

Unicef annual report says

6 lakh die due to complications related to pregnancy

From M A Ali Himu

NATORE, Aug 21: At least six lakh women die in the country every year due to pregnancy and childbirth complications, according to an annual report of UNICEF.

While talking to The Daily Star, Rajshahi Divisional Chief of UNICEF A T Siddiquee said, "It is no exaggeration to say that this is one of the most neglected tragedies of our time when 1600 women, some in their teens die every day during the process of bringing new life into the earth."

"UNICEF will continue its fight to get this issue into the public and political agenda."

Siddiquee said.

The statistics in the UNICEF report paint a grim picture of the toll of motherhood on young women's lives. About 1.40 lakh women die from hemorrhaging, 75,000 from attempting to abort themselves, one lakh from sepsis and 40,000 from obstructed labour. One quarter of the women are affected by injuries related to pregnancy and childbirth.

These injuries are painful, humiliating and often permanent. The most distressing is fistula which leaves an estimated 80,000 women a year injured and incontinent. Most

cases go untreated and somewhere between 5 lakh and 10 lakh women are living with the problem at this moment.

"Women need better education and nutrition, said the UNICEF chief in Rajshahi adding that every pregnant woman need access to skilled obstetric care, to the same obstetric skills that made the difference in the industrialised countries in the early part of the century.

He also cited an example that it was not until the 1930, when obstetric care began to cope with obstructed labour, haemorrhage and infection, the

death rates began to fall sharply.

He also said, "the delivery under adequate obstetric care in developing countries like Bangladesh would not be expensive."

Basic training could be provided for doctors, midwives and nurses and this would ensure safer delivery for most pregnant women, he added.

"We don't need five star hospitals," said A.T Siddiquee. "There are thousands of hospitals, centres in the country. With minimum upgrading these hospitals can provide adequate obstetric care."



MYMENSINGH: Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) Professor Dr. Shah Mohammed Faruk speaking as chief guest at a reception accorded to Md. Lizaq Ali, Director General, Directorate of Fisheries held at the BAU Faculty of Fisheries recently.

BDR jawan allegedly shoots himself down

From Our Correspondent MATIRANGA

(Khagrachhari), Aug 21: A member of Bangladesh Rifles has here reportedly shot himself down with the rifle issued to him at Khedachhora in Matiranga thana of the district. Matiranga thana police said.

Mamoon Khan, 30, a jawan from 34 battalion of Bangladesh Rifles stationed at Khedachhora in Matiranga thana of the district has reportedly committed suicide by shooting himself down with his own rifle in the early hours of Wednesday, August 14, the duty officer of Matiranga thana told this correspondent when contacted the following day over telephone.

The body of the deceased was sent to his village home in Kishoreganj district after having autopsy in Khagrachhari sadar hospital Thursday, police sources said.

The reason behind the killing of Mamoon reportedly by himself on-duty could not be available till writing this report.

A case was lodged with Matiranga thana police in this connection bearing number 5 of dated August 14, 1996.

Clash leaves 20 injured in B'baria

From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 21:

At least twenty persons were injured in a clash over explosion of a cracker between two groups of people at Nurpur village under Nasirnagar thana of the district on August 10.

In critical condition, three of the injured persons were admitted to the Nasirnagar thana health complex.

No case was filed in this regard till the reporting.

Sudden raid succeeds in recovering timber worth Tk 6 lakh from CHT

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Aug 21: Forest officials have recovered 613 cubic feet (cf) of valuable teak worth over Taka six lakh and seized a truck in this connection in a raid conducted recently at T & T area of the town at Manickkhari on RKM Road, officials said.

Acting on a tip, the Range Officer of Rangamati Range in Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division, Mominor Rasheed rushed for detecting the timber on Rangamati-Chittagong road and found the two trucks loaded with costly teak awaiting at Kolabagan for

smuggling to Dhaka.

Sensing the arrival of the forest team, the smugglers wheeled back the trucks, one to Khagrachhari through RKM road and the other to Rangamati. Evaluating the circumstances, Range Officer Mominor Rasheed, who was leading the team, divided it and directed one team to follow the Rangamati face truck as well as he himself started chasing another truck which was fleeing on the RKM road.

At one stage of chasing, the driver and the helper of truck bearing number Chatta metro DA-980 managed to escape leaving the truck on RKM road. The truck was loaded with more than 300 cf of round logs of costly teak, illegally extracted from the government reserved forest, officials said.

The other truck bearing number Chatta Metro DA-2127 which was fleeing to Rangamati found leaving after dumping the timber at the residence of one Rafiqul Islam Nanna, allegedly a timber smuggler at T & T area in the town. Mominor Rasheed said.

As Nanna was declining to open the gate of his house to make entry of the forest team and threatening them with dare consequences, on information, the range officer informed the magistrate of the situation. Magistrate Bazul Ghani accompanied with the Additional Superintendent of Police (Circle) Md Moniruzzaman raided the house and recovered 313 cf of costly teak in sleeper shape from Nanna's house, Range Officer said.

Rafiqul Islam Nanna, however, managed to escape, sources said.

A case was lodged with the Rangamati Kotwali thana in this connection accusing Rafiqul Islam Nanna and Abdul Matin. The accused are yet to be rounded up, police sources said.

Four tribal insurgents rounded

From CHT Correspondent LUXMICHHARI

(Khagrachhari), Aug 21: The security forces have here rounded up four tribal insurgents red-handed while extorting tolls from the villagers at Halchhari in Luxmichhari thana of the district recently and recovered cash as well as documents related to insurgency and extortion, official said.

An amount of Taka 4,445 in cash, a ledger containing the receipts of tolls and a list of persons directed to pay tolls to them were also recovered.

The insurgents rounded up were identified as Shanti Ranjan Chakma, 25, Ratan Kumar Basu, 18, Priti Chakma, 19 and Bhushuk Chakma, 30.



Rakibuddin Ahmed

Death anniversary

By Staff Correspondent

A function of Quran Khani and milad mahfil will be held on the occasion of fifth death anniversary of Alhaj Khondoker Rakibuddin Ahmed, an eminent social worker and former EPCS officer at his own village of Deshpura under Daudkandi thana of Comilla district after the Juma prayer on next Friday. All his relatives and well-wishers have been requested to appear in the function to pray for his soul.

Couple commits suicide in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Aug 21:

Both husband and wife committed suicide recently at village Khamarail in sadar thana, it was reported.

According to police sources, wife of Shahin, 20, had an illicit relation with a youngman who was her neighbour. When the matter was circulated, the husband Shahin, 25, committed suicide by taking pesticide. Just after the incident Shahin's wife also committed suicide the same way leaving behind their only child.

Separate unnatural death (UD) cases were lodged with Jhenidah thana police.

Decomposed body recovered in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Aug 21:

The decomposed body of Farid Mia, 20 of village Char Jakalia in Katiadi thana was recovered from a jute field on August 15 last. He had been missing since August 10 last, police sources said.

According to the FIR lodged with Katiadi police station victim Farid Mia gave over Taka one lakh to Habibur Rahman of village Zirapar under the same thana for sending him abroad a few months ago. Habib neither sent Farid abroad nor gave back the money.

On August 10, Farid Mia came out of the house after informing his family members that he was going to meet Habibur Rahman. Since then, he had been missing. Later his decomposed body of Farid was found lying in a jute field three kilometres away from his house.

On suspicion, police took Habibur Rahman into custody who later confessed his involvement in the murder of Farid Mia. Further investigations are in progress, police informed.

Forgery in answer scripts ECO teachers, officers involved in forgery identified by probe body

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Aug 21: The probe body assigned to investigate into the alleged forgery in answers scripts of subsidiary and degree examination under Rajshahi University in its report identified a number of teachers, officers and employees of examination controller office (ECO). The probe body already submitted its report to the Vice Chancellor Prof M Eusuff Ali and Syndicate member recently.

Rajshahi University authority constituted of a four-member probe body on August 26 last year headed by Prof M Saiful Islam of Chemistry Department to investigate into the alleged forgery in the answers script of Subsidiary part-2 examination of 1992 and degree (pass) examination of 1993, after receiving the allegation.

According to sources, the probe body at first marked 242 answer sheet for alleged forgery. After a thorough inves-

tigation the probe body found that 217 answer sheets out of 242 are unpinned and colour and shape of paper between cover page and inside pages (of answer sheet) are far different. The answer sheets were allegedly altered having well written (out side the examination hall) answers after the examination were finished.

A number of teachers and officers and employees of examination controller office allegedly helped the examinees to commit the misdeed, sources said.

After the confirmation of forgery the investigation body questioned the involved examinees and some officers and employees of examination controller office (ECO) and identified the culprits.

An organised group of ECO have been doing this kind of dishonest business since a long time, sources added.

MV Pablina sank in 1994

Salvation operation still remains abandoned

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 21: MV Pablina — of Pablina abandoned by her Greek captain on December, 1994 is yet to be salvaged from the river Passur.

The salvage operation has been stopped due to reportedly undesirable quarrel between the customs authorities and Marine Salvage Company. Only five per cent of the salvage operation was reported to have been completed after the work order was offered to the lowest

tenderer. Marine Salvage Company — of Dhaka. The company quoted over 150 lakh Taka as the lowest tender for salvaging the vessels which sank two years back due to piece in the hatches which contained exportable jute and jute goods.

According to a highly placed source of Mongla Port Authority (MPA), MV Pablina-I caught fire in August, 1994 due to unknown reasons. The vessel sank in the Passur channel along Mongla Port due to excessive use of water for extinguishing the blaze.

The source informed tenders were invited by the MPA on November 15, 1994 for salvaging the sunken vessel. The Marine Salvage Company won the tender competition to do the work at an estimated cost of Tk 150 lakh.

But the winner of the tender competition started the work after 105 days in total disregard of the conditions put forward before the work order was offered. The company was supposed to complete the work within the time limit of six months.

However, the Marine Salvage Company alleged that the customs authority demanded one crore two lakh taka as duty tax and VAT. The customs also went a step further by prohibiting unloading of anything from the vessels without payment of duty tax and VAT.

This annoyed the salvage company who later discarded the work unilaterally and refused to work unilaterally and refused to pay any kind of tax or VAT in this connection.

Having failed to get exemption from customs duty and VAT despite appeal to the authorities concerned, Marine Salvage Company filed a complaint to the higher court. But the higher court is yet to give its verdict in this matter.

When asked Mongla Port Customs Authorities expressed their inability to exempt the company from paying VAT and duty tax.

Money printing machine seized, one held in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Aug 21:

Jhenidah police arrested one person and recovered a machine which was allegedly being used for printing forged notes of Taka 500 from a local hotel in the town recently, it was reported.

According to police sources, acting on a secret information, police raided a room of Hotel Sugandha in the night of August 16 and seized the equipment which was allegedly used for printing forged notes Taka 500.

Police also arrested Rashid Hails from Jessore for his alleged involvement in the act.

A case was filed with Jhenidah thana in this connection. The arrested was sent to jail.

Nine injured in road accident in B'baria

From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 21:

At least nine persons were injured in a road accident on Brahmanbaria-Sylhet highway near BSCIC office of the district recently.

According to eye witnesses, a Sylhet-bound speeding truck knocked down a loaded tempo, from the behind near Nondanpur BSCIC office, 3 kilometres off from the district town at around 11:30 am on August 17 as the driver of the truck lost control over the vehicles. All the passengers of the Tempo were injured. The truck plunged into a road side ditch.

The driver and the helper of the truck managed to escape.

Police realized the truck and a case was filed with Brahmanbaria police station in this connection.

12 sentenced to life for murder in Kishoreganj

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Aug 21:

Twelve persons were awarded life term imprisonment with a fine of Taka 3000 each on charge of murder.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Shahidullah delivered the judgment on August 17 against the accused for killing Saydullah of village Bhabanpur in Bharab thana.

The convicts are — Jalal, Ohid Mia, Alauddin, Alam Sarkar alias Azizur Rahman, Sayed, Layes, Chan Mia, Bacchu, Badal, Aidi Mia, Khurshid and Hyder Ali.

According to prosecution on the night of June 10, 1994 the accused equipped with lethal weapons attacked Saydullah while he was catching fish in a beel due to previous enmity. They killed Saydullah on the spot and late concealed the body. Police recovered the body from Khabishyur beel the following day.

A case was filed with Bhairab thana and police submitted the charge sheet after investigation.

Two killed, two injured in separate road accidents

From Our Correspondent NATORE, Aug 21:

Three road accidents occurred in Sadar thana of the district on August 19 leaving a child and a youngman dead and two other persons injured seriously, police said.

According to sources, an eight years old girl Mitu was ran over by a speedy Natore-bound passenger bus from Rajshahi while she was crossing the road in front of Ban Belgaria High School. She died on the spot.

In another incident a bicyclist, Rajon, 20, succumbed to his injuries on the way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital after he was ran over by a Natore bound passenger bus from Pabna in front of Duttapara Model College.

Yet in another incident, microbus driver Rahmat Ali and a official of The Daily Janakantha, Belayet Hossain Swapan were injured seriously when their microbus carrying Janakantha newspaper from Bogra collided head on with a truck from opposite direction at Bakshar ghat in Sadar thana.

Three separate cases have been lodged with Sadar PS in this connection. However, police seized the two buses, one truck and the micro bus. But they failed to arrest the drivers and helpers.

Two minor girls struck by lightning, die

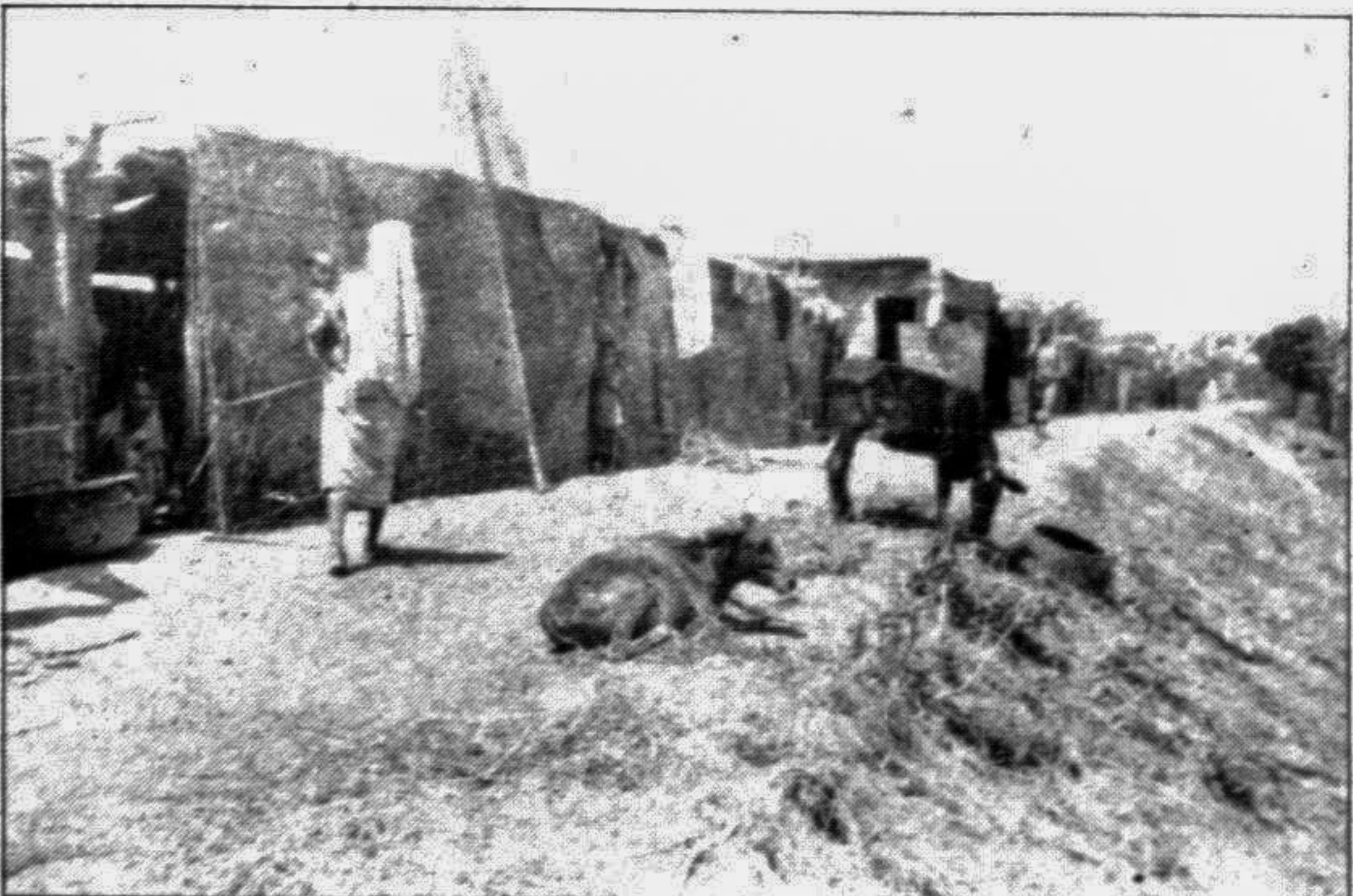
From Our Correspondent PABNA, Aug 21:

Two minor girls died of lightning recently in village Darappur under Haundial Union of Chatmohar Thana of Pabna district. It is learnt in the same incident two others were injured, it is further learnt.

On the day of occurrence, Jolli, 9, daughter of Mohammad Ali and Aina, 8, daughter of Noor Mohammad, both from same village were playing during rains under an open tin shade house when lightning suddenly struck both of them and died.



The devastating erosion continuing at Bahadurabad ghat in Jamalpur district.



Some of the erosion affected victims settled on Dewanganj-Pullahkandi road recently. The settlement of such erosion hit people is increasing every week. About 55 families recently came here to find shelter.



COMMON DESTINATION: The victims of river erosion often find shelter by the side of the railway stations with make-shift dwellings. The picture was taken last week at Bahadurabad ghat railway station in Jamalpur district.



A Jamuna river erosion affected family has taken shelter on Harindara flood control embankment at near Bahadurabad ghat. The family lost the last portion of land in the recent attack of erosion. The devastating erosion continuing at Bahadurabad ghat in Jamalpur district.

All photos by Md Meherullah