

SNAPS

Mother of three commits suicide**UNB, Panchagarh**

A mother of three children allegedly committed suicide by jumping under a running train at Kismat Rail Station in Atowari upazila on Tuesday.

Firoza Begum, 25, of the same area jumped under the Dinajur bound local train following a quarrel with her husband Momtaz Alam, police and family sources said. Her three children were then standing beside the spot. The body was buried without postmortem.

Two unnatural deaths**UNB, Kishoreganj**

Two unnatural deaths were reported in Sadar upazila of Kishoreganj on Thursday.

Police said Zahirul Islam Kajol, 30, was electrocuted when he came in contact with a live electric wire at village Shahapara in Sadar upazila. In another incident, little girl Rita, 7, of village Poymondopur was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka bound bus coming from Kishoreganj. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Man killed in road accident**UNB, Laxmipur**

A man was killed in a road accident in front of Laxmipur district jail on Laxmipur-Choumuhani road on Thursday.

A bus ran over Ruhul Amin as he got down from a tempo. He died on the spot, witnesses said. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

3 killed by outlaws in an upazila in Satkhira

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Panic has gripped the people of Assassuni upazila as outlawed party cadres have created a reign of terror in the area by killing people for failing to pay ransom and committing other crimes including robbery.

They threaten people frequently, raid houses and beat innocent people.

On March 4, Pancharam Sana, 60, of village Baintala was killed by outlawed party cadres as he did not pay Tk two lakh as toll.

On March 24, Asadul Islam, 30,

of village Thardaga was killed by armed cadres of outlawed Dakkhin Bangla Chhinnomul Communist Party, a newly floated gang in the region. They had abducted Asadul's nephew Babu, 16, about two months back and demanded Tk two lakh as ransom for his release. Asadul promised to meet their demand and got his nephew released. But he failed to fulfill his promise and had to pay with his life.

On March 28, armed cadres of the party raided the houses of Hira Mondal, Paimal Mondal, Sunil Master and Kartik Moral of village Fatik Khali and beat inmates,

injuring six. They also looted cash and valuables worth Tk one lakh.

On the same night, the armed cadres raided the houses of Abdul Majid and Abul Kha of village Khajra and looted valuables worth about Tk 50,000.

On April 5, armed cadres of the party sent letters to Abdur Rashid, Hakim Sana and Haren Master of Anulia union demanding Tk two lakh. Getting the letters, they became panicked and left home.

The miscreants slaughtered Ayub Ali, 50, of village Anulia on April 26, as he failed to pay them Tk two lakh as toll.

Indian robber arrested from Chouddagram

UNB, Comilla

An Indian robber was arrested from Chouddagram upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway here on Wednesday.

Police said they arrested Juton Dey, 22, of village Bangamura in Pearbari thana of Tripura state when he along with his accomplices was taking preparation to commit a bus dacoity on the highway.

Juton, in his confessional statement, to police said he along with his Indian and Bangladeshi accomplices committed a number of highway robberies recently.

Silt in rivers stops launch services thru' Gopalganj

ALIMUZZAMAN MIAH, Gopalganj

Launch services in Dhaka-Khulna and Barisal-Khulna routes via Gopalganj, Takerhat and Mollarhat have been stopped due to deposit of silt at different points in the Modhumati, Kumar and Ghagar rivers.

Even small boats can not ply at some points.

Shoals have emerged in many places in the rivers and the channels have become narrow as there is no dredging for long.

Suspension of launch services has caused great inconvenience to people and traders.

When contacted Abdus Shobhan, Executive Engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Gopalganj told The Daily Star that a Tk 1.50 crore programme for dredging of the rivers is awaiting approval of the authorities.

According to official sources, 39 kilometre area in the Kumar, 83 km in the Madhumati, 20 km in the Ghagar and 30 km in Madaripur Beel Route (MBR) canal need immediate dredging.

The drying up of the rivers and their tributaries have also affected irrigation in vast areas.

Tk 4 cr Panchagarh-Tetulia highway project undertaken

UNB, Panchagarh

The government has taken up a project for the development of Panchagarh-Tetulia highway via Banglabandha.

Roads and Highways Department is implementing the project involving over Tk 4 crore. Bituminous carpeting of five-kilometre roads in different parts of the highway has been included in

the project.

The work is likely to be completed by June.

Construction work of a modern Mother and Child Welfare Centre at a cost of over Tk 1.29 crore is also progressing in Panchagarh town.

Health and Family Welfare Ministry is implementing the project with a view to providing better healthcare services to mothers and children.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr M Kalim Shah Shahrani, a celebrated Persy author and retired teacher of Rajshahi University receives a crest from Professor Abdul Latif, Chairman of Urdu Department. A reception was accorded to him by the department recently where Vice Chancellor Professor Faisal Islam Faruki and Arts Faculty Dean Abu Daud Hasan were present.

Five rly staff suspended

UNB, Dhaka

Five officials and staff of Bangladesh Railway have been suspended.

Four of them have been suspended for negligence of duty and one for overcharging passengers for ticket.

Sub-assistant engineer (train lighting) Sirajul Islam, train examiner Fazlul Karim Bhuiyan, driver of Dhaka Mail power car Mohammad Jalal and mechanic Abdus Kuddus were suspended for negligence of duty and booking assistant of Chittagong Station Ismail Hossain for overcharging passengers.

The railway authorities took the punitive action upon instruction from State Minister for Communications Salah Uddin Ahmed after he received complaints from the passengers of Dhaka Mail at Chittagong Station.

Besides, he witnessed some irregularities during his surprise visit to the train on Saturday night.

Tragic!

UNB, Pirojpur

Failing to bear the shock of mother's death a boy allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at village Shialkathi in Bhandaria upazila on Thursday.

Rajib, 12, son of late A Jabbar almost every day used to go to the grave of his mother who died three months back and shed tears, neighbours said.

On the fateful day he went to the grave at 1.45 pm and committed suicide by taking poison. Local people found him dead on the grave.

The news of his tragic death cast a pall of gloom over the village.

Youth killed by lightning in Jamalpur

UNB, Jamalpur

A youth was killed by lightning at village Ronorampur in Sadar upazila on Saturday.

Thunderbolt struck Ilias, son of Abdul Khalek, when he was working on the premises of their house, locals said. In another incident, armed bandits looted Tk 74,000 in cash from Jamal Trader's International at Doyamoyee road of the town on Saturday.

Housewife seriously injured by husband

UNB, Feni

A teenage housewife was seriously injured when her husband and other inmates of his family beat her at village Momarejpur in Dagonbhuiya upazila on Friday night.

Firoza Begum, 19, daughter of late Samsul Haq of village Char Majlishpur was being tortured for dowry by her husband Abu Zafar and his family members since her marriage one year back, hospital sources said.

On the fateful night they picked a quarrel over a trifling matter with her, who gave birth to a child on Wednesday, and beat her indiscriminately. She was later left on the street. Local people rescued her and rushed her to the upazila health complex in a critical condition.

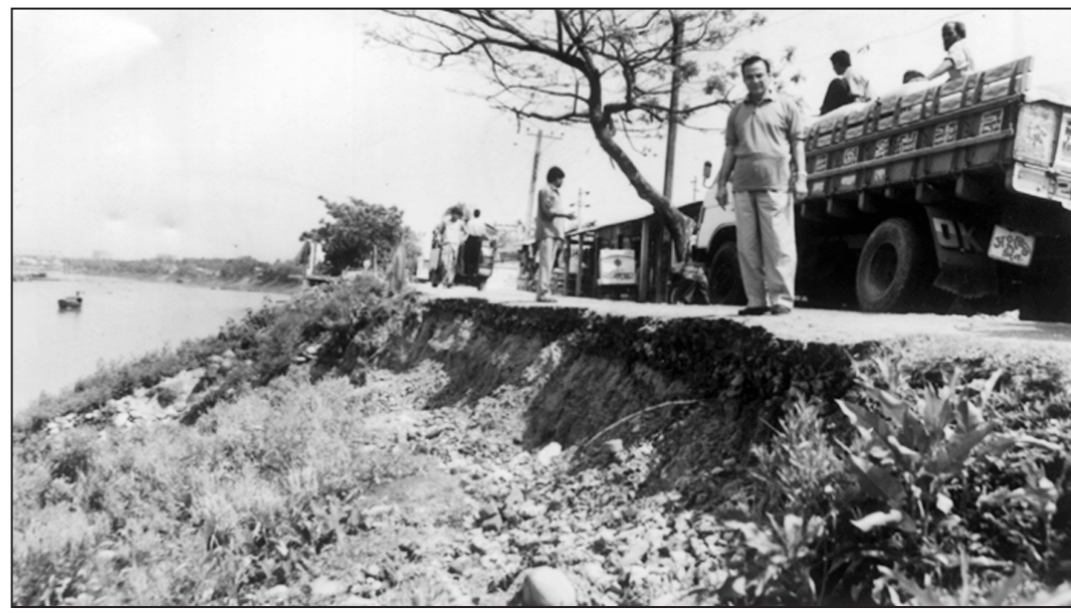


PHOTO: STAR

River erosion has taken a serious turn in Technical Road area of Sylhet city.

Erratic power supply affects boro farming in 8 districts

UNB, Rangpur

Farmers of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur zone apprehend that it would be hard to achieve the target of boro production this season owing to erratic power supply and ineffective pesticides.

Farmers said they could not operate their power pumps for irrigation during the peak period due to frequent load shedding.

Official sources said Power Development Board supplies 250 to 300 mw power every day in the northern region against the demand of 400 mw.

The irrigation is also being hampered due to rampant stealing of shallow pumps from the field. Thieves took away a total of 144 shallow pumps from eight upazilas of the district recently.

Of the total, 32 pumps were stolen from Sadar, six from

Gangachhara, 13 from Taraganj, three from Badarganj, 14 from Mithapukur, 22 from Pirganj, 14 from Kaunia and 40 from Pirgachha upazilas.

Use of Indian adulterated pesticide on the crop field is also hampering the cultivation this season.

The districts are Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.