

BSF pushes in

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Jaintiapur border in Sylhet, said BGB.

Around 7:45pm on Thursday, a patrol team from Lalakhal Border Outpost under BGB's Zakiganj Battalion detained 14 Rohingyas in the Bagchhara area of Jaintiapur upazila.

Lt Col Mohammad Zubayer Anwar, commanding officer of Zakiganj BGB-19 Battalion, said the group was found about 50 metres inside Bangladeshi territory.

During questioning, the Rohingya detainees said they were originally from Myanmar and had been living in refugee camps in Teknaf and Ukhia before fleeing to India 5-6 years ago.

Of the 14 Rohingyas, four are men, four women, and six children. After identifying them, they were handed over to Jaintiapur Police Station.

The BGB official said they will be handed over to the police concerned to be transferred to the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.



After loading a family's belongings onto the back of their pick-up truck, these movers set off -- not from inside the vehicle, but by dangerously clinging to the piled-up furniture. Their reckless ride puts their lives at serious risk as the truck makes its way to its destination. The photo was taken in the Bosila area of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ex-CEC Nurul Huda

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He said during the 2018 election, the police and administration operated under the Election Commission, which had the authority to form inquiry committees.

Under Nurul Huda's leadership, opposition activists were allegedly assaulted and arrested at home, and candidates' houses vandalised without recourse. Faruqi claimed that by 3:00am on election night, 200 candidates were already declared winners and presiding officers were instructed to conduct "night-time voting".

He called the election a "stage-managed poll" and said interrogation was needed to uncover who gave the directives and what role the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina played.

He also accused Huda of abusing power to secure a nomination for his nephew in Patuakhali 3.

In response, defence lawyer Touhidul Islam argued that the remand prayer was almost identical to the one submitted on June 23, with no mention of progress made during the previous remand.

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4.8 lakh narcotics

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major reason for delays, with only one judge per 90,000 people.

"Despite legal provisions, dedicated narcotics courts have not been set up, overburdening general courts. Poor training, political appointments, inadequate evidence collection, and frequent procedural delays reduce conviction rates under 10 percent," he said.

He said the 2018 anti-drug drive caused a large increase in case numbers.

According to him, the majority of the accused are small scale users or low-level dealers from low-income groups.

Wrongful arrests are common due to procedural flaws, and youth, low-income, and marginalised groups are disproportionately affected. The large number of narcotics cases has burdened the judiciary and led to overcrowded prisons, he said.

He said the filing of so many cases causes rights violations, as prolonged detentions and extrajudicial actions take place.

Manir recommended setting up dedicated narcotics tribunals, increasing the number of judges, prosecutors, and investigators, and improving training and use of forensic tools.

Muhammad Majharul Islam, secretary general of Bangladesh Judicial

LAWACHARA NAT'L PARK

Speed limit for trains, vehicles still ignored, wildlife at risk

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The government imposed a 20kmph speed limit for trains and vehicles passing through Lawachara National Park in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar in 2023 to protect wildlife.

The magistrate noted that the defence addressed all points except the allegation of night voting. When another defence lawyer pointed out that no media outlet had provided supporting documents, the court rejected Huda's bail plea and granted the remand.

Huda was arrested on June 22 after being assaulted by a mob at his Utara residence and handed over to police. The following day, the court granted a four-day remand.

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BNP Executive Committee member Salah Uddin Khan filed the case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on June 22, naming 24 people, including former CECs Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, KM Nurul Huda, and Kazi Habibul Awal.

"Everyone is taking pictures here. The view is beautiful. So, we took photos too. But yes, it's risky."

Another tourist, Sajjadul Islam, said, "Most of my friends uploaded nice photos to Facebook that were taken here. I came for the same."

Several railway staff on the site said such scenes have now become common.

Kazi Nazmul Haque, ranger at the



Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Sreemangal, said, "Although the speed limit for trains and vehicles through the forest was set at 20kmph to protect wildlife, no one follows it."

Lawachara National Park is home to at least 460 species, including 167 types of plants, four amphibians, six reptiles, 246 bird species, and 20 mammals. Many of them are considered rare or endangered.

Sohel Shyam, an environmental activist, stressed that while the speed restriction was a commendable initiative, without enforcement it is just ink on paper.

Dr Jahangir Alam, divisional forest officer in Sylhet, said the department has discussed alternatives, including rerouting the train line through a tunnel or constructing underpasses or overpasses for wildlife crossings.

According to Janak Debbarma, treasurer of the Lawachara Co-Management Committee, more than 2,000-3,000 tourists visited daily during the two Eid holidays this year alone.

Stationmaster Kabir Ahmad of Bhanugachh Rail Station said the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department, not the railway office directly.

Forest Department data shows that in 2022, steps were taken to implement a uniform speed cap on vehicles and trains inside Lawachara.

The following year, the directorate general of Bangladesh Railway instructed relevant departments to enforce the restriction.

However, even after three years, the directive remains largely unimplemented. As a result, rapidly moving trains and vehicles have led to multiple wildlife fatalities, endangering the forest's fragile ecosystem.

To make matters worse, tourists visiting the forest, often with children, are regularly seen walking, sitting, and posing for photos and selfies along the rail tracks, ignoring the ever-present risk of fatal accidents from passing trains.

A tourist reportedly died in an accident on the rail track within the forest recently.

Miftaul Islam, a tourist from Dhaka who was seen taking photographs on the rail track with his wife and three children, said,

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Bypass road

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the landfill and blocked our trucks. It was only for a few days, and later we moved the waste. After Eid, we have not dumped any garbage there or anywhere else except the landfill."

Rajshahi city produces about 500 tonnes of waste daily, which the RCC collects through a ward-based system.

Cleaning usually starts around 9:00pm, especially in markets and public areas, while household garbage is picked up from homes and businesses, and all this waste is taken to 18 Secondary Transfer Stations (STS) before being sent to the main landfill.

Selim Reza said a new landfill for disposing of the city's waste is on the cards.

"We have visited Dhaka north and south city corporations to learn from their waste management systems. We have already sent a proposal to the ministry concerned for a new designated landfill site. We hope work will begin after the newly elected leaders take office," he said.

He also acknowledged a shortage of judges and said the number of cases has increased due to expanded DNC activities.

The Narcotics Control Act, 2018, requires trials to be completed within 90 working days. If not possible, the court may extend the deadline by 30 working days and then another 15 working days if necessary, with written notice to the Supreme Court and the government.

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17

JAMAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Dengue cases triple

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He also highlighted the importance of public awareness. "Without community efforts to remove breeding sources at the household level, dengue will be hard to control."

Regarding the situation outside Dhaka, Bashar warned that all 64 districts could face worse outbreaks than in previous years. "Aedes mosquitoes are now present in every district," he said.

He urged the local government ministry to direct all deputy commissioners, municipalities, and city corporations to urgently destroy mosquito larvae and breeding sites. "The ministry should supply IGRs to local bodies or allow them to procure and distribute them with proper guidance," he said.

He called for a dedicated vector control department to manage mosquito-borne diseases scientifically.

"This department should handle cluster identification, surveillance, and targeted action. Without a scientific and structured approach, existing efforts will not succeed," he said.

He has inspected the terminal and found potholes that are affecting parking and movement. We have decided to carry out temporary repairs immediately."

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