

Riverbank grabbed by traders

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A section of brick and sand traders has started grabbing land on the bank of Ramnabad river in Galachipa upazila headquarters. About three acres of land on the riverbank have already been grabbed.

At least 17 brick and sand traders built several illegal structures on the land, said locals.

During the tenure of former lawmaker Golam Maula Roni in 2009, a group of local influential people grabbed 4.5 acres of land on the riverbank.

Later, local administration freed the land in Kheyra ghat area from the grabbers following the High Court order, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shah Md Rafiqul Islam.

After nine years, a section of brick and sand traders again started grabbing the land. At least 17 traders have already filled up three acres of land on the riverbank with sand and hung a signboard stating 'It-Balu Mahol' (brick-sand house) there.

They built separate makeshift shops on the land where bricks and sand have been kept.

Trader Kamal Hossain said upazila administration evicted them from kheyra

ghat area.

Later, the administration gave them permission verbally to continue their trading there, said Kamal, adding that "As per instruction of the administration they are doing their business by filling the river land with sand."

Another trader, Md Khalil, said they built the shops on the land with the help of local administration.

GM Mahub Alam, sub-assistant land officer, said nobody is allowed to grab riverbank and it is illegal.

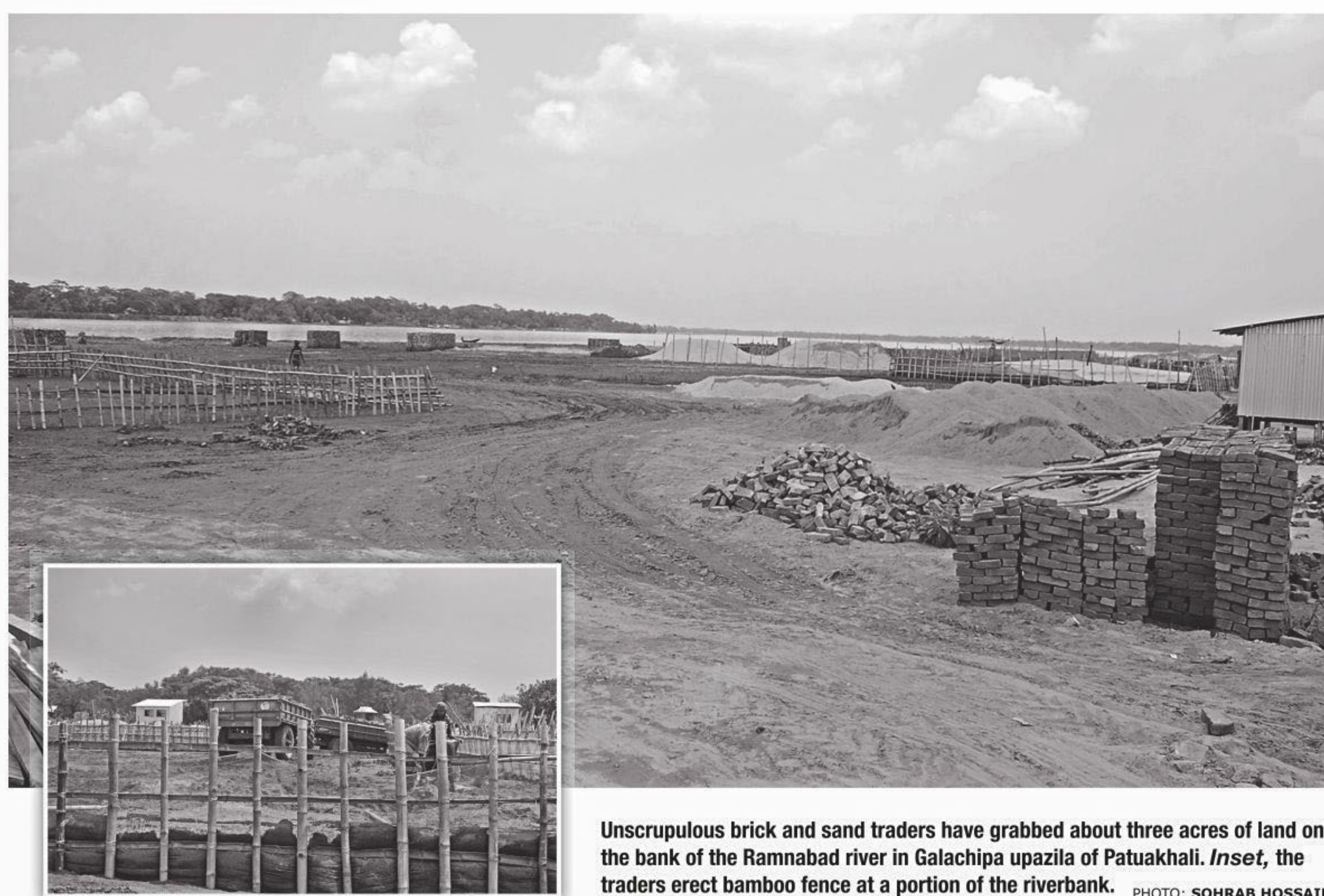
He recently visited the spot and found that seven traders built the shops by grabbing the land.

Contacted, Md Suread Salihin, assistant commissioner (land) in Galachipa, declined to make any comment on the issue and suggested this correspondent to talk with the UNO in this regard.

UNO Shah Md Rafiqul Islam said the traders went to local lawmaker and requested to keep their goods on the land for only six months.

"But we didn't give any permission to them," he said.

They are taking steps to free the land from the traders, said Rafiqul.



Unscrupulous brick and sand traders have grabbed about three acres of land on the bank of the Ramnabad river in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali. Inset, the traders erect bamboo fence at a portion of the riverbank. PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN



Freedom fighters form a human chain in Harirampur upazila parishad premises in Manikganj yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of three locals who beat Abdul Rahim Box, former deputy commander of the upazila unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad on Monday. The victim alleged that the perpetrators made the attack in a bid to occupy his house. PHOTO: STAR

Another gang rape accused held in Tangail

BNP leader arrested on separate rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police early yesterday detained another accused in the case for gang raping a readymade garment (RMG) worker in Tangail on April 12.

The arrestee, Uzzal Miah, 25, son of Fazar Ali, is a resident of Failarghona area in Sadar upazila.

A team of police, acting on a tip-off, raided Deola area in the town and arrested Uzzal from there, Officer in Charge of Tangail Model Police Station Saidur Rahman said.

Meanwhile, police produced the arrestee before a Tangail court yesterday that sent him to jail.

According to the prosecution, a group of eight men gang-raped the RMG worker after beating her

husband in Tangail New Bus Terminal area on the night of April 12.

Following a case filed by the victim's husband with Tangail Model Police Station, police arrested six of the accused the same night and the next day.

Of the arrestees, Yusuf, Robin and Jahid gave their confessional statements under Section 164 before a Tangail court the following day.

In Mirzapur, a BNP leader was held on Wednesday night in connection with a case for raping a girl, promising to marry her.

The arrestee, Julhas Miah, 45, a resident of Gorail village, is also general secretary of Mirzapur municipality unit of BNP.

The girl, aged around 14 years, filed

the case with Mirzapur Police Station on Wednesday and alleged that she had been living at the house of Julhas, her mother's uncle, for the last few years since her father left for Saudi Arabia for job purpose.

Julhas had been raping her, promising to marry her, for the last one year. Recently, when she put pressure on him to marry her, Julhas denied, she alleged.

The girl's parents got separated when she was only one year old.

After a few years, her father took her custody after her mother married another man.

Julhas was produced before a Tangail court yesterday that sent him to jail, police said.

Murder, just for Tk 300!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A youth was killed by a neighbour over a trifling matter in Kendua upazila of Netrakona early yesterday.

The deceased, Jobayer Hasan, 22, a CNG-run autorickshaw driver, was son of Ruhul Amin of Alampur village in the upazila.

"Following an altercation between Jobayer and his neighbour Ashrafur Islam over Tk 300 that Ashrafur borrowed from him two months ago, Ashrafur hacked Jobayer with a machete. Critically injured Jobayer died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Jobayer's parents were also injured by the attacker," Kendua Police Station OC Imarat Hossain Gazi quoted the deceased's family members as saying.

Expat hacked dead

Wife among 3 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

An expatriate in Malaysia was hacked to death early Wednesday allegedly following a feud over his wife's extramarital affair in Jashore's Benapole Port Police Station.

The deceased, Jamal Hossain, 36, was son of Habibur Rahman of Dhannokhola village.

Meanwhile, police detained three people, including Jamal's wife Ayesha Khatun, her father Reazul Islam and mother Phulburi, for their alleged involvement in the murder.

Deceased's father Habibur filed a murder case with Benapole Port Police Station yesterday accusing Ayesha, her parents and five to seven other unnamed people, Officer in Charge (investigation) of Benapole Port Police Station Alamgir Hossain said.

For third time, Batagur baska babies hatch at Karamjal

The breeding centre in the Sundarbans has now 190 turtles of the endangered species

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Eggs of a northern river terrapin (scientific name Batagur baska) started hatching at Karamjal wildlife breeding centre in the Sundarbans in Bagerhat yesterday, 67 days after laying of the eggs.

Twenty-one eggs of the reptile species, one of Asia's largest freshwater and brackwater turtles, hatched out as filing this report yesterday evening and the process of hatching continued.

The offspring are coming out through natural incubation (a process of keeping them in sand) from the 32 eggs laid on March 11 by a female terrapin at the breeding centre in Chandpai range of the East Sundarbans, said Divisional Forest Officer Mahmudul Hasan.

"The Batagur baska laid eggs for the third time in this breeding centre. Earlier, in 2017, two terrapins laid 63 eggs and 57

offspring were born. In 2018, two terrapins laid 46 eggs, from which 24 babies came out," he said.

Four female adults are enabling to lay eggs here.

A few years ago, wildlife researchers found four male and four female Batagur Baska in different ponds of Noakhali and Barishal.

Then the turtles were taken to the breeding centre at Bhawal National Park in Gazipur, where 94 turtles were hatched.

In 2014, the eight adult Batagur baskas and their 94 offspring were brought to Karamjal wildlife breeding centre.

Currently there are 190 turtles at the centre, the forest officer said.

Batagur baska is one of the 10 most critically endangered turtles in the world and can only be found in the wild in the mangroves of Bangladesh and India.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Ten of the Batagur Baska offspring hatched at Karamjal wildlife breeding centre in the East Sundarbans, a conservationist holds one of the offspring in his palm, and the mother of the hatchlings. PHOTO: COLLECTED

BGB dog squad engaged in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on Wednesday deployed its dog squad to screen arriving baggage and passengers after they pass through security checks at Benapole immigration check post.

Lt Col Selim Reza, commanding officer of BGB 49 Battalion, said the trained canines are capable of detecting any suspicious item, especially if a luggage contains drugs and explosives materials inside.

However, many passengers passing through immigration and police security checks inside the immigration terminal said additional screenings by BGB at two spots -- at Amarkhali, only two kilometers apart, and Natunhat -- is already causing immense inconvenience to passengers.

Now the screening by the dog squad will only cause further inconvenience by lengthening their travel time before they reach their final destinations.

Hoping that the new screening by canines would make security checks



BGB personnel at work with a canine member outside Benapole immigration terminal on Wednesday. PHOTO: STAR

the Benapole immigration check post want a respite from being screened and harassed multiple times by BGB.

ASSAULT ON PABNA COLLEGE TEACHER Two sent to jail after principal files case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Pabna court yesterday sent two youths to jail in a case filed over assault on a teacher of Shahid Bulbul Government College in Pabna on Sunday.

Police arrested Mohammad Sajal and Shafin Ahmed, members of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), on Wednesday night after a case was filed for their alleged involvement in the attack on the teacher, said Obaidul Haque, officer-in-charge (OC) of Pabna Sadar Police Station.

College Principal SM Abdul Kuddus filed the case against the two arrestees and other unnamed attackers for assaulting Masudur Rahman, a lecturer of Bangla department at the college, he added.

However, the name of Shamsuddin Junnun, president of BCL unit at the college, who the teacher alleged of leading the assault on him, was not mentioned in the case.

Meanwhile, Pabna unit of BCS General Teachers Association yesterday formed a human chain in front of Pabna Press Club, demanding exemplary punishment for those who assaulted Shahid Bulbul Government

College teacher Masudur Rahman.

Among others, Prof Shahidul Islam, president of the association's Pabna unit, Kamruzzaman Shahin and Raju Ahmed spoke at the event.

On Wednesday night, BCL's Pabna unit President Shibli Sadik and its Secretary Tajul Islam in a press release postponed all organisational activities of BCL and its committee at Shahid Bulbul Government College until further notice.

Speaking with this correspondent, Golam Faruk Khandakar Prince, MP of Pabna-5, said, "When teachers informed me of the matter, I asked BCL leaders to dissolve the committee [at the college] and investigate into the incident."

In a CCTV video footage, which went viral since the attack, a group of youths were seen pouncing, one of them kicking, on Masudur Rahman, a lecturer at Shahid Bulbul Government College, while he was leaving the campus on his motorbike.

Right before one of the youths kicked Masudur in the back, several others were seen punching him and issuing apparent threats.

Man confesses killing in-law, nephew

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A detainee in a confessional statement before a magistrate yesterday confessed to have killed his sister-in-law and nephew in Bashila village of Naldanga upazila on Wednesday.

The man, Mahbulul Alam Mukta, 23, made the statement before Natore Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court under Section 144, said Shafiqur Rahman, OC of Naldanga Police Station.

Mahbulul was accused for killing Sharmin Akter, 20, and her two-year-old son in a case filed by her father on Wednesday night.

Saifullah Al Mamun, superintendent of police (SP) in Natore, in a press briefing yesterday said Mahbulul admitted that he first strangled Sharmin and then her son before dumping his body in a ditch near their house.