

Bus driver on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

A Natore court yesterday placed bus driver Shamim Hossain on one-day remand in a case for road accident here.

Earlier, police produced Shamim and his helper Abdus Samad before the Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Sultan Mahmud and sought a five-day remand for both.

After hearing, the court allowed the police to take driver Shamim on one-day remand and granted bail for helper Samad.

On 25 August, at least 15 people were killed and 20 others injured when a passenger bus of Challenger Paribahan collided head-on with a human haulier, locally known as Leguna, on Natore-Pabna highway. Police filed a case with Lalpur Police Station accusing seven people on August 26.



Motorbikes lie scattered near First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in Tangail yesterday, as activists agitating for release of MP Amanur Rahman Khan Rana, accused in freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case, flee after police action. Inset, two youths arrested from the spot. Story on Page 18.

PHOTO: STAR

ACC boss to bear Liyon's treatment cost

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmud has taken responsibility of the treatment of ten-year-old Liyon Roy, who is suffering from neurological complications.

The fourth grader, who put his own life at risk while trying to save a parrot chick, is passing days in Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital amid lack of proper treatment.

The Daily Star on September 4 published a report headlined 'He saved the bird, but at great cost', describing the minor boy's plight.

After reading the news, ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmud asked its Director General (DG) Mohammad Munir Chowdhury to talk with Thakurgaon Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Akhtaruzzaman and enquire about the boy.

Later, DG Munir Chowdhury asked him to take immediate steps to send the boy to the capital, the DC said.

"After consulting with the doctors we will make arrangement to send Liyon to Dhaka within two to three days," he said, adding that the district administration has already donated Tk 25,000 for his treatment.

On May 18, seeing an injured parrot chick at their courtyard, a sympathetic Liyon took the bird and climbed a mango tree beside the house to put the baby bird in its nest safely, Liyon's mother Mukta Ranisaid.

"Suddenly my minor son slipped and fell to the ground while getting down from the tree and sustained severe head injuries," she added.

UJIRPUR-HARTA ROAD

Dilapidated for two years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Around five km of the busy Ujirpur-Harta road, connecting Barisal with several upazilas, have remained dilapidated for two years, causing sufferings to thousands of people.

The road connects the district town and different unions of Ujirpur upazila.

The 27 km Ujirpur-Harta road is in bad condition and the five km section from Dhamura College gate to Cherakhali has deteriorated over the last two years.

Due to heavy rainfall, mud, waterlogging and lack of maintenance by the authorities concerned, many cracks and potholes have developed on this part of the busy road.

The situation turned from bad to worse after heavy rainfall this year. Thousands of passengers, espe-

cially women and patients, who travel through this section go through a bad experience due to the state of the road.

Plying of loaded trucks stopped one year ago due to the bad shape of the road, said a trader at Dhamura bazar.

Noton Das Gupta uses the road to go to college from his residence in Ujirpur. He said the road has become unusable and may cause accidents.

The vehicles get stuck in a gridlock on the road, sometimes throughout the day, since they need to ply slowly and take much time due to the dilapidated road.

Abdul Hakim, a freedom fighter in Dhamura union, said villagers appealed to the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Barisal one year ago to reconstruct the road, but did not get any response.

Miraj, supervisor of a local bus, said around 16 local buses and hundreds of three-wheelers ply the road every day, and traffic sometimes gets stuck due to the bad condition of the road.

The bus owners' association repaired the road temporarily with bricks and sand for continuation of bus service, he added.

Locals blamed the poor repair work that was done three years ago for the present situation.

District LGED Deputy Assistant Engineer Humayun Kabir said the government has planned to widen the road from 10 feet to 16 feet and called a tender of Tk 4.5 crore for repairing the five km dilapidated road.

He said repair work will start within three months.



Two buses cross each other on the muddy and bumpy Ujirpur-Harta road. The photo was taken at Ujirpur-Shatla section in Ujirpur upazila of Barisal.

PHOTO: STAR

As rape victim is over 40!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Brahmanbaria*

A housewife, raped allegedly by two neighbours at Chhatarpur village under Bishnapur union in Bijoyagar upazila on Tuesday, is undergoing treatment at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Family members of the victim, 40, also mother of 12 children, said they went to Bijoyagar Police Station to file a case, but police said rape case cannot be filed if a woman is over 40.

"Instead of receiving the case, the OC phoned the local union parishad Chairman Jamal Uddin Bhuiyan to resolve the matter socially," said Roman Mia, nephew of the victim.

The victim told journalists that she was returning home with Tk one lakh from her parents' house at Durgapur village in Akhaura upazila on Tuesday to send her son abroad.

"After getting down from an auto-rickshaw on a nearby road, I was walking

towards my home alone through a village path around 11:00am when neighbours Nuru Mia, 35, and Osman Mia, 40, waylaid me at Shilbari More," she said.

"They snatched away the money, tied my mouth and forcibly took me to a garden. They raped me there, leaving me senseless," she said.

A relative while passing by found her lying unconscious and arranged sending her to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

"The victim was suffering from intense bleeding and acute pain. Sample has been collected for medical test," said Smriti Rani Roy, in-charge of nurses at Gynaecology and Maternity ward of the hospital.

Bijoyagar OC Md Ali Arshad said, "I don't know about the victim's family members' coming to the police station as I was outside. I did not ask the UP chairman to resolve the matter. If anyone contacts us, we will provide legal support."

Brother arrested for killing man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Police arrested two people yesterday for their alleged involvement in the killing of a mason in Phulpur upazila.

They are the deceased's elder brother Noor Islam, 55, and their neighbour Abdul Gani, 30, of Pagla village.

Phulpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) AKM Mahub Alam said Ismail Hossain, 50, a mason, went out of his house on Monday night but did not return.

Neighbours found Ismail's body in a ditch near his house on Tuesday and informed police, who sent it to the hospital for autopsy.

Ismail might have been killed following longstanding dispute over land with Noor.

Victim's daughter Shahnaz Begum lodged a case with the police station yesterday, accusing eight people, including the arrestees.

ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING
BSF returns challenged woman in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) returned a 40-year-old physically challenged Bangladeshi woman through a flag meeting on Tuesday, five months after she crossed the border illegally.

The flag meeting was held between BSF and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at Challishpara border point in Daulatpur upazila of the district in the afternoon.

Nayek Subedar Fazlur Rahman, commander of BGB's Ramkrishnapur Camp under 47 battalion, said mentally challenged Sheuly Khatun, wife of Didarul Islam of Challishpara village in Daulatpur upazila, crossed the border illegally on April 5 and went missing.

Informed by family members, BGB wrote to adjacent Jalangi BSF camp under Murshidabad district of West Bengal on April 12.

On September 3, BSF of Jalangi camp informed the Ramkrishnapur BGB about rescue of the woman.

After necessary procedures, both border forces sat at a flag meeting. Later, the woman was handed over to her family.

BOY BEATEN DEAD
Youth held, AL man goes into hiding

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A youth was arrested yesterday on charge of beating a schoolboy to death in Gafargaon upazila on Thursday.

Police did not reveal the arrestee's identity for the sake of investigation.

The youth was held from Haluaghat upazila, said Abdul Ahad Khan, officer-in-charge of Gafargaon Police Station.

The deceased was Lutfur Rahman Riad, 14, son of Saudi expatriate Saidur Rahman Shaheen of Uthori village.

The victim's uncle Abdur Razzaq lodged a case with the police station against nine named and six unnamed people on Thursday night.

Prime accused Abdur Rashid, an ward level secretary of Awami League's Gafargaon union unit, was expelled from the party after the incident, said Ismail Hossain, former joint convener of the union AL.

Riad's college going sister Neelful Nahar Shanta said her brother was brutally beaten to death over theft charge at Ghagra Uthori Tower Bazar seven days ago but the prime accused are yet to be arrested.

"We are helpless as the accused are influential people," she said.

Neelful demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers.

The attackers claimed that the boy was caught while trying to break into a grocery store at Ghagra Uthori Tower Bazar on Thursday morning. The store is not far from his home.

Owner of the store Ashrafal Islam said he caught Riad on Thursday morning. His brother Kamrul Islam, poultry trader Abdur Rashid and several other residents of the neighbourhood then tied the boy to a tree and started beating him up.

The boy died on the spot, said the grocer.

They are raiding different areas to arrest Rashid and other accused in the case, said the OC.

ELECTRICIAN MURDER
Prime accused arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jalalpur*

Police on Tuesday arrested a man from Jamalpur municipality area in a case for killing Chan Miah, an electrician, in Melandah upazila early Monday.

Police detained prime accused Selim, 35, son of Jalim Uddin of Poirbari village, after deceased's elder brother Altafur Rahman filed a murder case with Melandah Police Station, naming two people and five to six others unnamed on Monday.

Police produced Selim before Jamalpur Chief Judicial Magistrate Nazmul Haque, seeking a 10-day remand yesterday. The court fixed September 9 for next hearing and sent him to the jail.

According to the case statement, Chan Miah, 35, son of Alauddin, went out of his house after receiving a phone call from Selim on Sunday midnight and did not return home.

The following morning, villagers found his body at an Aman field, about a kilometre from his house, police said.

Death trap for fish hunting birds

Lessee encircles his pond with fishing nets to prevent it from bird attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Different species of birds, mainly the fish eating ones, have fallen into a death trap and died in Sadar upazila after the lessee of a pond encircled the entire water body with fishing nets, locally known as current nets, to save the fish from birds attack.

Villagers said at least four owls, a black cormorant, locally called pankouri, and a number of bats died in the last couple of days after they got entangled with current nets surrounding a 1.5 acre fish pond at Sundara Pirkukur village in the upazila.

Local people said one Wazed Ali of the village took lease of the pond in July this year for fish cultivation.

Pankouri, one of the fish eating birds, used to move around ponds or other water bodies in search of fish, villagers said.

As a large number of fish eating birds started thronging around the pond, the lessee recently encircled the entire pond with current nets to prevent it from birds attack and boost its fish production, they said.

"Actually it is a death trap for the birds," Sultan Mia of the village said.

Villagers alleged when any bird gets entangled with the current net, the watchman of the pond can easily rescue that, which he never



An owl lies dead, hanging from the current net surrounding a large pond at Sundara Pirkukur village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila. The photo was taken a week ago.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

does and lets the creature die there.

During a visit to the area a week ago this correspondent saw an owl hanging dead from the current net encircling the pond.

Villagers said the endangered owl got stuck with the net on Sunday

night and remained hanging till its death on Monday afternoon.

Lessee Wazed Ali said he encircled the pond with nets to save the fish of his pond as attacks of birds are on the rise in recent time.

Abdul Salam Tuhin, an officer of

Divisional Forest Department in Dinajpur, said the number of endangered nocturnal birds and owls is on the decline in the country.

Killing of birds in such an inhumane way is a criminal offence, he said.