

5 Myanmar nationals held at Ghumdhum border sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A Bandarban court yesterday sent five Myanmar nationals, who were detained while illegally entering Bangladesh through the Ghumdhum border in Naikongchhari upazila, to jail.

The five were produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Amali Court around 12:00pm, where Judge Fatema Tuz Zohra passed the order.

The detainees are Ko Ko Sain, 35; Soe Thu Ra, 38; Aung San Thu, 25; Zaw Zayar Lin, 32; and Min Min Oo, 41, said Mizanur Rahman, assistant sub-inspector of Bandarban court police.

On Sunday, Border Guard Bangladesh detained the five after they crossed into Bangladesh near pillar no. 42 in Ghumdhum union. They were later handed over to Naikongchhari Police Station.

Naikongchhari Police Station Officer in-Charge Md Majharul Islam said a case was filed against them under Section 14 of the Foreigners Act, 1946, following their handover by the BGB.

3 jailed for extracting sand from Halda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday sent three individuals to jail in Chattogram for illegally extracting sand from the Halda river.

The convicts -- Md Ibrahim, Md Hannan, and Md Shobuj -- will have to stay in jail for 15 days each as they failed to pay Tk 1 lakh each as fine, court sources said.

Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate Md Shahed Arman passed the order at Ramdas Munshi Ghat in Uttar Madarbari union of Hathazari upazila.

The three had been caught with a dredger to lift sand from the ecologically critical Halda river.

A team of River Police escorted the convicts to the detention facility after the verdict.

Senior Upazila Fisheries Officer Shawkat Ali and Halda River Police Camp in charge Romjan Ali were present during the drive.



40 years on, Bandarban still has no waste facility

Open dumping carries toxic waste into Sangu, threatening health, biodiversity and tourism

MONG SING HAI MARMA, Bandarban

Four decades after its inception in 1984, Bandarban municipality still has no permanent waste management facility.

The municipality has long been dumping household, market and plastic waste, along with hazardous medical waste, on an open hilltop from where rainwater washes the trash straight into the Sangu river.

Every day, 30-40 tonnes of garbage from homes, markets, restaurants and hospitals are transported by municipal trucks to the hilltop site. A recent visit showed the garbage heap stands only about 150 metres from the town.

The Bandarban-Rowrangchhari road, one of the district's busiest routes used daily by thousands including schoolchildren, passes right beside it.

At least four major drainage channels of the town also carry sewage and other waste directly into the Sangu, turning the once pristine river dark and foul-smelling.

The river's surface is filled with sewage, plastic, food scraps, polythene and medical waste, including discarded syringes. Solid waste has already formed a thick layer on the riverbed.

The Sangu is a lifeline for more than 10,000 people living along its banks in Langli Para, Kyamung Para, Kohalong Para, Bhangamora Marma Para, Baruapara and Goalikholi Muslim Para.

"My family has been drinking

this river's water for generations.

Now the water has become dark and smells terrible due to pollution, but we still have to collect it -- there is no alternative," said Meiyinngu Marma of Bhangamora Marma Para.

Chathaoi Aung Marma of Kyamung Para expressed similar concern.

In the Zero Point and Traffic Mor areas, several hotels were found pumping river water. "We use supply water, but when it runs out, we pump water directly from the Sangu. All the hotels near the bridge do this," said Md Wahid, manager of Hotel Sumaiya.



According to the Department of Environment, Bandarban lacks an effective waste management policy or infrastructure, and most drainage outlets release directly into the river.

Even light rainfall now causes water levels to rise, leading to waterlogging and sudden flash floods in the town.

"The Sangu is dying. Its bed is filled with waste. The biodiversity around it is disappearing.

Even sparse rain now heightens risk of floods

and landslides," said environmental activist Lelung Khumi.

Doctors report a rise in diarrhoea, skin infections, dysentery and gastric illnesses linked to polluted water.

"Cooking or bathing with such contaminated water allows harmful pathogens to enter the body. The long term consequences could be severe," said Dr Dilip Chowdhury, residential medical officer at Bandarban Sadar Hospital.

Md Rezul Karim, assistant director of the DoE, said dumping waste into the river violates the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act 1995 and the Waste Management Rules 2021.

Contacted, SM Manjurul Haque, additional deputy commissioner in Bandarban, acknowledged the issue and said a modern waste management station is being planned under a project of the Department of Public Health Engineering.

Anupam Dey, executive engineer of the DPHE in Bandarban, said a Tk 350 crore mega project (2023-2028) for Bandarban and Lalmatia municipalities includes a water treatment plant and permanent waste management facility.

"It will be initiated once the district administration hands over the acquired land," he added.

CCC for 'smart traffic system' to ease gridlock

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) is initiating a project to ease the port city's chronic traffic congestion through a smart traffic management system.

A four-member committee was formed on November 20 through an office order signed by CCC Secretary Ashraful Amin to prepare the Development Project Proposal (DPP) for the initiative.

Titled "Development of Smart Traffic System for Different Areas of Chattogram City Corporation", the project aims to reduce gridlocks and develop a modern urban transport network in the city.

The committee will collect data, draft the proposal and set guidelines for the DPP. It has been given 30 working days to submit its report to the CCC mayor.

CCC Superintendent Engineer Abu Sadat Mohammad Tayeb has been made committee chairman and Executive Engineer (Electrical) Shafkat Bin Amin member secretary. Executive engineers (electrical) Anwar Jahan and Fakhru Islam are the other members.

Contacted, Shafkat Bin Amin said developing a smart traffic system has become essential to improve road safety, traffic control, surveillance and overall efficiency.

He said CCC had earlier initiated a pilot project and engaged a consultancy firm to develop a modern transport system. "However, there was no further progress after August 5 last year. Now we will restart the project, aiming to ensure road safety and reduce traffic gridlock in different intersections," he said.

Fakhru Islam said the project will bring intersections, including Kazir Dewri, Chawk Bazar, Agrabad, Bahaddarhat, Sholashahar Gate No-2, New Market, Jamal Khan, Gol Pahar, Panchlaish, Muradpur and Probartak Mor under a digital traffic system to improve safety and reduce congestion.

"We will work in coordination with the Traffic Department. We will introduce the system and then hand it over to the Traffic Department for operation," he said.

Contacted, CCC Mayor Shahadat Hossain said the city's traffic signals must be modernized. "We have started working to set up a traffic system and bring the entire city under modern signal lights, but the Traffic Department must supervise it," he said.

Liaquat Ali, deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (Traffic South), said, "If CCC works in coordination with the Traffic Department, it would definitely bring good results."

Nasiruddin Akhter Rashid

(29th November 1983 - 25th November 2023)



In loving memory of our beloved son
Late Nasiruddin Akhter Rashid

As we mark his second death anniversary,
the Rashid family humbly requests your prayers.

We seek your prayers and heartfelt remembrance
for his Maghferat, serenity of the hereafter,
and eternal peace.

Your kind thoughts mean more than words can
express as we hold him close in memory and Dua.

With deepest gratitude,
The Rashid Family

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY Center of Excellence in Higher Education

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NSU/25-26-T05

North South University is inviting sealed offers from bona fide/reputed organisations/distributors/business partners/agents for supplying desktop computer for North South University as described in the tender schedule.

Interested bidders may collect schedule of tender from **Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka-1229** within the banking hour on all working days till **December 7, 2025** by paying non-refundable amount of taka 1,000.00 (one thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of "**North South University**" along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **December 8, 2025** by **2:15 p.m.** at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

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