



A group of people illegally catch fish with poison in one of the 18 canals in the Sundarbans where fishing is banned. Right, forest guards often detain poachers, who violate the prohibition.



PHOTO: STAR

20 Rohingyas found in Manikganj

8 held in Benapole

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Twenty Rohingya refugees, who entered Bangladesh to escape persecution in Myanmar, were found in Manikganj, around 450 kilometres from Cox's Bazar camps.

Meanwhile, eight Rohingyas were detained from Benapole.

The rescued people were lost after crossing the border and took refuge in Manikganj as they travelled through Bangladesh looking for shelter, our correspondent reports quoting Police Superintendent Mahfuzur Rahman.

The Rohingyas are 20 members of three families, said the SP. On information, the 20 were rescued from different areas in Singair upazila of the district on Wednesday afternoon.

They were first taken to the SP's office and later taken to Singair Pilot High School where they were kept under police custody.

They will be sent back to Cox's Bazar today, said the police official.

The rescued Rohingyas are residents of Mondukaderbil village of Rakhine state of Myanmar.

Up to 400,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh since August 25, with thousands more arriving every day, Unicef said yesterday.

They have arrived in Bangladesh in the face of what Bangladesh government and many others internationally called "genocide" by Myanmar's military forces in the Rakhine state.

On the other hand, members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested eight Rohingyas from border village Kholsi under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees are Yasmin Nahar, 20, Jahid Hossain, 33, and their sons Arman Hossain, 9, and Imran Hossain, 7, Azizul Haque, 30, Hafsa Begum, 22, wife of Azizul Haque, and their sons Iqbal Hossain, 8, and Hafizur Rahman, 4.

Lt Col Tariqul Alam, commanding officer of BGB-21 Battalion, said they arrested the eight from the bordering village while they were going to Teknaf from India.

Apurbo Hasan, officer-in-charge of the PS, said the arrestees were later produced before a Jesso court that sent them to jail.

Death by poison: A constant threat for Sundarbans crustaceans and fish

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY with ANDREW EAGLE

A few drops of poison are all it takes to decimate fish and crustacean stocks in a Sundarbans canal. The poachers who cruise the waterways of the world's largest mangrove forest in search of valuable shrimp and crabs regularly use poison. Crustaceans clamper ashore within minutes to escape the toxin and are easily collected. Fish die en-masse, carcasses left to float away on current and tide.

Delip, Akkas and Yakub, three locals from Chila village in Mongla upazila, told this correspondent that they illegally fish with poison in the Sundarbans canals. They were interested in crabs and shrimp due to high market prices, they said, rather than

the fish. Having collected the crustaceans from an area, they quickly flee.

"Some locals from Marapasur, Dangmari, Jhapshi and Jongra villages in the Sundarbans area are known to persistently fish using poison," says the divisional forest officer of Sundarbans East Division, Mahamadul Hasan. "It's not only the canals they fish that are affected. The toxic water flows into the larger rivers, damaging the aquatic ecosystem there as well." He says stern measures are taken against poachers who are caught.

"We have eighteen canals across the Sundarbans where all fishing is banned, because they are important spawning grounds," says Bashirul Al Mamun, the divisional forest officer in Sundarbans

West Division. "Yet fishing with poison has never ceased. In the last five years 37 poachers have been sent to jail for the crime; to protect fish breeding cycles, law enforcement agencies must continue to take stern action against any who violate the fishing prohibition."

In June the Coast Guard detained another four fishermen who caught fish using poison. They were handed over to the Koyra Police Station in Khulna. "We take poaching very seriously," says Coast Guard operation officer, Lieutenant Abdullah Al Mahamud, referring to the recent arrests. "It's not only fish species that are being destroyed by poisons. The whole forest ecosystem is degraded."

Yet despite efforts the poaching problem

does not go away. One issue is the ready availability of the poisons used which, poachers claim, can be collected from any pesticide shop.

"Insecticides like Ribcod are designed for the agricultural sector," says one pesticide shop owner, Maruf Molla, "but they are also used for fish poaching. This pest control chemical which is approved by the agriculture department is widely available."

In this regard, Mongla Upazila Agriculture Officer Abdullah Al Mamun urged the administration to be tough on offenders in order to prevent misuse of this pesticide.

The Sundarbans are home to about three hundred species of fish.

Man gets life for killing wife in Rajbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A Rajbari court on Wednesday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his wife in 2011.

The lifer is Abdur Rashid, 47, son of Gafur Sardar of Mukundia village in Rajbari Sadar.

District and Sessions Judge Md Aminul Haque also acquitted accused Azam Mandal in the case as allegation brought against him could not be proved.

According to the prosecution, Rashid killed Shahanara Begum following an altercation over her illicit relationship with Azam on December 1 in 2011. She was mother of two daughters.

The victim's brother Tara Mia filed a case with Rajbari Police Station the following day.

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

He also acquitted Azam Mandal in the case, said Public Prosecutor Ujir Ali Sheikh.

Cattle market on school premises

Academic activities hampered as the market sits two days a week

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Sunamganj

Academic activities at Haji Konu Mia High School in Doarabazar upazila of the district are being hampered as a cattle market sits on the school premises on two days every week, students, guardians and teachers said.

The huge gathering on the school ground every Friday and Tuesday distracts the students' attention. Besides, they cannot use the school ground on those days.

The school premises has been used as a cattle market for a long time under the patronisation of local influential people, who often pay a part of the toll money to the school authorities.

A Class VIII student told this correspondent that they cannot play in the school field during leisure period as it is occupied by traders and cattle. They are also afraid of attacks by the cattle.

Mozzamil Ali, a guardian, said the cattle traders and brokers occupy the school corridor on market days, and also use the chairs, tables and benches of the school.

Abdul Hye Fazlu of the area said, "I leased the place for Tk 4.5 lakh this year."

District Education Officer Md Jahangir Alam said, "I shall investigate the matter, and if the allegation is found true, steps will be taken as per rules."



A cattle market takes over the premises of Haji Konu Mia High School in Doarabazar upazila of Sunamganj every Friday and Tuesday, hampering academic activities and preventing students from playing in the school ground. PHOTO: STAR



The main road of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) industrial area in Mymensingh town has become dilapidated and water remains stagnant for months as the drainage system has collapsed.

Mymensingh BSCIC roads in bad shape, drainage collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Almost all the roads of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) industrial area have become unusable as the drainage system of the area has collapsed.

Rainwater has remained stagnant on the main road for the last two and a half months, locals said, adding that it has been in a dilapidated state for the last several years.

BSCIC Estate Officer (EO) Md Aminul Islam said there are around 5,000 staff and workers of different factories in the lone industrial area here.

Mohammad Hobi, a guard of Ibrahim Flour Mill, said they cannot even walk out of their mill due

to the pitiable state of the road where water remains stagnant even after light rain.

Another worker Tofael Mia said water enters the mill compound when the main road gets flooded after heavy rain.

Promedics Pharmaceuticals Production Manager Md Khalilur Rahman said the problem has been prevailing for around eight years and took a serious turn in the last two years as the drainage system of the area has collapsed. "We informed the BSCIC authorities several times about the matter, but no step has been taken as yet," he added.

The daily Jahan Editor Prof Rebeka Yasmin said she has been virtually confined to her house for over two

and a half months due to water-logging on the main road.

Workers said that they have been wading through ankle-deep or knee-deep water to go to work for the last several years and it costs twice the normal fare to go to their destinations.

Aminul said a project of Tk 5 crore, including Tk 3 crore for construction of roads and improvement of the drainage system, has been submitted to the authorities concerned over three months ago, but no reply has been received yet.

BSCIC Deputy General Manager Shah Nuruzzaman said mobile courts have started drives against illegal structures built on the drains here.

Two JMB suspects on fresh remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A court here yesterday placed two Jama'atul Mujahideen (JMB) suspects on a four-day fresh remand.

They are Syed Nurul Huda Masum, 34, and Syed Mazharul Islam Khokon, 28, sons of late Syed Abul Hossain Chishtee of Masinda village under Elanga municipality in Kalihati upazila.

Senior Judicial Magistrate in Tangail Hamidul Islam passed the order following a prayer for seven-day fresh remand of the duo, court sources said.

Following a lead, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided the suspected hideout on September 4 and arrested the siblings from there. They also recovered an improvised drone, machetes, axes and controversial Islamic

literature from the hideout.

The next day's raid in Mazar Road area of Dhaka's Mirpur was based on the information provided by them.

On the same day, Deputy Assistant Director of Crime Prevention Company-3 of Rab-12 Selim Miah filed a case against them with Kalihati Police Station under Anti-Terrorism Act.

Kalihati police produced them before the Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Rupun Kumar Das on September 6 with a prayer for seven-day remand, but the court granted a four-day remand. They were sent to jail after expiry of their remand on September 10.

The investigation was shifted to the Rab on Wednesday, said Bina Rani Das, commander of crime prevention company-3 of Rab-12.

"We have taken the duo on fresh remand for more quizzing," the Rab officer, also the new investigation officer of the case, added.

Youth falls off train roof, dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A youth died after he fell off the roof of a train on Dhaka-Chittagong rail route in Akhaura railway junction area of the district yesterday.

The deceased was Md Mohon Miah, 20, son of Shafiq Miah of Burichang upazila in Comilla.

Mohon slipped to the ground while he was travelling on the roof of the Dhaka-bound Kamaphuli Express.

Critically injured Mohon later died at a hospital, said Md Abdus Sattar, officer-in-charge of Akhaura Railway Police Station.

An unnatural death case was filed in this connection, said the OC.

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e-Tender Notice

This is notify for all concerned that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the tenders mentioned below. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd

Sl No.	Tender ID/Tender Ref No.	Name of work	Closing and opening date & time
01	ID No-119686 OTM-09/egp/bban/rhd/2017-18	Repair work of existing damaged pavement by base type-II Carpeting & Seal Coat at 10 th km 12 th kmP&15 th km of Bandarban-Rowangchari-Ruma Road Z-1813 under Bandarban Road Division during the year 2017-18 Ch to 4936 Periodic maintenance.	27 September 2017 15:00 27 September 2017 15:00
	ID No-120224 OTM-10/egp/bban/rhd/2017-18	Construction of RCC Culvert 2.00mX2.00m & wide 8.10m at 3 rd km of Aziznagar-Gazalia-Lama Road Z-1007 under Bandarban Road Division during the year 2017-18 Ch to 4936 Periodic maintenance.	27 September 2017 15:30 27 September 2017 15:30
	ID No-120243 OTM-11/egp/bban/rhd/2017-18	Construction of RCC Retaining wall 3.00m height at 2 nd km of Bandarban-Rowangchari-Ruma Road Bandarban-Rowangchari portion under Bandarban Road Division during the year 2017-18 Ch to 4936 Periodic maintenance.	27 September 2017 15:00 27 September 2017 15:00

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