

NEWS SNAPS

Three bodies recovered at Sylhet

BSS, Sylhet
Police recovered three mutilated bodies from a rail line in Majder Ura area of Moghalbazar Section of Sylhet recently.

The identity of the victims, aged between 18 and 25, could not be known, railway police said. GRP thana police registered a case and sent the bodies to the Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Police suspected that the victims had been killed and left on the railway track.

Youngman 'commits suicide' in Feni

BSS, Feni
A young man allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at village Mirjanagar in Parsuram upazila in Feni on Saturday noon.

Police said, the victim, identified as Md Musa Mia, 28, son of Kamal Uddin took poison over family feud. An unnatural death UD case was filed with Parsuram police station in this connection.

Rangpur Customs earn Tk 48 cr

BSS, Rangpur
The Custom department collected Tk 48 cr as revenue during the last two months in the current financial year from five customs stations in the northern region.

The Custom department sources said, the collection in current fiscal is 60 times excess than that of last year. If the department takes effective and careful measures to collect tax, the revenue collection would exceed the target. The Customs department collected 19 cr 48 lakh 41 thousand from Hill, Tk 3 cr 72 lakh 61 thousand from Burimari, Tk 4 cr 94 lakh 70 thousand Bohonpur, Tk 70 lakh 85 thousand from Birol, and Tk 18 crore 94 lakh 13 thousand from Sonamosque Custom stations in the months of July and August.

13 illegal hill cutters arrested

BSS, Bandarban
Police arrested at least 13 illegal hill cutters on charges of cutting hills adjoining to Majerpara Hajee Muhammed Ali Brick field on Wednesday evening.

Police sources said here Thursday, a gang of illegal hill cutters were cutting hills in the area for a long time. Police raided the areas and arrested the persons. The arrested persons are: Jashim Uddin, M Jashim, Nurul Alam, Jamal Uddin, Aminul Islam, Nur Nabi, Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Anwar, Muhammed Badi, Foyez, Forkan and Saheed. The arrested persons were sent to jail.

Registered Graduates' election at KU

BSS, Khulna
The first election of the Registered Graduates of Khulna University was held on Wednesday.

The elected persons are: Monirul Hassan (BA), SM Masudul Hudaq (BA), Shariful Islam (BA), Sayeda Lili Nargis (URP) and Salim Khan (FWT). Out of 47 voters, 31 cast their votes in the election. The election was presided over by Professor Dr A Rahman. Prof Dr Moajjem Hossain, Provost of Khan Jahan Ali Hall was the returning officer while Provost of Chhatra Hall Dr Harunur Rashid acted as polling officer.

One convicted for possessing illegal arms

BSS, Chuadanga
The Additional District and Session Judge's Court-Chuadanga -- (1) convicted one person to suffer 16 years rigorous imprisonment on charge of possessing illegal arms and ammunition recently.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that police arrested convicted Bozlu, son of Wais Gaain, of village Pragpur in Aalamdanga upazila of the district from village Badarganj with a country made shutter gun and two rounds of 303-rifle ammunition. An arms case was started against him with the Chuadanga Sadar Police Station. Investigation officer of the case submitted chargesheet against him. Later, the court examined eight witnesses and relevant documents and found accused Bozlu guilty and convicted him to suffer 16 years RI.

Law and Order in Jhenidah reviewed

BSS, Jhenidah
A meeting of the district Law and Order Committee was held in the Deputy Commissioner's conference room Sunday.

Abu Baker Mohamed Shazahan, Deputy Commissioner, Jhenidah presided over the meeting which was addressed, among others, by Monjur Kadir Khan, Police Super on Jhenidah, journalists, high officials and political leaders. The meeting discussed the law and order situation and decided to take effective measures against all crimes particularly repression on women and children including dowry, abduction, rape, murder and child lifting. The meeting stressed the need for curbing crimes at any cost.

Poverty alleviation training in Bandarban

BSS, Bandarban
A three-day long training course on 'Poverty Alleviation' began at the sadar upazila auditorium here Saturday.

Organised by the district livestock office with the financial support from the Hill District Council, 90 goat farmers including women from the different parts of the hill district are attending it. A total of 784 goat farmers will to be trained under the programme, district livestock officer said. Bandarban Hill District Council Chairman Mamaching opened the course. Council members -- Ukya Mong Chowdhury and Biswajit Tonchangya, district livestock officer Md Amirul Islam, sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Begum Joma Begum, press club president Prof Osman Gani, AGM of Sonali Bank Kazi Foyes Ullah and sadar upazila livestock officer M Khurshed Alam Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

Cotton seeds cultivation on 30 hectares

BSS, Chuadanga
About 30 hectares of land have been brought under cotton seed cultivation in the Chuadanga zone of Bangladesh Cotton Development Board with a production target of 45 metric tons during the current season. Official sources said, of the total land, three hectares have been brought under cultivation in Chuadanga, seven hectares in Damruda, five hectares in Andulbaria, four hectares in Alokdia, seven hectares in Meherpur and four hectares in Baradi units of Chuadanga zone.

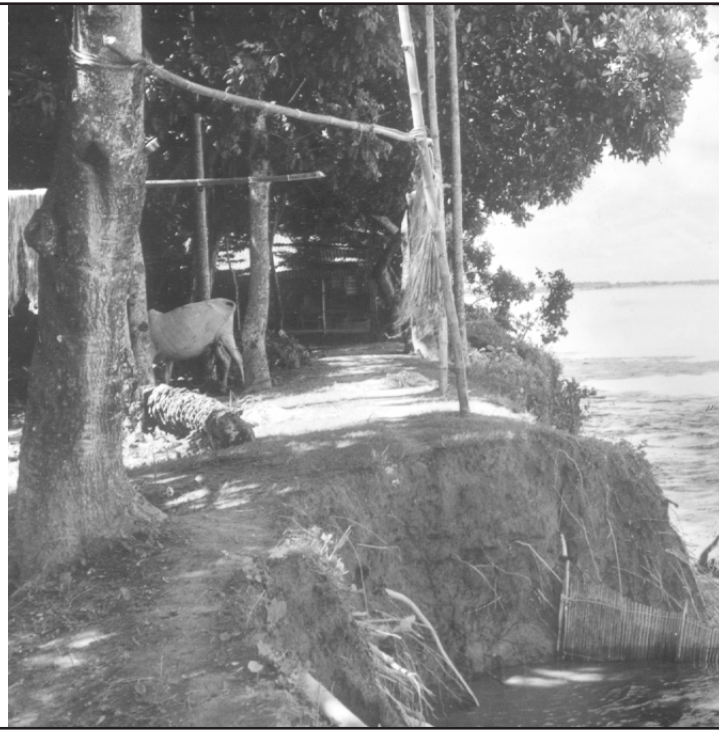
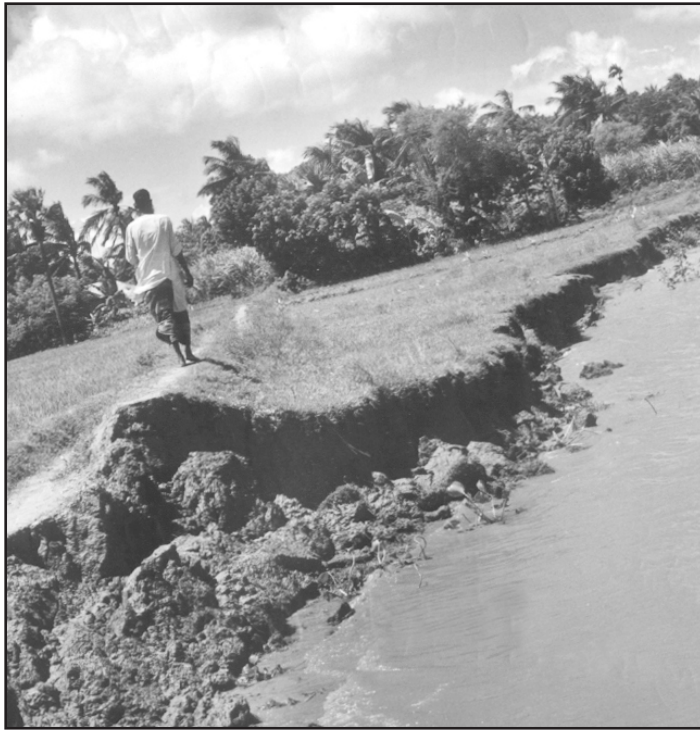


PHOTO: HOSSAIN SERAJ

Living in a floodplain: The river Madhumati devours a vast tract of croplands at Kashipur (left) and affects badly village Dhuljhuri (right) of Mohammadpur upazila in Magura. The river already washed away half portion of the six-kilometre long Kashipur-Mohammadpur Flood Control Sub-embankment. A total of six villagers have been affected by river erosion following recession of water from the Madhumati.

Unabated erosion by Dhholoi in Sylhet for 14 years

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Erosion by the bordering river Dhholoi could not be arrested in the last 14 years.

Though high officials of the government as well as top level political leaders assured of taking necessary measures in this regard, but in vain.

The local people have become disheartened now over the situation as many lands are being eroded every year.

With the onslaught of monsoon this year, like every year, severe erosion occurred along the river banks. Already, nine villages and two markets are at great risk now. Several hundred dwelling houses and many commercial establishments in the villages including the markets had been devoured in the river bed. Hundreds of people have become homeless while in many areas, layers of sand on croplands have made the lands uncultivable. An a result poor farmers are in misery. They are worried much.

Water from the upper stream in the Indian territory caused severe erosion at many points since the very beginning of monsoon in the month of June this year. The Uttar Kolabari Protection Embankment had been totally damaged and the flood water inundated the entire areas. More than 500 acres of croplands had been covered with sands making the land unfit for cultivation. Besides, large scale damage was caused in the villages like Dayarbazar, Dakshin Kolabari,

Islamganj bazaar post office, Dhalapar and Mostafanagar. These areas had been affected again in the months of July and August.

The Dhholoi being originated from the Indian Khashia hills which has entered into the Bangladesh territory through Islampur union and joined with the Plain river near Companyganj upazila. The country's biggest stone quarry is located in the upstream of the Dhholoi. The livelihood of several lakh people are dependent on this river where from huge quantity of stones are extracted every year.

Once the river was a mighty one, but now it has lost its past glory due to the man-made disasters almost round the year. The river has lost navigability at places. It happened due to indiscriminate hill cutting along the borders for extraction of stone. Especially, the Indian authority's of dynamite and indiscriminate and unplanned digging along the Bholaganj stone quarry, the river bed has been filled up. This is why during the monsoon the river overflows and both the banks go inundated causing severe erosion almost every year.

A number of local people said, at first they experienced erosion in 1988 when many houses and two mosques in villages Rajnagar and Dakghar have been devoured by the river. Another flow from the river Dhholoi started through village Dhalapar. Since then almost every year the region experience calamities. There was a big blow in 1994 when huge number of dwelling

houses and shops in markets at villages Uttar Kolabari, Dakghar, Naya Gangerpar, Uttar Rajnagar, Dhalarpur, Mostafanagar, Madhyam Rajnagar and Tokerbazar have been devoured by the river. Then two other new channels have been created. Since then, hilly water flows through all these three channels. Several hundred acres of crop lands have become barren by sands.

In 1995, a project had been taken up for reexcavation and reclamation of the Dhholoi, but due to irregularities and corruption, it could not yield any positive result. An embankment had been constructed at Dhalarpur while some part of the river had been excavated with an expenditure of Tk 20 lakh. But the embankment had been damaged within a year.

The Water Development Board (WDB) took another project in 2000 in the name of Islamganj Bazaar Protection Embankment for protecting 500-metre of land on the river bank at a cost of Tk 1.17 crore. But after spending only Tk 12 lakh for protection of 60 metres of land it had been stopped for fund shortage.

An official in the WDB said that, they are fully aware of the erosion in Companyganj upazila. But due to fund constraints they are helpless.

Meanwhile, the authorities announced that steps would be taken for stopping erosion in the region. After development the region would also be developed as a tourist sport, they informed.

An ill-fated housewife seeks justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

An ill-fated teenage housewife along with her 3-year-old child seeks justice.

Hafizur Rahman, son of Alhaj Moynul Haque of village Barupur in Belkuchi upazila married Bilkis Khatun, 17, daughter of Azibar Rahman Akanda in 1998 at gun-point. But the marriage was not held legally.

However, Hafiz took Bilkis to his house. After a year Bilkis became pregnant. Then she pressed him for legalizing the marriage property. But Hafiz killed time in this or that pretext.

In the mean time, Bilkis gave birth to a baby son on October 23 in 1999. Then the family members of Bilkis sought help of village elders who settled the matter where dowry was fixed at Tk 50,000.

In the meeting the father of Bilkis, Azibar Rahman Akanda paid Tk 30,000 in cash as dowry to his son-in-law Hafiz. It was also decided in the meeting that he would pay the rest amount of Tk 20,000 to his son-in-law at a convenient period.

After four months of this settlement Hafiz started torturing her wife. He was pressing for payment of the rest amount of Tk 20,000 from his father-in-law.

But he was unable to pay the same to Hafiz. Consequently, on March 10, 2000, Hafiz drove away Bilkis and her child from his house.

Then the father of Bilkis and villagers went to Hafiz's house, but

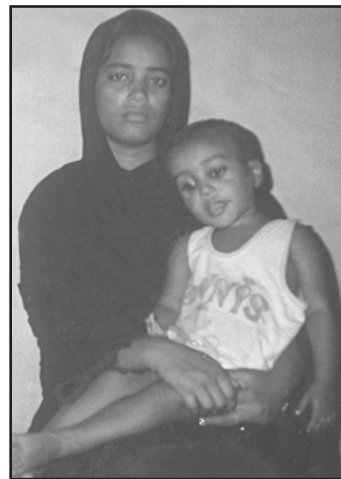


PHOTO: STAR

Bilkis Khatun with a baby child in her lap. Her husband drove her out from his house recently due to non-payment of part of dowry money from her father.

he refused to accept his wife unless the rest amount of the dowry money is paid in full. Even he refused to accept his innocent child Ismail.

After refusal Bilkis filed a petition case in the court of magistrate in Sirajganj. But her husband threatened her and her father.

Hafiz also threatened the witnesses. Now Bilkis along with her baby child including her old father seek justice knocking from door to door.

Rasulpur brought under power supply network

UNB, Munshiganj

Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (REB) has installed 5 kms of power line in Louhajang upazila bringing various small industries and 200 families under its network.

State Minister for Textiles Mizanur Rahman Sinha inaugurated the 11-KV power line at Rasulpur Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the state minister said country's overall productivity could be raised through proper distribution of power.

Keeping this in mind, he said, the government has taken up various steps to bring remote villages under power supply network.

Deputy general manager of Munshiganj Palli Bidyut Samity Mizanur Rahman, executive director of REB Mustafa Kamal and local political leaders also addressed the function.

Later, the state minister inaugurated the new building of Rasulpur Islamia Dakhili Madrasa, which has been constructed at Tk 7 lakh.

Body of child labourer recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Police on October 7 recovered the body of a child labourer, who was run over by a jeep on Sunday from a jungle in the Kalakhat area of Bandarban.

The dead identified as Shabbir, was the helper of the jeep. He died while he fell down from the speeding jeep at Amtali as it was bound to Bandarban from Keranihat.

Then to escape the death the driver of the jeep Shahidul kept his body inside a deep jungle, four kilometres off the spot, and later fled the scene.

Acting on a tip off, the Bandarban Thana police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

A case was filed with the Bandarban police station in this regard.

Ear of youth severed by cousin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

One young man in Magura lost his ear in a scuffle over ownership of a banana plant only.

Witnesses said, Sanjoy Kumar, 22, and his cousin Utpal, 20, of village Ruijani in Mohammadpur upazila locked in a scuffle on Monday morning over plucking of banana from a field adjacent to their houses.

At one stage Utpal bit the right ear of Sanjoy and severed it.

Sanjoy was admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

Rangpur brought under BTTB's Internet service

UNB, Rangpur

Internet service of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) was introduced in the district headquarters Sunday bringing a total of 48 districts under the network.

Ordeal of an unwary girl

UNB, Feni

An unwary girl, given to the care of a so-called 'sadhu' (supposed to be a holy man) to cure her of menstrual difficulty, has been raped.

The 'sadhu' threatened her the wrath of 'Mahadev' if she discloses the matter to others.

After six days, the girl realised the fakeness of the 'sadhu'. Ignoring the threat she narrated her ordeals to others on Tuesday (October 8).

Then the pretending sadhu, Joydev Majumder, 21, went into hiding. But the residents managed to catch four of his accomplices and gave them a good beating before handing over to police.

Monika Rani (not the real name) was staying with her maternal uncle in Feni town for pursuing education. Although she crossed 17 years and her female organs developed, she did not experience menstruation.

Resident of village Mahavikari in Sonagazi upazila said that her parents and uncle provided Monika with all sorts of treatment, but without any result.

On October 3, Dipak Ranjan Das, her maternal uncle, took Monika to the house of Master Debashish Das in Birinchi Kalabagan area of the town. There Joydev Majumder, son of Nantu Majumder of Char Darbesh union in Sonagazi upazila, was waiting in the guise of 'sadhu' for her treatment.

Having full faith on the 'sadhu', Dipak left Monika under his treatment with advice to strictly follow the prescriptions of the 'sadhu baba'.

Then began the ordeal of Monika. The 'sadhu' gave her fake herbal medicines and water with 'mantra' (verses). At night he used to rape the hapless girl with many warnings of gods' curses if she ever tells anyone of his action with her.

Miseries of Monika would have continued had not her paternal uncle came Tuesday to enquire about the progress of her treatment. Seeing her, the uncle immediately smelt something was wrong and took Monika to leaders of the locality, including Joyinal Abedin MP.

There Monika narrated how she was deceived and raped by the fake 'sadhu'.