

Self-help the best help that helped them succeed

People of Gobindi village halt erosion by Jamuna

K M REZAUL HAQUE,
Gaibandha

The residents of Gobindi village in Saghata upazila have been able to save homesteads of 200 families, lands, educational institutes, mosque and temple from the erosion by Jamuna River

through voluntary service using local resources.

Recently erosion by the Jamuna engulfed large areas including farmlands, structures and trees at nearby Majhipara village and threatened Gobindi and adjoining areas including mass grave of Liberation

War, Fulchhari College, two madrasas, two mosques and two temples.

The affected people, both men and women, joined self-help service to divert the water course with the help of local resources like bamboo, sand bags and tree logs about two weeks ago.

A good number of villagers gave physical labour voluntarily while many people supplied bamboo, gunny or plastic bags and tree logs and donated cash to make the programme a success as freedom fighter Abdur Rahim, Abdul Aziz Fakir and Suruzzaman of the village organised local people for the purpose.

"We started the work voluntarily almost without any resources. But spontaneous support from the people helped us to reach the goal," said Abdur Rahim.

"We have already erected nine bamboo spars along western bank at Kamarpara and been able to divert the water course eastward," said Abdul Aziz Fakir.

When the work nears completion, a large number of men and women are still working in their venture to save themselves.

"Earlier we appealed to local Water Development Board to stop erosion on several occasions, but to no effect," said Saghata upazila Chairman advocate Golam Shahid Ranju.

However, the measure is a temporary one and the situation might change at any moment if water level of the Jamuna rises further, said several villagers.



Villagers rendering voluntary service to prevent erosion by the Jamuna River that threatened a large area in Gaibandha for a long time.

PHOTO: STAR

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Army pullout plan opposed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Leaders of Samo Odhikar Andolan (SOA), a platform of Bangalee settlers in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad (PBOP), its student front at a rally in the town yesterday urged the government to change its decision to pull out one brigade army and 35 temporary army camps from different areas of CHT by September. They demanded immediate cadastral survey to resolve land disputes between the indigenous people and Bangalee settlers. They also warned that tougher agitation programmes including hartal and blockade will be taken up if their demand is not fulfilled. Before the rally, they brought out a procession which paraded main thoroughfare in the town. They also submitted a 3-point memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through Rangamati Deputy Commissioner.

BNP workers beaten up

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A group of local goons beat up three BNP workers at village Chharaitkandi under Sonagazi upazila Tuesday night. They are now being treated at Feni and Sonagazi hospitals. Locals said, Alamgir Hossain, a BNP worker was talking with others at Hashem's shop near Monagazi madrasa. A group of 15 to 20 goons including Alam, Harun, Shahed and Rubel entered the shop and attacked Alamgir. They beat him up in front of other people. Locals rushed him to Sonagazi Upazila Health Complex. Later the same gang allegedly backed by local Awami League (AL) men beat up BNP workers Manik, 32, and Mintu, 35, in the same manner near Bholia Mia's shop leaving them seriously injured. The injured alleged that the criminals looted mobile sets and cash from them. Locals admitted the two in local clinics. As their condition deteriorated they were shifted to Feni Sadar Hospital at night.



PHOTO: FHF

The Fred Hollows Foundation recently arranged a two-day eye camp at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital where 82 cataract operations were done with the financial help of Australian community in Bangladesh. High commissioner of Australia Dr Justine Lee was present.

Jubo Dal man arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police early yesterday arrested a local leader of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, youth front of BNP, from his house at Basantapur in Debhata upazila for his alleged involvement in criminal acts. Arrestee Habibullah Montu, 35, is son of Fazlur Rahman of village Basantapur and joint general secretary of Debhata upazila Jubo Dal, police said. Police said he was picked up from his house at about 2 am Wednesday. Montu is a listed criminal as per police record and facing three extortion cases filed with Debhata police station, said sub-inspector (SI) Liakat Ali of Debhata police station.

FF MURDER CASE OF '88 REVIVED Court summons 28 Jamaat-Shibir men

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Chapainawabganj

Chapainawabganj District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday issued summons against 28 accused Jamaat-Shibir men including former lawmaker Latifur Rahman as the case for killing freedom fighter Amirul Islam Jalal revived after a long time.

The court of Judge Anwar Hossain fixed October 21 for hearing the case.

Amirul Islam Jalal, a local leader of JSD and son of Nurul Islam of Mistripara in Chapainawabganj town, was killed on July 10 in 1988.

According to the case statement, Jamaat men including the party's district unit nayebe-ameer and former lawmaker Latifur Rahman and others entered Jalal's house at about 2:10pm and hacked Jalal, then suffering from kalaazar, with sharp weapons.

Seriously injured Jalal died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital at night. The next day, Jalal's uncle Rafiqul Islam filed a

murder case with Sadar Police Station accusing 28 Jamaat-Shibir cadres and 40/50 other unidentified people.

On August 47, 1988, the investigation officer of the case submitted charge sheet against the 28 accused.

All the accused obtained bail from the High Court (HC) while main accused Latifur Rahman filed a criminal revision case with the HC that stayed the proceedings of District and Sessions Judge's Court on October 11, 1992.

After 15 years, at the end of hearing of the criminal revision case, the HC vacated the stay order.

Following a leave to appeal by the accused, a chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC again stayed proceedings of the lower court.

After one year and seven months, a full bench of the Appellate Division completed hearing this case and rejected the leave to appeal and proceedings of the case began in Chapainawabganj District and Sessions Judge's Court.

BNP office attacked as BCL man assaulted

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Barisal

Barisal district BNP office came under attack following assault on an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) BM College unit by JCD cadres on Tuesday night.

The BCL men also cordoned Kotwali Police Station demanding immediate arrest of JCD leader Firoz Ahmed Kalu who led the attack on BCL activist Soheli on the campus at around 9:15pm on Tuesday.

Campus sources said Firoz Ahmed Kalu, president of JCD ward no 20, allegedly demanded toll from Soheli Ahmed alias BDR Soheli, a

third year management student of BM College.

As Soheli refused to comply with the demand, Kalu and his associates beat up Soheli. Hearing the news, the BCL men led by Rafiq Serniabat, joint convener of BCL BM College unit, brought out a procession on the campus. They also besieged Kotwali Police Station demanding arrest of Kalu and other JCD activists.

At around 11:30pm, the BCL went to the district BNP office in a procession and damaged windowpanes. Police dispersed the agitating BCL men and brought the situation under control.

RAPE OF INDIGENOUS GIRL Punish culprit, HWF, 5 other bodies demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khagrachhari

Hill Women's Federation (HWF) and five other organisations working for the physically challenged have demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the NGO man who allegedly raped the physically challenged indigenous girl Minu Chakma at Boradon village under Dighinala upazila on July 31.

The demand was made at a press conference jointly organised by Hill Women's Federation (HWF) and victim's family at Khagrachhari Press Club yesterday noon.

HWF Khagrachhari unit President Rina Dewan read out a written statement.

They also demanded compensation for the victim and stoppage of micro credit programme in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Mohammad Nazrul Islam 25, an employee of a national NGO and a resident of Patiya upazila under Chittagong district, entered Minu Chakma's house in the afternoon on the plea of drinking water. Finding physically and mentally challenged Minu alone at the house, Nazrul violated her and ran away leaving her seriously injured.

Rejoinder, our reply

In a rejoinder to a Daily Star report published on July 29 headlined 'Jute workers rough up official for arrears,' Kazi Farms Limited claimed that there were some inaccuracies in the report.

It said that there were no arrears of any kind as salaries and wages of workers of Peoples Jute Mill were paid as of July 18, the last date of operation. Regarding workers' demand for festival bonus, Kazi Farms said bonus is not due before next Eid.

The rejoinder said there was no one named Abdur Rahman as president of the CBA as there was no CBA at all in the past one year and during Kazi's lease period it never employed Rahman in the mill.

Refuting the allegations of looting spare parts of the jute mill machinery, Kazi Farms said it took lease of the mill in a dilapidated condition and had to invest over Tk 3 crore to buy spare parts and new machines to make the mill operational.

It also termed the information on handing over the mill to Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) on August 1 as a rumour.

Our reply

The mill workers, who staged demonstration in front of the mill on July 28, told newsmen that the management of the mill did not pay arrears wages for two weeks in July before stopping operation.

The workers also demonstrated for payment of festival bonus fearing that they would not get so if Kazi Farms hands over the mill to BJMC.

Project Coordinator of the mill Ram Chandra Shannyashi told The Daily Star correspondent on July 28 that authorities had received message from BJMC to take necessary preparations for handing over the mill on August 1.

Accordingly, Kazi Farms stopped operation of the mill on July 18. But handover is being delayed, as a 26-member committee formed by BJMC to prepare an inventory of the mill's machinery could not complete the task yet.



PHOTO: STAR

Doctors form a human chain at Magura Sadar Hospital on the third day of their agitation yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Dr Shafiqul Islam, joint secretary of Jessore unit of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad.

Regrettable demise of a valiant freedom fighter

Shawkat Ali of Jhenidah got neither medical treatment nor state honour

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jhenidah

Left without treatment for two weeks after being bitten by a dog, a valiant freedom fighter of Shaikupa upazila in Jhenidah district died shortly after his admission into Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Tuesday.

Even honour was not arranged during his funeral as his name was not included as a freedom fighter in the new gazette.

Freedom fighter Shawkat Ali of Alphapur village under 10 No Bogura union in Shaikupa upazila, was bitten by a mad dog on July 20 but remained without any treatment due to monetary problem, said Kazi Awal of the village, adding that his self-respect prevented him from asking

help of others.

When neighbours came to know the matter, villagers led by a union parishad member arranged some money and sent him to a Magura hospital on last Sunday. But his condition had already turned serious by the time. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Tuesday morning where he breathed his last at noon.

His son Bashir informed Upazila Muktiyoddah Sangsad and Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office of his father's death but he was told that state honour would not be given for him as his name had not been included in the last list of freedom fighters.

"Shawkat was my co-fighter. He had a certificate

as a muktiyoddah and his name is included in the Mukti Barta and a few other lists," said Monoar Hossain, Muktiyoddah commander of No 10 Bogura union.

"It is matter of great regret that state honour was not given for Shawkat Ali Biswas who was a recognised freedom fighter. His name might be excluded from the list due to an inadvertent mistake," said Monoar Malitha, former commander of Muktiyoddah Sangsad Shaikupa upazila unit.

Shaikupa UNO Mahmudul Hossain, who is also acting upazila Muktiyoddah Sangsad commander, said, "State honour was not given for freedom fighter Shawkat Ali as his name was not included in the last list."

Welcome to On-Line Insurance System of JBC

on August 06, 2009



Jiban Bima Corporation is going
one step ahead in insurance services

Launching Ceremony of
On-Line Insurance System of Jiban Bima Corporation
Inaugurated by

Hon'ble Finance Minister of
The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, MP



JIBAN BIMA CORPORATION
Only State Owned Life Insurance Corporation

Head Office: 24 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka- 1000, Bangladesh
Ph: 9551414, 9551423-4, 9552047-9, 9559041-2, Fax: 9561825, e-mail: info@jbc.gov.bd