

# Save Khowai, Sutang

## Speakers tell Habiganj discussion marking World Rivers Day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Speakers at a discussion in Habiganj town marking World Rivers Day yesterday demanded immediate action against grabbers and polluters of the Khowai and Sutang rivers.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon's (Bapa) Habiganj unit and Khowai River Waterkeeper organised the discussion titled "Let Rivers Flow Naturally for Lives" at Habiganj Girls' High School ground in the town.

Due to irrigation problem, farmers in the nearby villages have abandoned paddy farming and switched to vegetable cultivation but it is also hampered in the dry season due to lack of water, said Tofazzal Sohel of Khowai River Waterkeeper.

"Pollution has taken a serious turn as chemical wastes from nearby small factories are left to now narrowed Khowai and Sutang rivers. But the authorities concerned seem silent on the matter," he said.

"Lack of garbage management system in Habiganj town is the major cause of pollution in Khowai and Sutang rivers. Some influential people grabbed land on the riverbanks during the past few years," prominent journalist advocate Mansur Uddin

Ahmed Iqbal said in his speech as chief guest at the meeting.

Human wastes from open toilets on the riverbanks and others across the town also find their way into the river through drains and canals.

Vice-principal of Government Women's College Prof Nazmul Haque, Tahmina Begum of Bapa's Habiganj unit, Headmaster of Habiganj Girls' High School Rokeya Khatun and Dr SS Al-Amin Suman attended as special guests at the programme chaired by Ekramul Wadud, president of Bapa's Habiganj unit.

Moinul Islam, 45, a resident of Rampur area in Habiganj Sadar upazila, said, "Now the Khowai river is too narrow and its water too dirty. It is difficult to walk near the river due to stench. One faces the risk of contacting waterborne diseases if he baths or swims in the river."

Touhidul Islam, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) in Habiganj, said, "I'm sorry to say that the Khowai continues to face grabbing and encroachment. We are preparing a list of land grabbers and polluters to take initiative for recovering the lands of the two rivers."



A scene of horrible pollution due to garbage dumping in the Khowai river at Khowai Mukh in Habiganj Sadar upazila. Inset, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon's (Bapa) Habiganj unit and Khowai River Waterkeeper organise a discussion titled "Let Rivers Flow Naturally for Lives" on the premises of Habiganj Girls' High School in the town yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Cop action saves 2 girls from stalkers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Prompt action by police against rogue stalkers has ensured smooth schooling of two girl students in Rajapur upazila under the district.

The two girls, one studying at SK Girls' High School at Galua in Rajapur, and another at Putiakhalai Madrasa of the same area, said Kamrul Akon, 35, a local, often disturbed them on way to school and madrasa and gave indecent proposal.

The madrasa girl also got indecent overtures from Md Azam Howlader, 45, of the same area.

The two girls, both from Putiakhalai village, stopped attending their classes from August 20 as their parents did not permit them to go out in fear of harassment, said Sheikh Munirul Giash, OC of Rajapur Police Station.

"Soon after being informed, police arrested Kamrul on Friday night and a case was filed in this connection. We are continuing drive to arrest the other accused," he said.

Thanking police for the action, the two girls said now they feel safe.

Kamrul rejected the allegation against him and said he was victimised by some local powerful men.

# RECESSION OF FLOODWATER, FOOD CRISIS Haor wildlife under threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Wildlife in Moulvibazar haor areas is in danger as acute food crisis and shortage of living places are forcing different endangered species towards localities.

The situation is getting worse with receding of floodwater this year.

Wildlife Department on Friday released a fishing cat in Lawacherra National Park Lake in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila, a day after it was rescued from Kawadighi haor area in Rajnagar upazila.

Villagers caught the fishing cat from the abandoned house of one Bahar Ali of Sikka village on Thursday afternoon, said Tabibur Rahman, assistant conservator of wildlife under the forest department.

Bahar and his family members took shelter on a nearby embankment during the flood last month, Tabibur said,

adding, "Finding it abandoned the cat might have taken refuge there."

"Due to the flood many endangered species have lost their habitats and living places," he said, adding, they are also coming under attack by local people.

Monzur Kader Chowdhury, former president of PRADHIKAR (an initiative for wildlife rights) of Sylhet Agriculture University, said fishing cats generally live in wetlands, along rivers, streams and swamps in South and Southeast Asia.

He said it is listed on the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable as it is facing threat of extinction due to destruction of wetlands in the last one decade.

Divisional Forest Officer of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department Mihir Kumar Doe said, "We do not support the capture or killing of any wild animals."

# Stalkers beat girl unconscious

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A gang of stalkers beat up a Class X girl on her way to school at Londa village in Kalapara upazila under the district yesterday morning, leaving her unconscious.

A gang led by Rahat, son of Jasim Khan of the village, had been disturbing the girl on the way to her school, even gave her bad proposal, said school sources and police.

Around 9:00am yesterday, the girl with her two classmates was going to school when Rahat and his companions Hadi Dewan, Taijul Islam, Abdul Maleq and Saiful Islam attacked her and beat her with sticks. At one stage she fell to the ground senseless and the gang fled.

Her two classmates who had moved away in fear informed the locals and teachers who rushed to the spot, rescued the victim and sent her to a nearby clinic.

Rahat and his accomplices often stalk girls on the way, said Sukhranjon Talukder, headmaster of the school, Ashraf Academy.

GM Shahnewaz, OC of Kalapara Police Station, said they will take lawful step over the matter.

# Rock production suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Germania Trest Consortium (GTC), a contracted company of Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGMCL) in Parbatipur upazila, yesterday suspended rock production demanding removal of a general manager.

GTC officials suddenly asked its workers not to join work until further notice, bringing allegation of non-cooperation against General Manager Mir Abdul Hannan.

MGMCL Managing Director Mahmud Khan said according to the contract, GTC authorities cannot do it.



Some local influential people illegally lift sand from the Gorai river in Rajbari's Baliakandi upazila, posing threat of erosion. Inset, a dredger used for lifting sand from the river is kept on the riverbank.

PHOTO: STAR

# Sand lifting poses risk of Gorai river erosion

## Influential people doing the illegal practice in Rajbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A syndicate of influential people has been illegally lifting sand from the Gorai river in Baliakandi upazila of Rajbari for the last three months, creating the threat of erosion.

Locals alleged that Firoj Ahad Khan of Garakhola village and his two partners, Shahab Ali Khan of Sonakandar village and Badsha Mondol of Narua village under Narua union, have been illegally lifting sand with dredgers from different spots in the union for several months.

On a recent visit to Narua, this correspondent saw a pile of sand beside Jangol-Baliakandi road at Sonakandar village on the bank of the Gorai river. There was a dredger and

some pipes there, and tin shed for the labourers to live in.

"They have been lifting sand from here for some months. We cannot tell them anything because they are influential people, although we are facing a great threat of erosion," said Abdul Ohab Mollah, a resident of Sonakandar village.

"Most of the time they lift sand during the dry season and also lift mud from the river. As a result, some farmers have lost their croplands," said Shajahan Mondol, a farmer of the village. The sand lifters had left due to mobile court drives four months ago, but they returned after some days, he added.

"Croplands and homesteads and other structures are under threat of erosion due to sand lifting. But

none can say it because of fear," said Oawzad Ali, a resident of the village.

"We have a lot of land in that area. I bought sand for Tk 10 to Tk 12 lakh and kept it on 44 decimals of land. I have two partners, and Jahurul Islam, general secretary of Narua union Awami League, is working as our adviser," Firoj said, adding that he had bought sand from legal leaseholders.

Jahurul said, "I have no involvement in this sand business. I never go to sand lifting places. I do not take any money from them."

"A syndicate is illegally lifting sand from the riverbed, causing erosion. I shall take steps against it soon," said HM Rakib Haider, upazila nirbahi officer of Baliakandi.

# Lightning kills 6

STAR COUNTRY DESK

At least six people were killed by lightning in Dinajpur and Nilphamari yesterday.

The deceased were Naba Kishore Roy, 14, Bonita Rani Roy, 30, of Biral upazila, Meser Ali, 32, and Sukuddin, 33, of Sadar upazila, and Shahida Begum, 32, of Chirirbandar upazila, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Family said lightning killed Shahida around 3:00am.

In Biral, at least 11 people took shelter at a temporary shed in Razarampur village when rain started. All of a sudden, a thunderbolt struck them. Four people were killed in the incident.

Meanwhile, a man was killed as thunderbolt struck him while fishing amid rain in Nilphamari's Dimla upazila, reports our correspondent.

# Five girls return from Indian prison

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Five teenage girls returned home from India on Friday after completion of their three years jail terms for crossing the border without valid documents.

Indian police handed the returnees over to Benapole Immigration Police at Benapole Check Post.

They hail from Barisal and Pirojpur.

Officer-in-charge of Benapole Immigration Police Omar Sharif said the girls illegally entered Indian territory over three years ago through Jessore borders in search of jobs.

Indian police arrested them from Bangalore town and filed a case against them for illegal intrusion.

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Memo No. 1440 Date: 17/09/17

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the below works.

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work/package description	Last selling date & time	Opening date & time	Remarks
120707	e-GP/04/EE/SRD/2017-2018	Supplying of PJ Bricks & Local Sand (F.M. 0.50) at RHD stackyard Shariatpur for Maintenance work of different roads under Shariatpur Road Division during the year-2017-2018	08/10/2017 11:00am	08/10/2017 14:00pm	Only online tender

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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**Tender Notice**  
**e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time for tender/proposal submission	Tender opening date and time
120802	03/e-GP/BZ/ADP/PI R/2017-2018	Road widening strengthening & DBS Wearing Course work at Ch: 53445 to Ch: 64250 km of Barisal-Jhalakathi-Rajapur-Bhandaria-Pirojpur R-870 Road under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2017-2018.	18-Oct-2017 at 17:00	19-Oct-2017 at 12:15

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branch.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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