



The Noai river devours several houses at Duajani village in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

## Erosion by Jhenai and Noai takes serious turn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Erosion by the Jhenai and Noai rivers has devoured a number of dwellings, including the houses of four freedom fighters, in Basail and Nagarpur upazilas of the district in the last few days.

The erosion-hit people are living under the open sky and facing immense sufferings while dwellings of many others are under threat of being washed away.

With decreasing water level in the Jhenai basin, erosion has taken a serious turn, devouring houses of freedom fighters Joaher Ali Khan, 85, Khandakar Bodur Rahman, 80, and late Khandakar Sanwar Hossain in Danajore area of Kasil union under Basail upazila, said locals.

The family members of the freedom fighters said six out of 11 rooms of the three families have been washed away while the rest may go into the river anytime.

Freedom fighter Joaher Ali Khan, a

father of four sons and two daughters, said acute erosion started at Dapnajore point on Thursday with decreasing water level in the river.

A major portion of his dwelling house was already devoured by the river, he said.

On the other hand, several local dwellers including Julfikar Ali, Khandakar Abul Hossain, Rafiq Khan and Khandakar Iran have already shifted their houses to safer places in fear of further erosion.

Mohsin Miah, a union parishad member, said 10 to 12 houses including the houses of three freedom fighters of Dapnajore Purbopara have already been devoured by the river.

He has already informed the chairman of the union parishad about the matter, said Mohsin.

Basail Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamsunnahar Swapna said she will take necessary steps in this regard after visiting

the spot.

Meanwhile, several houses, including the dwelling of freedom fighter Mohammad Mofiz, have been devoured by the Noai river at Duajani village in Nagarpur upazila.

The erosion is also threatening the bridge on Goihata concrete road in Ketar Bhanga area, locals said.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities are yet to take any steps to check the erosion, alleged the villagers.

Sujayet Hossain, former commander of the freedom fighters in Nagarpur, said the families, including the family members of the freedom fighter, fell in trouble after losing their homesteads to the river.

Asked about the matter, Tarin Masrur, assistant commissioner (Land) in Nagarpur, said Water Development Board (WDB) authorities will take steps to check the erosion.

## Bilboiltha, a village of alpona

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Seventh grader Bishoka Tudu along with her sister Ashanti Tudu drew flower and leaves on the wall of their house.

Like them, 15 houses of the indigenous Kole community at Bilboiltha village, some 12 kilometres away from Chapainawabganj town, are decorated with colourful motifs drawn by older and younger female generations.

They adorn their houses with traditional art called alpona on the occasion of Durga Puja. They called it Dansey. Dansey means Durga in Kole language.

The women of the village paint alpona on the mud walls and floors of houses and it lasts all year round. They have been doing the traditional artwork for long.

During a visit to the village in Sadar upazila on Friday, this correspondent saw that women from the indigenous Kole community painted colourful alpona on the exterior and interior walls of their houses.

Housewife Fulboti Murmu said they usually decorated their house with the tradition artwork during different religious festivals like Durga Puja and other festivals like wedding ceremony.

Saroda Rani Hasdak, a primary schoolteacher, said "I have been seeing it (alpona) since my

childhood. Our women and girls are keeping alive the traditional art."

"We have been painting decorative motifs on the walls of the house since long time and it is a part of our culture," said Saroda, also an alpona artist.

They draw motifs with a liquid of rice powder, flour, chalk powder, turmeric and vermilion, she said.

"But for the first time in this year, we used different chemical colours to paint alpona as the material is available in the local markets," she added.

Locals said there are a small forest and a tourist spot, Babudaying, near Bilboiltha village. Many visitors from different areas in the district and neighbouring districts come to the village to see the folk art.

"As many tourists come to the village to see the artwork, we decorate our houses to draw their attraction," said Saroda Rani.

Bijlu Kole, head of the Kole community, said "People of our Kole community, especially women, have kept alive the traditional folk art."

They usually decorate their houses with alpona during religious festivals like Durga puja, said Bijlu, adding that such painting legacy is passed on from one generation to another.



A girl from the indigenous Kole community stands in front of her newly decorated house at Bilboiltha village in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

## Dhaka seeks Tokyo's help

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conductive environment for an early, safe, sustainable and dignified repatriation of 1.1 million Rohingya refugees temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Dr Momen discussed the issue when the ambassador met him yesterday.

The ambassador referred to Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi's recent visit to Myanmar, where he called upon the Myanmar authorities for early repatriation of the Rohingya refugees and assured that his government would continue to pursue the matter.

He said Japan reiterated its position regarding repatriation at the Conference on Sustaining Support for the Rohingya Refugee Response held on October 22.

The foreign minister appreciated Japan's continued support to strengthen infrastructure and socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

He urged Japanese entrepreneurs to invest in two special economic zones -- in Arahazhar (Narayanganj) and Gazipur.

Dr Momen called upon Japanese businesses to take advantage of Bangladesh's high corporate profitability, business-friendly policies, massive domestic market and strategic access to key markets across the world.

He termed Bangladesh a good destination for investment and hoped to elevate further the level of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Ambassador Naoki referred to the newly-elected Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and expressed Japan's keenness to

further strengthen bilateral relations.

Both the foreign minister and the ambassador expressed satisfaction at the excellent bilateral relations and agreed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2022 by organising special events.

Dr Momen also thanked the government of Japan for its support in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

**BANGLADESH SEEKS GREEK SUPPORT**  
Bangladesh Ambassador in Greece Ashud Ahmed raised the issue of Rohingya repatriation before Greece President Katerina Sakellaropoulou while presenting his credentials during a ceremony at the Greek Presidency in Athens on Friday, the Embassy said in a social media post yesterday.

Ambassador Ahmed said Bangladesh has created "a unique example of humanity" while providing shelter to about 1.1 million Rohingya refugees.

During the meeting held between the Greek president and the Bangladesh envoy following the credential presentation ceremony, the president congratulated and felicitated Ambassador Ahmed on his important assignment.

The Bangladesh envoy thanked President Sakellaropoulou for accepting his credentials and giving her audience, and conveyed to the president the greetings and regards of President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

During the meeting, the Bangladesh envoy also discussed different bilateral issues including economic cooperation between the two countries.

## Freedom

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Bangabandhu has instructed the agriculture ministry to take immediate steps for protecting standing crops threatened by ear-cutting caterpillars in Comilla district. The prime minister gave this instruction when a deputation of three MCAs from the area called on him yesterday.

**AWARD CEREMONY**  
Bangabandhu will be formally awarded the Julio-Curie peace medal by the World Peace Council at the Asian Conference to be held in Dhaka some time in January 1973.

**SOURCES: October 27, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.**

## US man

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"I couldn't believe it," he said. "What are the odds? I didn't think it was real," Christiansen said in a press release.

He purchased both winning tickets from Louie's Liquor in Norfolk.

When asked what he plans to do with the money, Christiansen gave a few ideas. He said he wants to build a new garage and put some of the money away for his retirement.

Christiansen said his daughter recently passed away, and he's going to try purchase the house she lived in.

## DU teacher

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lawyer, and Muhammad Mahbub Alam, editor of monthly magazine Al Bayyinat and daily Al-Ihsan, lodged the lawsuits separately, Shamim mentioned.

After the hearing, the tribunal took the cases into cognizance and recorded statements of both complainants.

It also directed the Cyber Crime Investigation Division of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit of police to investigate the matter and submit two separate reports to it by November 1.

According to the case documents, Ziaur made anti-Islamic remarks during a talk show of private TV channel DBC News recently, hurting people's religious sentiment. Video clips of the talk show went viral on Facebook and YouTube.

## Security officer gone rogue

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after Shaheen allegedly beat him up with a stick for hours for bringing his van inside the campus.

Nahid said Shaheen detained him from the Chowrangi area on October 16 and took him to JU's security control room.

"Hurling abuse, he [Shaheen] first slapped me in the ear with all his force. Then he repeatedly kicked me... I fell to the ground while a security guard named Uzzal was holding me there," Nahid told The Daily Star on October 20.

"Stuck in the control room for three hours, Shaheen beat me mercilessly with a stick. When I was screaming, he warned that he would continue to beat me forcing a towel in my mouth."

Nahid said he was released on the condition that he would keep his mouth shut, or else Shaheen would hand him over to the police framing him as a drug peddler.

Nahid, who used to run a mobile tea stall on campus before it closed down due to coronavirus, asked in tears, "How will I earn now with this broken leg?"

Shaheen, however, denied these allegations, saying he has been just doing his "duties".

Students said Shaheen targets mostly campus visitors -- particularly couples, accusing them of "indecent behaviour" on campus and harassing them.

On December 10, 2018, Mohammad Shamim, 27, who had come to the campus with his girlfriend, was taken by Shaheen to his office.

There, Shamim said, he was beaten up for hours with a pipe and sticks and then Shaheen pushed marijuana and cartridges into his pocket. Shaheen then threatened that he would destroy his life by calling the police and journalists if he reported this.

Similar incidents happened with a Buet student, local trader Jahangir Alam, and Sharif Mia, president of the university's employee union, in 2019.

Another incident, which took place on February 15 last year, involved a female

news presenter of a private television channel who was verbally abused by Shaheen for being on campus.

Contacted, JU acting registrar Rahima Kaneez said, "A probe is ongoing regarding all the complaints. Steps will be taken after getting the report."

Rahima Kaneez had said almost exactly the same thing last year when this correspondent asked her for comment about an earlier incident involving Shaheen.

She this time said, "The probe body is looking into all the allegations. It was delayed due to the coronavirus lockdown."

Asked how many allegations are there against Shaheen, Rahima Kaneez said she couldn't remember.

JU Pro-VC (academic) Prof Nurul Alam, who heads the probe body looking into these allegations, said, "The investigation against Shaheen has been completed. All that remains is to forward the complaints to the relevant officer. We are going to submit the report very quickly."

The delay, he said, was due to the body having no available typist to write this up.

Earlier, another committee had been formed by the university administration to investigate a complaint against Shaheen.

Wishing not to be named, a committee member said, "We recommended higher punishment of the accused last year. But, the authorities didn't place it at the syndicate meeting yet."

"Due to lack of accountability and punishment, this officer is committing crimes day after day."

Contacted, Sudipta Shaheen denied beating up Nahid or any other outsiders, like visitors and van-rickshaw pullers, on campus.

"Since I took over the post of university security in-charge, I have shut down several drug-taking spots and some places where indecent activities would take place so I have been an eyesore to many. I just pursued the directives and rules of the university," he added.

## Father-in-law 'has Qatar expat

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superintendent of police in the district.

Police also arrested his father-in-law Anwar Hossain of Mashaakhali village in Kalapara, and the hired assassin Nizam, 45, of Barguna's Amtali, and his accomplice Amjad, 55, of Barguna town after solving the murder mystery in just a couple of days even though the case did not accuse any specific person, he said.

Dilip was a union parishad member of Lalua before he went to Qatar years ago. He came back home during the pandemic, the officer told reporters at his office.

He inherited considerable lands from his father and also bought some more lands with his father-in-law. The newly bought property was registered to himself and his father-in-law, he added.

When these lands were acquired by the Payra port authorities, his father-in-law Anwar received the money given in compensation and deposited Tk 1 crore to Dilip's account, the SP said.

The nominee for that account is Dilip's eldest daughter, who is 20.

Anwar got his son-in-law killed in

the hope of getting hold of the money by taking care of his daughter and three grandchildren, he added.

He hired Nizam and Amjad for Tk 2 lakh to kill Dilip. During the last Eid-ul-Azha, Anwar brought his daughter and three grandchildren to his house and they have not been allowed to go to Dilip's house since then, the SP said.

On Wednesday, Nizam and Amjad, who were on good terms with Dilip, went to his house with a bottle of soft-drink mixed with sedatives. They made Dilip drink it and he fell asleep after a while. The duo then covered his face with a piece of cloth and choked him to death and fled the scene, he said.

Police later recovered the body from the empty house. Dilip's wife Habiba Begum filed a case with Kalapara Police Station accusing unknown persons on Thursday.

Police first arrested Amjad on Saturday and later arrested Nizam and Anwar according to his confession.

Anwar was arrested in Kalatala area of Patuakhali town around 3:30am yesterday.

## Iraqis rally to relaunch year-old anti-government revolt

AFP, Baghdad

Thousands of Iraqis yesterday marked the first anniversary of a protest movement against the country's stagnant political class with rallies at Baghdad's iconic Tahrir Square and its high-security Green Zone.

## Another held

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Swechchasebak League leader Masudur Rahman Shuvra.

Khairul was placed before a district court the same day.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Mahbuba Akter of Cognizance Court number-4 recorded his statement under Section-164 and sent him to jail, said Shah Kamal Akanda, officer-in-charge of detective branch (DB) of police.

The accused also confessed his involvement in the brutal killing, the OC added.

A team of DB police arrested Khairul from remote Fagua Haor area in Mohanganj upazila of Netrakona early Saturday, said the OC.

Unidentified assailants hacked Shuvra, secretary of Swechchasebak League Gouripur upazila unit, to death around 10:30pm on October 17.

The victim's brother, Abidur Rahman, filed a murder case with Gouripur Police Station against 14 people, including Awami League leader and Gouripur Municipality Mayor Syed Rafiqul Islam, 55; and Riyaduzzaman Riyad, 36, joint convener of BNP Gouripur upazila unit and also chairman of Moilakanda union parishad. The case was handed over to DB on Thursday.

Earlier, police arrested four persons -- Riyaduzzaman Riyad, Jahangir Alam, 32, Rasel Miah, 32 and Mujibur Rahman, 35 -- on October 18 in connection with the case.

They were produced before Chief Judicial Magistrate Court on Wednesday seeking seven-day remand each but the court granted a three-day remand for Riyad; while two-day remand each for three other accused, said the OC.