

Youth arrested for violating challenged woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A young man was arrested on charge of raping a physically challenged woman in Kaharol upazila of the district on Tuesday night.

The arrestee is Abdul Maleque, 30, son of Abdul Zabbar of Dweepnagar village in the upazila.

Police arrested him from Koreya area in the upazila. Ayub Ali, officer-in-charge of Kaharol Police Station, said Maleque forcibly took the 26-year-old physically challenged woman to a maize field at his village and raped her.

Hearing screams, villagers rushed to the spot and rescued the victim. Later, Maleque was arrested in this connection.

The victim's family member later filed a rape case with Kaharol Police Station.



Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry set up this huge billboard at the entrance of Saidpur Airport in Nilphamari.

PHOTO: STAR

Work in progress for Saidpur Int'l Airport

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Saidpur Airport in the district will be upgraded soon to an international one.

As part of the upgrading process, civil aviation authorities have already completed the feasibility study and land acquisition procedure is also in progress.

Three other international airports in the country are Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka, Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong and Osmani International Airport in Sylhet.

Saidpur Airport Manager Shahin Ahmed said the authorities concerned started the upgrading work after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the announcement in parliament to upgrade the airport into an international one last year.

Following the prime minister's announcement, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) appointed a North Korean firm last year that conducted massive studies on different aspects and provided necessary suggestions in this regard.

Besides appointing the foreign company, the CAAB conducted separate surveys with relevant experts and prepared a coordinated report, Shahin added.

Accordingly, an additional 912 acres of

land covering areas in Nilphamari and Dinajpur is needed to construct a 12,000 feet approach runway in place of the existing 6,000 feet runway for operating large and modern aircraft from home and abroad, Shahin said.

The other major works, alongside the land acquisition, are modernising the terminal structure, setting up night landing system and construction of a giant boundary wall.

Meanwhile, CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Naim Hassan and Member (Operations and Planning) Air Commodore M Mostafizur Rahman visited the airport site on March 31.

Former president of Nilphamari Chamber of Commerce and Industries Shafiqul Alam Dablu Shah said upgrading the airport into an international airport will boost the country's trade and tourism with India, Bhutan, Nepal and even China for its convenient location.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Bhutanese government led by its civil aviation and tourism minister visited the Saidpur Airport site in 2012.

Nilphamari Deputy Commissioner Khaled Rahim said land acquisition process for converting the Saidpur Airport as an international one is already in progress.

Canal land grabbing brings tragic consequences

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL with ANDREW EAGLE

A market fire in Bhola district headquarters gutted fifty shops last Saturday. First detected at 1:00am, it took fire fighters four hours to douse the blaze. For shopkeepers, residents and fire fighters alike, the disaster is all the more frustrating since it occurred just fifteen feet from the Bhola canal, which could've been a convenient water source for both fire fighters and the dozens of locals who arrived with buckets to help extinguish the blaze. But due to uncontrolled land grabbing, the canal is all but dry.

"If the canal had enough water, we could've rapidly brought the situation under control," says Md Mizanur Rahman,

canal's health has been raised. In 2015 the Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association filed a writ with the High Court to save the canal, says the association's Barisal division coordinator, Linkon. "The court passed a judgement in 2017 asking local authorities to save the canal, to remove all illegal structures and restore the canal according to survey records," he says. "The district administration and municipality did implement a joint initiative following the judgement, but it fell short of reviving the canal."

"With this disaster we see the dire consequences of canal land being grabbed," observes an associate professor at the dis-



PHOTO: M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

The main canal flowing through Bhola town gets squeezed and dangerously polluted, thanks to mindless encroachment and dumping of waste.

the local station master of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence. "Most of the shops could've been saved. As we had to collect water from further away it took longer and the property damage was much more severe. Canals and other water bodies in urban areas are essential for disaster management. I have already written to the deputy commissioner's office to take action to restore this canal."

"The canal lost its water flow due to continuous encroachment and a lack of maintenance," explains one resident, Hasibur Rahman. "On both sides of the canal many structures protrude onto canal land which, along with the excess of garbage in the canal, obstructs water flow."

It's not the first time the issue of the

ter management department of Barisal University, Md Hafiz Ashrafur Haque. "It's a common scenario in cities and towns across Barisal. Similar fires are at risk of occurring in many locations. These urban canals should be saved as soon as possible in order to protect lives and property."

Bhola's deputy commissioner, Masud Alam Siddik, says that alongside the Superintendent of Police he witnessed the fire and saw first-hand the anguish of shopkeepers exacerbated by the lack of water in the canal. "The Bhola canal is the soul of Bhola city," says the deputy commissioner, who recently joined the post. "We will recover this canal and ensure a natural water flow within six months, to save the city."

Three SIs closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Three sub-inspectors of Shahzadpur Police Station were closed to Sirajganj Police Lines on Tuesday on charge of negligence of duty.

They are sub-inspectors Md Samiul Islam, Md Nwazesh Ali and Md Afzal Hossain.

Sirajganj Superintendent of Police Md Miraz Uddin Ahmed ordered to close the trio for their negligence in duty, said Officer-in-Charge of Shahzadpur Police Station Md Rakibul Islam Rakib.

Digitalisation vital to curb corruption

Speakers tell view exchange meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Expediting of digitalisation in all sectors is vital to curb corruption, otherwise, the menace of corruption will surely continue, speakers said.

The observation came at a view exchange meeting organised by District Corruption Resistance Committee in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) at the office of the Thakurgaon deputy commissioner.

They said digitalising all offices can reduce meetings between service providers and receivers, which is important to curb corruption in the society.

The speakers at the convention urged

people from all walks of life to step forward in order to eradicate corruption that acts as a barrier to economic development and prosperity of the country.

Making the country corruption-free is a must to develop it as an emerging nation, they said, adding that people, especially service providers, will have to change their mindset, otherwise, people will be deprived of the benefits of digitalisation.

They also emphasised on involving kids in sports and other cultural activities so that the younger generation can grow up with a healthy mentality that will restrain them from evil acts like corruption.

District Corruption Resistance Committee President Taslim Uddin Prodhan presided over the meeting while lawmaker from Thakurgaon-1 constituency Ramesh Chandra Sen was present as the chief guest.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The local government has constructed a beautiful building with all facilities for a primary school in Dumki upazila before its academic activities started.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the building in the fiscal year 2015-2016 at Pangashia village on 30 decimals of land donated by a local family.

Md Zakir Hossain Badsha and his mother Nurjahan Begum donated the land to set up a primary school in the name of Badshah's father Rafiqul Islam as there is no school within four kilometres of their village.

"My father was a non-government primary school teacher who died in 2016. He had a dream of setting up a school at the village to spread light of education in the area, but he died before fulfilment of his dream. We have built a school here in his name," Badsha said.

"We heard that the government has a programme to set up primary schools in areas that do not have schools. As per instruction of the local education office, we donated the land on which a nice looking building has already been built," he said.

"We are happy that the school building has been built, but we will be happier if academic activities start there," Badsha said.

Mosharraf Hossain said they are very happy as the school building has been constructed at their village. There



The beautiful building of Rafiqul Islam Primary School at Pangashia village in Dumki upazila of Patuakhali.

PHOTO: STAR

is no school in the area and their children had to go about four kilometres away to attend school, he added.

Now, their children will be able to get education from the school, he hoped.

Dumki Upazila Education Officer KM Nazrul Islam Khan said the school building was built under a special project, titled Establishment of 1,500 Primary School in Unschooled Areas, taken up by the Primary and Mass Education Ministry.

The contractor has handed over the building to them with furniture, ceiling fans and arsenic-free deep tube-

wells and separate sanitary facilities for boys and girls, he said.

They hope academic activities will start from next academic year, he added.

Dumki Upazila LGED Engineer Bipul Kumar Biswas said they constructed the building at a cost of about Tk 60 lakh with fund from the primary education authorities.

Patuakhali district Primary Education Officer Md Shahidul Islam said they are taking steps to start academic activities from the next academic session (January).

Man killed by nephews

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A man was killed allegedly by his nephews at Dharmondol village in Nasirnagar upazila on Tuesday night.

The victim was Bachhu Mia, 50, son of late Helal Uddin of the village.

Police and family members said Bachhu's nephews Jaher Mia and Ful Mia locked in an altercation with their father Noor Mia over a family matter around 8:30pm.

At one stage, the nephews hit Bachhu with a spear, leaving him seriously injured. He later died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.



TENDER NOTICE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF (13+2B) STORIED BGMEA COMPLEX AT SECTOR-17, BLOCK-H1, AVENUE-06, UTTARA (PHASE-III).

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) for construction of (13+2B) storied BGMEA Complex from the experienced construction Firms.

Qualification Criteria:-

- The Bidder must have at least 15 (Fifteen) years of experience in the same field with Proven past records.
 - The Bidder must have successful completion records of at least 1(One) similar nature of works having value of minimum Tk. 100 (One Hundred) crore in a single work order having at least two Basement.
 - The Bidder must have valid upto date Trade License, VAT Registration certificate, Income-Tax clearance certificates etc. as per prevailing Govt. rules and regulations.
 - The intending Bidders must have required qualified technical Personnels and sufficient equipments owned by them.
 - Proper documents must be submitted in support of qualification criteria as mentioned above.
- The intending Bidder shall submit their offer in sealed envelope as per instructions of the tender documents. The prescribed tender schedule with Bill of Quantities (BOQ) shall be available in Accounts Section of BGMEA at Tk. 10,000/= (Taka Ten thousands) only (non-refundable) during office hours from 05.06.2018 to 14.06.2018.
- Prospective Bidders are requested to contact C&M Cell of BGMEA for detailed information about the works during office hours only.
- The tender schedule shall be received upto 12:00 Noon on 24.06.2018 in the designated Tender Box: After the above mentioned time, no tender schedule shall be received and tender shall be opened (Technical offer only) in the same day at 3:00PM in presence of the interested Bidders.
- The bidder must submit 2% earnest money of the total bid amount in favor of "BGMEA" in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft from any schedule Bank. Without earnest money the offer shall be treated as non-responsive tender.
- The Bidders are requested to visit the site before submission of Tender.

BGMEA reserves the right to accept any tender and reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever. Any sort of persuasion in connection to this shall be treated as disqualification.

Secretary, BGMEA