

## Man arrested for raping daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man, who had been raping his 10-year-old daughter for a year, was arrested from Ramkanotpur village in Sadar upazila of Rajshahi on Wednesday.

Another man, who also raped the kid several times, was arrested from the village.

The arrested are father of the girl Rahman Bhuiyan, 35, and Sumon Ahmed, 26, son of Ahsan Ullah. Sumon is former BCL joint secretary of Rajshahi unit.

Locals said Rahman is a drug addict and peddler. He lives with his ten-year-old daughter after his wife's death, they said, adding that Sumon used to go to Rahman's house daily to take drugs.

The victim said her father has been raping her for one year and Sumon raped her several times when he came to their house to take drugs. She said they also beat her father warned her not to disclose the matter to anyone, she added.

The victim told everything to her schoolteacher and the teacher informed us. We informed the police, who arrested the criminals and took them to the Rajshahi Mahila Parishad General Secretary Sabita Guho.

OC of Rajshahi Sadar Police Station Kamal Hossain Bhuiyan said the victim has been sent to Rajshahi General Hospital for medical test.



## Drives rickshaw to complete study

MOHSIN MILON with ANDREW EAGLE

To see him as he pedals down the road, Russel Akram, 18, from Kaikahali village in Satkhira's Shyamnagar upazila, looks like any young rickshaw driver. But Russel is a second year High School Certificate candidate at Jessore MM College. Like any rickshaw driver, he drives a rickshaw for a livelihood. He also relies on the income for his education, to buy books and pens.

"Driving a rickshaw is very difficult but I will give as much labour for my family as I

can," he says, "and I will continue to study at any cost. I had thought to work as a tutor for younger students but none of their families will accept me as a teacher and if they do, they won't pay much. It's better to drive a rickshaw. I can earn up to Tk 200 per day."

From a broken home, Russel resided from class six at an orphanage. He currently rents accommodation in Jessore town, living with his frail grandparents and his young brother and sister, all of whom he supports as the sole breadwinner. Russel's mother and

father are each living elsewhere. He has been driving rickshaws since childhood.

Russel previously studied at the Muslim Academy in Jessore. He passed his Junior School Certificate with a grade of 4.69 and his Secondary School Certificate with a grade of 4.33.

"I do not know how much adversity I will have to face or how many obstacles will need to be overcome," he says, "I don't know whether I will win this fight! But I dream of doing something good for the country so I must complete my studies."

## Militants trying to reorganise

Says IGP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

"Militants are not that strong now. Although they are trying to reorganise, we have broken their strength," Inspector General of Police (IGP) AKM Shahidul Hoque said yesterday.

He said this while addressing a community policing gathering on terrorism and drug abuse at Shibganj Stadium in Chapainawabganj as the chief guest.

The IGP said most of the militants arrested across the country are from Rajshahi and Chittagang divisions.

He also sought proactive help from common people as well as police, so anything bad can be checked before it occurs.

The difference between police and common people must be minimised and they must have a bridge between them, he said, adding, community forum is formed to empower common people and make police accountable to them.

Presided over by Chapainawabganj Superintendent of Police Md Mojahidul Islam, lawmaker Golam Rabbani, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Rajshahi Range) M Khurshid Hossain and Chapainawabganj Deputy Commissioner Mahmudul Hasan spoke at the meeting.

## Two women get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A court here yesterday sentenced two women to life term for killing a minor girl at Chadgaon village in Pirganj upazila in 2014.

The lifers are Mazeda Khatun, 45, wife of late Tarabuddin and her stepbrother Bhuvan Ali's wife Tahmina Begum, 42, of the village.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Haydar Ali delivered the verdict in the crowded court room in presence of the convicts.

The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each. In default, they are to suffer another three months in jail.

According to the prosecution, Mazeda strangled Nadia, 5, daughter of neighbour Abdul Qudus with the help of Tahmina over a piece of disputed land on April 17 in 2014.

Later, the victim's father filed a murder case with Pirganj Police Station.

## LGED delay causes suffering

Flood-hit villagers voluntarily repair damaged roads, bridges in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Villagers in many areas of the district are repairing at their own expenses the roads, bridges and culverts that were damaged by the recent floods.

They have been suffering every day since communication has been snapped in many places because the damaged roads, bridges and culverts have not been repaired by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and the Roads and Highways Department (RID).

Engineers said 112 km of roads and three culverts under repair were damaged by floods and 62 km of roads, four bridges and 27 culverts under LGED were damaged in the district.

Syed Ali, 58, in Sadar upazila said around 60 percent of a 30-foot bridge at Dhairkhat village was damaged by recent floods and communication remained snapped for two weeks. "We set up a bamboo bridge at our own expenditure," he added.

"Rickshaws, vans and other vehicles aren't allowed to cross the bamboo made bridge, only bicycles and motorcycles can move on it," said Joylail Miah, 50, adding that they use it to connect with the district and upazila headquarters.

Azizul Islam, 48, said a road at Kulaghat village damaged by floods was repaired temporarily through earth filling at the local people's expenditure. "As the damaged road is yet to be

repaired permanently, people face problems in communication, especially during the night," he added.

Shamsul Islam, 63, in Hatibandha upazila said LGED has set up a bamboo structure on a damaged bridge at Gaddimari village for connecting with the upazila town. "Construction of a permanent bridge is needed as the bamboo bridge may collapse at any time," he said.

LGED Executive Engineer Zakir Rahman said bamboo bridges were set up and earth filling was done in many areas with funds from LGED. "We have received funds for conducting repair work on damaged roads, bridges and culverts and we are in the process of calling a tender," he added.



People cross a bamboo bridge set up by the villagers at their own expense to replace the one that was damaged in the recent flood at Dhairkhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

## Torchbearer of Madhupur

FROM PAGE 20

When the sun set the whole area trembled to the roar of tigers."

From class eight Protibha was admitted to St Mary's Girls School in Mymensingh's Halaughat, but her family was soon unable to bear the schooling expenses. Rather than quitting, she tutored younger students to pay her way.

"When I returned home for the holidays," she says, "I bought goats and boars for neighbours to rear." When the livestock were sold she used the money to help her family.

Later she started going home. "My father was pressuring me to marry," she recalls. "I dreamt of becoming a doctor." As difficult as it was not to see and hear her relatives, Protibha pursued her dream. She studied at Vidyayogee Girls School in Mymensingh while boarding at a French-run Baptist hostel.

Ultimately, economic realities precluded her studying medicine. She completed instead a year of training in Dhaka as a joined Mymensingh's Holy Family School in 1952 as a teacher.

In 1965, she decided to transfer to a primary school in Madhupur. "I went home to house to motivate people," she said. "A part of my shirt set cost one taka in those days," she says, "I bought clothes for as many as I could."

Not did she lose interest in health. "I enquired after babies, whether they were being breast-fed, to protect them from their roots. We may be Christian but we are also Garo," she says, "I was a matter of pride."

When 1971 arrived, as elsewhere the

Madhupur community had to manage the realities of war. "Along with the missionaries, Garos secretly helped the freedom fighters," Protibha says. "We brought them to our homes. I remember feeding them puffed rice and molasses. The Pakistani army came searching for them, but because the commanding officer in this area was a Christian we were spared harm."

After independence Protibha took a lead role in establishing Madhupur Girls High School, collecting door-to-door donations. For the next two decades she worked there, until 1994.

Today most of Madhupur's 30,000-strong Garo community are well-schooled. There are around 100 primary and three high schools to cater to several hundred Garo students.

Garos were once treated as wild or lower class, remarks Njoy-a-mind president of Madhupur's indigenous cultural development forum. "Now, we are more educated than most, especially our women. It was only possible for the contribution of great souls like Protibha."

"Protibha would meet village headmen and priests," says Eugene Nokrek, chairman of the Joishnadi indigenous community council. "She did much to convince them to establish schools."

Needless to say, Protibha is pleased. "It's nice to see that Garos are well-educated. Many have government jobs, as magistrates, doctors and nurses. My only advice is that education from books isn't enough. One's conscience is also a guide."

Protibha chose never to marry, but she adopted a son, Anish Nokrek, now 65. She lives with him, his wife and their five children. As she sits in the yard of their modest earthen home reading a newspaper, perhaps the only woman she is, is the lack of reading glasses.

"I can't move far because of a bad knee," she admits, "but my mind moves widely still, across Madhupur's villages."

## The scarlet

FROM PAGE 20  
millenniums. The varying number of tones composed of under pulses gave a clear hint of the originator of the sounds. It was the Smiths Little Frog, a permanent resident of Lowacherra National Forest in Kamalganj Upazila of Moulvibazar.

The frog was named after Malcolm Arthur Smith, one of the early herpetologists to study the amphibians of Thailand.

A student of Forestry and Environmental Science Department of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Animesh Ghose Ayan, who was with me on this incursion, informed that these frogs are mainly found in hilly areas, especially in the forests of Chittagong Hill Tracts including Sylhet and Moulvibazar.

The specie is also widely distributed in Cambodia, Myanmar, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

At first glance, the frog comes off as quite strange. Grey on the upper portion of its back, the monotony of the colour is interrupted by black stripes with white borders. Its hind limbs are forest green, the size of a small forelimb. The key identification characteristics of this frog are the upperparts of iris, which is striking colour. This is also its most striking feature.

The frogs typically live under the cover of the foliage, in the bushes or in the holes in the tree trunks. They prefer the humid surroundings of the hills. Animesh, who researches on the frogs, said they were nocturnal. They inhabit the forest land, specifically rainforest regions, as well as dense mixed deciduous forests, where the leaf litter is abundant and close to a water source.

The male frogs start calling from dawn and end at dusk. Their population trend is stable and their diet consists of insects and worms. Surprisingly the frog does not occur in places where there are Akashi or Mahogany trees. Ihabach Banui, joint-convenor of *Labcheda Bon O Jiba boichitro Robba Anaden* said, the destruction of forests, and the different ecosystems threatens the existence of the frogs.

## Sangbad reporter denied bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A court here yesterday rejected the bail prayer of journalist Anisur Rahman, who was arrested under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act on October 31.

The arrestee Anisur, 33, is son of Israil Haque of Kantimari village in Jaduchur union under Roumari upazila of the district, and Roumari correspondent of the daily Sangbad.

Anisur's lawyer advocate Ahsan Habib Nilu said, "Police arrested

Anisur on October 31 for allegedly taking a screenshot of a fake Facebook photo of the president and the prime minister and showing it to some people. The Judicial Magistrate's Court sent him to jail on November 1 when police produced him before the court. It fixed November 9 for hearing of the bail petition."

The court rejected Anisur's prayer after hearing yesterday.

"I shall collect a copy of the rejected bail order on November 12 and place it before the District Judge's Court on

November 13," advocate Nilu said.

Sumon Mia, 24, son of Abdullah Mia of Dhananar village, had posted a fake photo of the president and the prime minister in his Facebook page. Anisur took screenshot of the photo on his mobile phone on September 8 and showed it to some people.

Shah Kamal Sarkar, president of ward No 5 of Jaduchur union, Juho League, filed a general diary with Roumari Police Station under the ICT Act against Sumon and Anisur on September 8.

## Redistribute refugees

FROM PAGE 2  
gone up, while underground water levels are depleting, he said.

Referring to forest department officials, Rezau Karim, also executive director of COAST Trust, said about 400 acres of forest in Ukhia and Teknaf have been damaged, costing some Tk 400 crore.

Destruction of the forest and obstructions on designated elephant corridors have also led to increasing elephant-human conflict, he added. Against this backdrop, CCNF demanded the Rohingya people be redistributed to other districts to ease the pressure on Cox's Bazar. Also, those who took shelter in Marine Drive and Cox's Bazar town should be relocated, the forum said.

Presently, all boat services at the Naf River are halted for security reasons, which also caused the closure of many hotels in Saint Martin's and suspended launch services to the island. This is heavily affecting tourism in the area, it said.

In a statement distributed at the press conference, CCNF proposed that the government, in association with the UN and other organisations, conduct a survey to assess the economic, ecological and health impacts in Cox's

Bazar.

Based on that, the government has to declare a long-term plan and allocate money to recover the damages," it said.

CCNF suggested creating an Environment Restoration Fund with a portion of the money being mobilised for the refugee crisis.

Aminur Rasool Babul of the National Dhara suggested that all the national, international and local NGOs need to be made accountable to the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's (RRRC) office in Cox's Bazar.

He suggested that the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, take lead of this Rohingya relief operation as mandated by UN. This will help Bangladesh negotiate better in the international arena with regards to addressing the Rohingya crisis, he added.

CCNF said UN agencies and international NGOs should work in the relief operations in partnership with local NGOs for better outcome and reduction of transaction costs.

He also demanded that all agencies working in the Rohingya camps publish aid data for public monitoring and maintaining transparency and accountability at a local level.

AKM Jashim Uddin, director of ADAB, a coordinating body of NGOs in Bangladesh, suggested electric lighting in the Rohingya camps and allowing cultural groups to promote human and cultural values among the Rohingya community.

CCNF suggested that the Bangladesh government and civil society initiate appropriate documentation, research and publicity on the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya by the Myanmar security forces so that the issue can be raised at the International Court.

Meanwhile, the National Coordinating Committee of Religious and Ethnic Minority Organisation yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Myanmar embassy in Dhaka, demanding immediate repatriation of the Rohingyas and granting them citizenship.

"The Rohingya problem should be solved under the light of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's five points, which was presented in the UN," said advocate Rana Das Gupta, coordinator of the committee that comprises of 19 religious and ethnic groups, and by bringing to reporters at Gulshan-2 circle.