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Hostage to sand lifters

Locality at risk of erosion in Tangail's Porabari as traders illegally dredge Dhaleshwari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Influential and politically connected traders are illegally dredging the Dhaleshwari in Tangail and locals fear this could result in losing their properties to river erosion.

The Dhaleshwari, a tributary of the Jamuna, flows through Tangail sadar and the traders are using powerful dredging machines to lift sand near Porabari Bazar, putting settlements including a market, a crematorium, and home-steads under risk, locals said.

They told this correspondent that traders were scooping out mud from the river bank at Basaider char. The Charabari-Torabganj bridge might be devoured if erosion hits the area.

The villagers said they could not stop the illegal activity as most of the perpetrators had political connections.

On occasions, mobile courts of the local administration conducts raid and burns sand lifting equipment but things get back to square one within a few days, they said.

During a spot visit, The Daily Star correspondent saw sand being extracted and several trucks taking the sand away in Porabari. The sand trader there, Sumon Dewan, a former chairman of a union parishad, claimed that he owned the land from which he was extracting sand.

According to Sand Fields and Soil Management Act, 2010, extracting sand from open space and river beds for commercial purposes is a punishable offence.

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Trucks and tractors carry illegally lifted sand from the banks of Dhaleshwari river in Tangail while an excavator continues to lift sand in the distance. According to Sand Fields and Soil Management Act, 2010, extracting sand from open places and from the river bed for commercial purposes is a punishable offence.

PHOTO:
COLLECTED

8-year-old 'raped' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eight-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her neighbour in Dhaka's Uttarkhan area on Saturday.

Riaz Uddin, 40, worker of a local laundry, allegedly raped the girl in a nearby building's guardroom, said Helal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Uttarkhan Police Station.

Aziz, who stayed in the room, said Riaz asked him to leave the room saying he would rest there. Later, he raped the girl in the room.

Riaz picked up the girl around 4:00pm from a local Maktab, an informal Arabic teaching centre, where she regularly goes for studies. They were previously known to each other, the OC said.

Later in the day, the girl was sent to the One Stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment and forensic tests after she narrated the incident to her mother.

The victim's father filed a

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Mainul gets interim bail from HC

No bar on his release, says his counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to Barrister Mainul Hossain for six months in 11 cases filed against him over making "defamatory" remarks about journalist Masuda Bhatti.

Following yesterday's HC orders of bail, there is no legal bar for Mainul to get released from jail as no arrest warrant was issued against him in the cases he was not granted bail, his two lawyers Advocate AK

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Roughed up in Malaysia

Bangladeshi worker alleges police tortured him despite having valid documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysian immigration police have allegedly beat up and injured a Bangladeshi man even though the migrant is legally working in Serdang of Selangor district.

Nahid, 25, who has been in the Southeast Asian country for five years, was detained along with several other migrant workers by immigration police at South City shopping mall on January 3.

"I told police that I was a legal worker, but my plea went unheard. I was repeatedly hit and injured," the man from Chittagong told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

Nahid said police kept punching him and hitting him with sticks on his shoulders, hips and crotch.

"When they hit my crotch twice, I lost consciousness for a few minutes." He also said two policemen made him massage their legs while he was bleeding at some parts of his body.

"Some 20 hours after of my detention, an officer checked my documents

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UN ready to work with new govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations stands ready to work with the new government of Bangladesh and other national stakeholders to further efforts towards a peaceful and inclusive society, good governance and the rule of law in line with the 2030 agenda and SDG 16.

"We look forward to Bangladesh implementing its human rights commitments arising from the Universal Periodic Review and international treaties to bring about positive changes for all in the country," read the UN's statements released on Twitter and Facebook yesterday.

In them, the UN also welcomed the government of Bangladesh taking an active role as a new member of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of UN promotes just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

WHAT DOES THE GOAL 16 STATE? The threats of international homicide, violence against children, human trafficking and sexual violence are important to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Floating parks made from plastic waste



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The equivalent of one truck of plastic waste is dumped into the ocean every minute, but what if it could be caught and removed before it drifted out to sea?

One such solution, called the Recycled Park Project, is being floated in Holland. Developed over the last five years, the idea is turning plastic waste into islands.

The Recycled Island Foundation and the Whim Architecture firm launched the Recycled Park Project in 2014 with the aim of catching plastic waste in Rotterdam's New Meuse river before it enters the North Sea.

Three floating litter traps with nets attached collect litter in the water while volunteers sweep the riverbank.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

BGB seizes 1.20 lakh yaba pills

STAR REPORT

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday seized around 1.20 lakh yaba pills from Alir Dail area in Teknaf upazila early in the morning, just a couple of days after controversial former lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi's "strong warning" against yaba traders.

The seized drugs are worth Tk 3.60 crore.

The CNG-run auto rickshaw, which was used to carry the contraband drug was also seized at a raid, in



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-00

JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-40 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Plumes of smoke billowing from a fire in Masjid Colony area of Rangamati town yesterday. The fire burned 73 homes in the area. No injuries were reported. Story on page 2.

PHOTO:
ANVIL CHAKMA

Trump hid information

Reports Washington Post on his meeting with Putin; US president blasts FBI probe linking him with Russia

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump has rejected a Washington Post report that he has refused to share details of his conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin with top US government officials.

Trump, in a telephone interview late Saturday with Fox News, dismissed as "ridiculous" the Post story that alleged he went to great lengths to hide the content of his talks


with Putin, even confiscating the notes of his interpreter and ordering that person to not discuss what was said.

Trump said he had "a great conversation" with Putin in Helsinki in July 2018.

When asked why not release details of the nearly two-hour conversation, Trump said: "I would, I don't with care."

"I mean, I had a conversation like every president does. You sit with the president of

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"Made in Bangladesh with Pride"

বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০১৯-২০২১

বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১, পাছপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

নির্বাচন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা বিজিএমইএ'র সকল সদস্যদের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আসন্ন বিজিএমইএ'র নির্বাচন ২০১৯-২০২১ এর তফসিল অনুযায়ীঃ

প্রাপ্য বকেয়া চাঁদা পরিশোধের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	: ০৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৯
ভোটার নমিনেশন দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	: ০৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৯ (বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে)
মনোনয়ন পত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	: ২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৯ (দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে)
মনোনয়ন পত্র প্রত্যাহারের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	: ০৬ মার্চ ২০১৯ (দুপুর ০২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে)
ভোট গ্রহণের তারিখ	: ০৬ এপ্রিল ২০১৯

সচিব, নির্বাচন বোর্ড