

Streams run dry in Satchhari

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Habiganj

Once upon a time, there were ever-flowing streams running through the Satchhari National Park.

Locals from the Tripura community caught different species of fish, including, rui, katla, puti and shrimp, from the stream.

Ranjan Devbarma, a 47-year-old forest guard from Satchhari, reminisced the days when a ceaseless stream flowed from Satchhari hill to Madhabpur river.

"We caught boal, bain, rui, katla in the water of this stream. But those days are gone. The forest stream is now filled with the hill sand."

This correspondent recently visited Satchhari National Park and confirmed Ranjan's claims.

The stream has turned into nothing but a pile of sand. There's not a drop of water in the vicinity.

According to Muntasir Akash, lecturer of zoology at Dhaka University, there are three ponds in the forest -- two on the side of the road -- where there's a lot of

tourist activity.

"This hinders wild animals from drinking water from those ponds and they only drink from the one pond inside the forest."

On top of that the canals and hill streams are drying up, which escalates the crisis even further, added Akash.

Local journalist Abul Kalam Azad said, due to water shortage in the forest during dry seasons, animals move to the locality, where they're subjected to torture from hunters and locals.

"This needs a permanent solution. Arranging artificial and sustainable sources of water can solve it to some extent," said Azad.

According to Mazharul Islam, an officer at Satchhari, said the total area of Satchhari National Park is 600 acres, and the forest was declared a national park on October 10, 2005.

"However, there's a huge crisis of human resources for maintaining the



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Once there ran an ever-flowing stream of hill spring through the Satchhari National Park, from which wild animals of the forest used to quench their thirst. Due to sand extraction, the stream has turned into nothing but a pile of red sand. There's not a drop of water in the vicinity. Wild animals often have to come to the locality in search of water, where they are subjected to tortures by hunters and locals in general.

PHOTO: STAR

Bus set on fire after RMG worker hurt in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An angry mob blocked Dhaka-Mymensingh highway and set fire to a bus after a garment worker was injured in a road accident in Gazipur yesterday.

Monir Hossain Altaf (27), an electrician of a garment factory, was injured after he was hit by a bus while crossing the road in Gazipur Board Bazar area around 2:00pm.

Soon after the accident, locals rescued Monir and rushed him to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital, said OC Malek Khasru of Bason Police Station.

The angry workers set the bus on fire, said the OC.

They also blocked the highway and vandalised a number of buses, trucks and private cars, he added.

Police later brought the situation under control around 4:30pm.

'His satires depicted social realities'

Speakers tell seminar on Abul Mansur Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The writings of Abul Mansur Ahmad are a must-read to understand our own identity as a nation, said speakers yesterday.

They said this at a seminar on "The Satires of Abul Mansur Ahmad and Social Reality" held at Chittagong Independent University (CIU).

Through his satirical writings, Abul Mansur Ahmad presented the crude reality of society, said Prof Mohit Ul Alam, former vice chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University.

"At first we laugh reading his satirical writings, but the very next moment, they ignite our thoughts and compel us to look at the reality of society," he said.

He was a creative writer, law expert and politician, said Dr Mohit, adding that in politics, his thoughts were prophetic.

Kazi Saiful Asfia, assistant professor at CIU, said the writings of Abul Mansur Ahmad depict tyranny and how common people are deprived in society.

"We usually laugh reading satire, but by Abul Mansur Ahmad's satire, in addition to making us laugh, compel



Prof Mohit Ul Alam, former VC of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, speaking at the seminar. PHOTO: STAR

us to think about the tyrannical system of the society," Kazi said. Prof Kazi Mostain Billah, chairperson of the English department at CIU, presided over the seminar.

Abul Mansur Ahmad is recognised as one of the greatest satirists of Bangla literature. He was also a pioneer of progressive journalism.

His publications include great satires like "Aina", "Asmani Purdah", "Gulliver-Safar Nama" and "Food Conference". He also penned insightful works on the social and political history of Bengal such as "Bangladesher Culture".

BNP in chaos over council Sylhet city mayor withdraws nomination for president post

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP's Sylhet district unit council was scheduled on March 21. However, the council got postponed on the central unit's order just the day before.

Chaos ensued among partisans after the decision. The situation was further fueled when Sylhet City mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury, an aspirant for the unit's president post, withdrew his nomination yesterday.

The council was organised six years after the previous committee was formed in February 2016. A convening committee replaced them in October 2019.

Talking to several leaders of the unit, this correspondent confirmed that BNP leaders in Sylhet are divided into two factions -- one led by BNP chairperson's adviser Khandakar Abdul Muktadir and another by Ariful.

Muktadir's follower Abul Kader Chowdhury Shamim, former president of the unit, was also an aspirant for the president post.

As Ariful gained more popularity over the years, the high command interfered in favour of Muktadir, according to sources.

After the council was postponed, the committee leaders said the high-command was not happy with the list of councillors published

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His licence expired long ago: Rab Driver of truck that killed five youths held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested the driver of the truck that killed five youths on Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway.

The driver, Md Ripon (31), was arrested from his residence in the port city's Kadamtali area.

According to Rab, Ripon was guarding the truck near the accident spot, as per owner Amzad Hossain Sagor's instructions, while police, fire service and the public were busy rescuing the victims.

Lt Col Md Yousuf, commanding officer (CO) of Rab-7, during a press briefing yesterday said Ripon had a non-professional motor driving licence that expired several years ago.

"Despite knowing that Ripon has physical disabilities, the truck owner let him drive and sent him to Pekua with a truck full of stones. The truck was going at full speed when he tried to press the brakes and failed," said Yousuf.

Truck owner Sagor went into hiding after Ripon's arrest, said Rab.

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ক. মূল দরপত্রের নথির ঠিকানা
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৩১. আরু আবন্দনার নথি
(ক) পি.এ.এ. ২০০৮ এবং পি.আর. ২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) এ উপরিত অর্থ প্রতিতি যথাযথভাবে অন্যস্বরণ করা হবে।
(খ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ সর্বাংগীন যাত্রাক্ষেত্রে যে কোন দরপত্র অহন অথবা স্বতন্ত্র দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সরবরাহ করেন।
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(আরু আবন্দনার নথি ওয়ালী উল্লাহ)

উপরিচালক
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