanif said.

He hopes to earn around Tk 50,000 more by selling the rest of the melons in his field, he said.

His wife Golenur and their sons Nasir Uddin, Sohel, Helal and Ripon help him in the farm, Hanif said.

Seeing his success, many local farmers go to Hanif for advice on how to cultivate melon on their land.

Farmer Shah Alam said Hanif is a model farmer in the area, and they always take advice from him to get better crops.

Pathorghata Upazila Agriculture Officer Shishir Kumar Baral said Hanif is really a good farmer and they are very glad to see his success.

1900 bottles of Phensidyl seized, couple held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police seized 1,900 bottles of Phensidyl from Taktabunia village in Barguna's Amtali upazila on Tuesday.

They arrested Hanif, 45, and his wife Maksuda Begum, 35, of the village in this connection, said Md Sahid Ullah, officer-in-charge of Amtali Police Station.

On secret information, a police team raided Hanif's house and recovered the Phensidyl, said the OC.

The arrestees were produced before the Judicial Magistrate's Court in the upazila that sent them to jail yesterday.

Lightning kills farmer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A farmer was killed yesterday when he was struck by lightning at Tippara village of the district's Dimla upazila.

The victim was Ziarul Islam, 35, son of late Luthfor Rahman of the village.

Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Kashem said Ziarul was tilling his field in the afternoon for cultivating Aman paddy when rain started along with lightning flashes.

The victim was struck by lightning and his whole body was burnt, the chairman added.

The day labourers who were transplanting paddy saplings in a nearby field rushed to the spot and took him to Dimla Upazila Health Complex where he succumbed to his injuries, Kashem said.

Father dies without seeing justice 6 yrs of Milon's gruesome murder in Noakhali

MD NURUL AMIN, Noakhali

Family of Shamsuddin Milon is yet to get justice six years into his gruesome killing in the district.

Meanwhile, his father died in March this year without seeing justice being done for the death of his son, said the victim's mother Kohinoor Begum.

On July 27 in 2011, 17-year-old Milon went to Charkra High School to meet his cousin Chumki, a Class VI student of the same school.

When Milon was waiting in front of the school, some villagers caught Milon, suspecting him to be a robber and handed him over to police. Police then threw Milon from their van into the hands of the angry mob. The mob beat him mercilessly, leaving him dead on the spot.

Later, the mob handed over the body of Milon to police who kept it with bodies of five robbers in front of Companiganj Police Station.

After the news was published in several newspapers, the authorities suspended four policemen and a departmental case was

filed against them.

At present, accused Inspector Rafiq Ullah, SI Md Akram Sheikh, constables Abdur Rahim and Hema Ranjan Chakma are in service in the police department.

In July last year, the then OC Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan of Noakhali Detective Branch (DB) of police, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted a final report before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, relieving 31 people including four policemen.

After the hearing the same year, the court ordered the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for further investigation, said ATM Mohib Ullah, public prosecutor of the District Judge's Court.

Kohinoor, mother of Milon, said at one stage, his husband Gias Uddin agreed to withdraw the case after police assured him of giving Tk 10 lakh as compensation and a job for her younger son.

But they did not keep their commitment and the case was not withdrawn, she said.

IO Jalal Uddin Ahmed, also the assistant police superintendent of Noakhali CID, hoped that they will submit their report within two to three months.

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