



In certain areas of Mahishkhocha union in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, the tranquil banks of the Teesta River are facing an alarming threat. Locals report that an illicit syndicate are engaged in illegal sand extraction, an activity that has persisted unchecked for the past six months, disrupting the river's balance. Unfortunately, the syndicate's political influence instils fear in the hearts of the community, preventing them from raising their voices in protest.

PHOTO: STAR

Man held with 1,400 yaba pills in Teknaf: BGB

UNB, Teknaf

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have arrested a man with 1,400 yaba pills from Teknaf's Damdamia checkpoint. The identity of the arrestee could not be known immediately. According to a press release sent by BGB-2, a patrol team of BGB in Damdamia under Teknaf Battalion was conducting search operations at Damdamia checkpoint. They stopped a bus of Palki Paribahan from Teknaf to Cox's Bazar at the checkpoint on Thursday. After a search, the officials found the pills under a passenger's seat. A case was filed and the arrestee was handed over to Teknaf Model Police Station.

Sand lifting from Teesta bank rampant

Dredgers destroyed, lifters fined but the menace still persists

S DILIP ROY

Sand is being extracted illegally from the Teesta river in some places of Mahishkhocha union in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, making the river bank vulnerable to erosion. Aditmari Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate Raojatun Jannat led a mobile court drive against the illegal sand extraction recently. A dredger machine was demolished in the union's Dakshin Balapara area. Three sand extractors were detained on the spot and fined Tk 50,000 each. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Aditmari police station Mozammel Haque confirmed the matter. The detainee sand miners are – Ariful Islam, 33, Dulu Mia, 36, from Mahishkhocha village; and Nuruzzaman Mia, 37, from Mahisha Shahor village in Aditmari upazila.

Locals said a syndicate has been illegally extracting sand from Teesta river and selling it for the past six months. As the syndicate members are politically influential, locals do not dare to protest against them.

As the head of this syndicate has not yet been detained, sand is extracted again after paying the fined money to the mobile court after its drives.

FARMER NADER ISLAM

The administration sometimes conducts raids and fines the sand mining workers. But the members of the syndicate are not detained, they alleged. In the last six months, the syndicate has illegally earned crores by selling illegally extracted sand. Nader Islam, a farmer in Gobordhan area, said the Teesta

riverbank is under threat of erosion due to illegal sand extraction. Because of this, locals of the riverside areas will face losses in the upcoming monsoon. As the head of this syndicate has not yet been detained, sand is extracted again after paying the fined money to the mobile court after its drives, he said. "Syndicate members are profiting by selling sand but we are facing losses. We have to lose arable land and homesteads due to river erosion. We, the riverside people, are very helpless," he added. Farmer Samad Mia, 65, of Dakshin Balapara village said the roads in the village have been damaged due to the transportation of sand by heavy trucks. It will be difficult for them to travel through these roads during monsoon. Asked, Raojatun Jannat said the mobile court operation against illegal sand extraction is ongoing.

The drama nears the end

Ariful to inform his decision on city polls today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A month before the Sylhet city polls, tension has taken over the political atmosphere in Sylhet as the incumbent mayor Ariful Haque Choudhury called an open mass gathering today to declare his decision over the polls. Since his return from the UK on April 16 after visiting BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman, he kept on adding to the tension by not clearing his stance regarding the polls. In the presence of Sylhet dwellers and the media at the mass gathering of the Registrar's Office field in the city's Bandarbazar area at 2:00pm, he will declare his decision on whether he is participating in the polls or not. However, BNP officially declared that the party will not participate in the city polls scheduled for June 21 and asked all BNP men to refrain from participating.

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One ambulance for 300 patients

Wheels, medical equipment of the other one 'stolen'; authorities refrain from filing cases

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

Although Mollahat Upazila Health Complex in Bagerhat has two government ambulances, only one of them is currently operational. With no intention of repairs or replacement, the other one has been sitting in their garage for the past one and a half years. According to sources, the complex was allotted an ambulance (Dhaka-162/2) for the fiscal year 2020-2021 on September 15, 2021, and arrived at the hospital within the next few days. However, the



vehicle, worth Tk 45 lakh, has not made any trips since then due to the absence of a driver. Meanwhile, the four wheels of the vehicle, alongside many other valuable parts, were stolen, despite two night guards being on regular duty. A general daily (GD) was filed last year with Mollahat Police Station after the ambulance wheels were stolen. Another GD was filed on February 5 this year, after the windows of the ambulance were found broken. Its oxygen and firebox cylinder, a 12-volt battery and the cover of the mobile chamber

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A mere drizzle in the morning causes major roads in Khulna city to flood, as drains become overwhelmed by garbage. This photo taken recently, captures the situation in front of Joragate Biswas Petrol Pump, highlighting the consequences of neglected drainage systems.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Highway to remain closed for 2hrs today

UNB, Chattogram

Vehicular movement on Dhaka-Chattogram highway will remain suspended for two hours today due to installation of the beam of a bridge at Bashbaria in Sitakunda, Chattogram. The highway will be closed from 5:30am to 7:30am in RR Textile Mills area of Bashbaria union under the upazila, said Chattogram Roads and Highways authorities. Rokon Uddin Khaled

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PATUAKHALI POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

93 teacher posts vacant out of 125

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Polytechnic Institute in Patuakhali is facing serious problems due to its shortage of teachers. While 93 of its 125 teacher posts have remained vacant for the last five years, 11 additional teachers have not been paid their salaries for the last three years. Established in 1989 on 10 acres of land, this institute currently has 2,000 students studying in its four active departments – civil, electrical, refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC), and computer science. According to sources, 22 of its 25 teacher posts in the civil department, 22 of 26 posts in the electrical department, nine of 15 posts in RAC, and 10 of 14 posts in computer engineering department are

currently vacant. The institution also needs two vice-principals urgently. The institution has two on-campus dormitories (one male, one female), with the 102-seat male hall being closed for around a decade. Following a case filed in regards to in-fighting, the dorm was temporarily closed as per court orders. "I have to live in a mess which costs me a lot more than the dorm. Although the court ban has been lifted, the dorm needs renovation," said Shamim Mia, a 7th semester civil department student hailing from Kurigram. Meanwhile, the female dorm, which can accommodate 45 students, is currently home to 146 students. "We badly need another dorm for

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যৌথ অংশীদারির ভিত্তিতে অ্যাপার্টমেন্ট নির্মাণের জন্য

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