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Choking a stream to death

40-foot wide Myaksi Chhara in Bandarban shrinks to 5 feet due to land grabbing

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

Land grabbing and district administration's negligence have caused Bandarban's Myaksi Chhara to shrink into a narrow channel.

Residents of the hilly district fear that the stream will soon die and waterlogging will become a regular occurrence in parts of Bandarban town if immediate measures are not taken.

District administration sources blame some influential locals for the encroachment.

The sources said a group of top Awami League leaders in the district, including CHT Affairs Minister Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing, Bandarban Awami League Finance Secretary Mahbubur Rahman, Municipality AL President Amal Das and Adviser to district AL Kajal Kanti Das, are involved in the grabbing.

They allegedly grabbed land on the banks of the stream and built multistoried commercial buildings there, the sources said.

Locals said the three kilometre-long Myaksi Chhara, which flows into the Sangu river in Islampur area, was once used to be 40-feet wide, but now the width has shrunk to 5 feet.

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A chhara, which was quite wide not too long ago, is barely visible due to illegal encroachment and the administration's negligence in Bandarban. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

Militants now active online for new recruits

Says chief of DMP counter-terror unit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Militant outfits in the country are using online platforms to recruit fresh members by offering lucrative packages, said police.

The recruiters are targeting youths with low mental strength, zero patriotism and minimum kindness, said Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

The CTTC boss also said that youths who had no responsibility towards family and society were also at risk of being involved in violent extremism.

He made the remarks during the inauguration programme of Dhaka Peace Talk, an awareness raising programme funded by USAID, at DMP Media Centre.

Dhaka Peace Talk would SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

ABRAR MURDER Charge-sheet to be flawless Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A flawless charge sheet in Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case will be submitted very soon, said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday.

"It is a sad incident. We are all shocked by the murder. We will submit a flawless charge sheet very soon," the home boss said while addressing a programme at Film Development Corporation (FDC) in the capital.

"We are stunned to know how a scholar student of Buet faced such a consequence," Asaduzzaman added.

Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of the university's electrical and electronic engineering department, was beaten to death allegedly by some Chhatra League leaders at Sher-E-Bangla Hall between October 6 and October 7.

The minister once again cleared the government's firm stance saying that the ongoing crackdown against corruption and irregularities would be continued to ensure good governance in the country.

The government is working relentlessly in line with the zero-tolerance policy against corrupts, he said.

About the good governance in his own SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

TUHIN MURDER Village held hostage by rivalry of 2 clans

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, back from Derai in Sunamganj

While entering the village of Keajura in Sunamganj's Derai upazila, this correspondent noticed some scattered bricks lying on road and burflower (locally known as Kadam) tree nearby.

One would hardly find anything disturbing in the surrounding until he or she is informed that the bricks were put there to identify the bloodstained spot where five-year-old Tuhi Miah was slaughtered in the night of October 13, and his body found hanging from the nearby tree.

The bloodstains were washed away days ago, but the brutality the child faced, is still haunting millions of people across the country.

Moreover, it's even more shocking for people to believe that the child was murdered by his father, uncles and cousin to implicate their rivals in the village.

But this is not the first time the villagers have witnessed a murder for implicating rivals.

At least two people were killed for this purpose in the last 17 years and numerous other attempts were made to incriminate rivals in the village of 400 families.

The village, located in the eastern side of Kaliakota Haor, has long been experiencing a rivalry between the followers of former union parishad member Anwar Hossain and the family members of Abdul Mosobbir, uncle of Tuhi and also an accused in the murder case.

Multiple arbitration attempts were taken, but were failed every time by some untoward incidents.

Back in June 2002, a man named Mujibur Rahman of nearby Madhupur village was killed in Keajura village and later the victim's father filed a case accusing Anwar Hossain, Tuhi's father Abdul Basir and 14 others.

The murder took place on June 8, just a day before an arbitration between the rival groups was scheduled to take place.

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Bullet-hit body found in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police yesterday recovered the bullet-hit body of an unidentified youth, aged around 28, in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar.

Being informed by the locals, police recovered the body from the side of Marine Drive Road around 8:00am, said Officer-in-charge (OC) Mohammad Abul Mansur of Ukhiya Police Station.

The body, wearing blood-stained clothes, bore bullet wounds on its chest, said the OC, adding that they were trying to ascertain the youth's identity.

Inspector (investigation) Md Nurul Islam of Ukhiya police said they had sent the body to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

A murder case would be filed upon receiving the autopsy report, said Nurul.

Ancient 'lost city' found in Cambodia



CNN ONLINE

Researchers have identified the elusive ancient "lost city" of Cambodia for the first time, according to a report.

In a project that has spanned years, an international group of scientists used aerial laser scans and ground-based surveying to map Mahendraparvata, or the Mountain of Indra, King of the Gods.

Mahendraparvata was one of the first capitals in the Khmer Empire, which lasted from the 9th to 15th centuries AD, but much of what we know come from inscriptions recovered from other sites. Scientists theorized that the city was located on the Phnom Kulen plateau, about 48 kilometers (about 30 miles) north of Siem Reap, but it was difficult to find evidence. The plateau was remote, inaccessible, covered with vegetation, and potentially home to

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 20

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-39 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Catalan leaders demand talks with Madrid

AFP, Barcelona

Separatist Catalan leaders yesterday called on the Spanish government to enter into talks as Barcelona braced for fresh violence after days of clashes between police and protesters.

Nearly 200 people were hurt in another night of clashes with radical separatists hurling rocks and fireworks at police who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets.

A hardcore movement of young separatists, Arran, called for a new demonstration "against repression" for 1600 GMT in central Barcelona.

"We exhort the head of the government to fix today a day and hour to sit with us for unconditional talks," regional president Quim Torra said in a speech.

His demand for "unconditional" negotiations, addressed to Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, appeared to be aimed at ensuring that a referendum on independence, currently a SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A motorcyclist is dangerously close to rods sticking out of a truck's flatbed in the capital's Bijoy Sharani yesterday. Frequent crashes and mishaps fail to deter such disregard for safety.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Syria truce takes hold

Turkey, Kurds trade accusations of violations; top GOP leader criticises Trump's pullout move

AFP, Ras Al-Ain

Turkish and Kurdish leaders accused each other of violating a US-brokered truce in northeastern Syria even as it appeared to be taking hold on its second day yesterday.

The deal announced late Thursday is intended to halt a Turkish-led offensive against Kurdish forces launched on October 9, on condition they pull out of a "safe zone" on the Syrian side of the border.

The offensive has killed dozens of civilians, mainly on the Kurdish side, and prompted hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in the latest humanitarian crisis of Syria's eight-year civil war.

Yesterday, Turkey accused Kurdish forces of violating the truce.

"The Turkish armed forces fully abide by the agreement" reached on Thursday with the United States, the defence ministry said in a statement.

"Despite this, terrorists... carried out a total of 14 attacks in the last 36 hours," it said, using its usual term for Kurdish fighters.

The ministry said 12 of the attacks came in the battleground border town of Ras al-Ain, one in Tal Abyad and another in the Tal Tamr area.

Heavy weapons fell silent in Ras al-Ain after sporadic clashes on Friday evening, an AFP correspondent reported.

Turkish troops and its Syrian rebel proxies seized part of the town on Thursday, hitting a hospital.

Turkey wants to push Kurdish fighters away from its SEE PAGE 10 COL 2