



PHOTO: STAR

Once affluent farmer Hazrat Ali of Mongolhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila sits on the bank of Dharla River, reminiscing the tragedy of losing his homestead to the river.

Endless Dharla erosion, unending woes

8,000 families homeless in last 15 years

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Once solvent farmer Hazrat Ali occasionally comes to reminisce on the bank of Dharla River that devoured his 20 bigha of lands during the last five years.

A resident of Mogholhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, Ali with his wife, three children and aged mother took shelter on an abandoned railway line when Dharla devoured his last landed property in the first week of January this year.

"By cultivating different crops and raising vegetable and fruit gardens I led a solvent life. But now I work as a day labourer with those who earlier worked in my farm," he said.

About eight thousand families of Bajai Tari, Mazipara, Mogholhat, Kurul, Kalibari, Bongram, Itapota,

Kulaghat, Boalmari, Kodal Khata and Vatibari villages in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila have become homeless during the last 15 years due to erosion by Dharla River.

The river has also devoured thousands of acres of cultivable land, many fruit gardens, eight mosques and temples, three schools and four madrasas.

The erosion-hit people have taken shelter on the government road, railway line. Many people went to towns in search of work and a 'petty shelter' in slum areas.

Erosion by Dharla River has taken a serious turn during the last two months, residents of Mogholhat village said.

After gradually losing homestead including ten bighas of cultivable land to the river in last four years,

Shamsul Alam and his family in mid-January this year started living on the government road at Kurul village in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

Many others including Hari Pado Sen, Shyamol Chandra, Mobarak Ali, Mohar Miah and Kabir Uddin have similar tales to tell.

About 15 years ago, the Dharla River was flowing about one kilometre inside Indian territory, erosion affected people said.

But after the Indian authorities built a dam in the upstream at Dinhatia of Cooch Behar district of West Bengal the river changed its course and now flowing about two kilometres inside Bangladesh territory, they said.

Thousands of people are facing uncertain future as vast areas of homesteads, cultivable lands and gardens,

ten mosques and temples, three schools, five madrasas, a UP office, two village markets and a BDR camp have become vulnerable to erosion by Dharla River.

The executive engineer of Lalmonirhat Water Development Board, MA Matin Sarker said, "I am trying my level best for arranging fund to build embankment and other structures to prevent erosion by Dharla River. Regarding the matter, my office has sent project profile for the third time to the higher authorities concerned but we are yet to receive any positive response."

During the last 15 years, public representatives on several occasions made pledges to take steps for protecting local people from erosion by Dharla River but to no effect, several erosion-hit people said.

2 JMB militants arrested in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) team arrested two members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) early yesterday.

The arrestees are Md Abdul Hannan, 23, an *ehsar* member and son of Shahabuddin of village Echhail and Mohammad Tuel, 25, another *ehsar* member and son of Abul Kashem of village Radhakana in Phulbaria upazila.

Abdul Hannan is also a

teacher of Cadet Coaching Centre in Mymensingh town.

Rab sources said acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-9 raided the Cadet Coaching Centre and arrested Shahabuddin at around 12:15 am.

In another drive, the same Rab team arrested Tuel from his village home in Phulbaria at around 2:15 am.

Rab sources said they also recovered jihadi books from the arrestees' possession.

After interrogation they were handed over to Phulbaria police. A case was also lodged with the police station.



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion arrests two activists of banned militant outfit JMB in Mymensingh yesterday.

23 injured in Gaibandha as pro-AL men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least 23 people were injured during a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Swechchhasebok League over establishing supremacy at Palashbari upazila headquarters on Monday night.

Police said both sides used lethal weapons and chased each other during the clash that continued for two hours. They also damaged a Gaibandha-bound BRTC passenger bus, which was passing through the upazila sadar during the incident.

Locals said BCL activists beat up Sharifuzzaman Pallab, organising secretary of upazila Swechchhasebok league, near Shilpi Hotel Sunday afternoon and the Monday night's clash was a sequel to that incident.

As the law enforcers from the local police station failed to disperse the clashing groups, riot police from the district headquarters rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

A tense situation was prevailing at the upazila headquarters as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday. Addition police have been deployed there to avert any further clash.

As Taru refused to allow his second marriage...

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A housewife, set on fire allegedly by husband at her father's house at Elishpur village in Kalaroa upazila on Sunday night, succumbed to her injuries on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday afternoon.

The victim, Taru, 26, daughter of Abu Bakkar Sardar of Elishpur village in Kalaroa upazila, was married with Asadul Islam Gazi, son of Abu Taleb Gazi of village Kulbaria in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore district in 2000, police quoted local people as saying.

Recently her husband wanted to marry another woman as his second wife and sought Taru's permission in this regard.

As she refused, he beat her and sent to her father's house a week ago.

Later Asadul went to his father-in-

law's house. On Sunday night, he tied his wife's mouth with clothes, poured kerosene on her body, set fire to it before fleeing.

Hearing her groaning, the victim's parents came to her room and rescued her. She was rushed to Satkhira Sadar Hospital with serious burn injuries.

As her deteriorated, doctors referred her to DMCH at 11:30am yesterday but she died on the way in the afternoon.

The victim's father Abu Bakkar Sardar filed a case with Kalaroa Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act accusing five people including Asadul Islam.

Police arrested Entajul Islam, son of Abu Taleb Gazi and Saifur Rahman, son of Hazrat Ali of Kulbaria village in Jhikargachha upazila but Taru's husband Asadul Islam remained absconding.

12 sued for murder, gangrape during liberation war

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A case was filed with Batiaghata police station on Saturday against 12 people on charge of murder and gangrape during liberation war in 1971.

The complainant is Haripada Goldar of Shurkhali union under the upazila.

Earlier on April 28, he filed a petition case with the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Asaduzzaman of Khulna in this connection.

Batiaghata police station

recorded a regular case on Saturday night after investigation into the allegations as ordered by the court.

The complainant stated in his case that 12 'rajakars' shot dead freedom fighter Yakub Master of Takimari village under the same upazila at about 11:00 am on April 27 in 1971 near the Baroaria ferryghat.

Later, the accused looted gold ornaments of about 50 tolas, paddy and other valuables after gangrape of two women of his house.

The gangrape victims are my close relatives, the complainant said.

He further said that the accused tortured the members of his family for helping freedom fighters and providing them with food and shelter during liberation war.

The twelve accused in the case are Ashraf Ali Sheikh, Abu Sardar, Shawkat Sheikh, Habib Sheikh, Mojahar Sheikh, Shahabuddin Sheikh, Sufian Sheikh, Afsar Biswas, Abu Biswas, Shahadat Biswas, Gazi Rashid and Nausher Sheikh.



A profusely yielding litchi tree at Abdus Sattar's orchard at Kashiadanga in Rajshahi city, right, workers put net covering on trees at the orchard to protect the juicy summer fruit from birds and insects.



PHOTO: STAR

5 children drown in Gopalganj, Rangpur

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Five children have drowned in ponds in Gopalganj and Rangpur.

Two brothers drowned in Gopalganj yesterday, reports a correspondent.

Victims Rabi, 11, and Chand, 9, are sons of Giasuddin Ahmed, a clerk at the Judge's Court and lived at district council quarters in the town.

The two boys met their tragic end as they went to take a dip in the pond at Old Police Line yesterday noon. They were students of class five and class three at SM Model Government Primary School in the town.

During the mishap their parents were at their workplaces.

In Rangpur, three children drowned in ponds in different areas of the district yesterday.

The victims were identified as Tanji, 3, son of Tawfik, and Enayet Ullah Sayem, 3, son of late Abdullah of Nabindash village under Gangachara upazila; and Sohel Rana, 10, son of Ali Ahmed of Jelepura under Badarganj upazila of the district.

Police quoting the eyewitnesses said Tanji and Sayem drowned yesterday in the pond while they were playing on its bank. Sohel drowned as he was taking bath in the pond near his home.

KIBRIA MURDER CASE Fresh date again for report on further investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday again fixed May 17 for submission of report on further investigation into former finance minister SAMS Kibria murder case.

Judge Md Mahub-ul-Islam fixed the date following a petition submitted to the court by Special Public Prosecutor Kishore Kumar Kar, seeking time extension, court sources said.

Though the tribunal ordered further investigation into the case on a prayer of the then investigation officer (IO) Munshi Atiqur Rahman, senior ASP of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), on March 7, 2007, the CID failed to submit the report in the last three years.

Manzurul Huda, local AL leaders Abdur Rahim, Abul Hossain and Siddique Ali were killed in a grenade attack on a rally at Baidderbazar under Habiganj Sadar upazila on the night of January 27, 2005.

Huji operative Mizanur Rahman Mithu, who arrested by Rab personnel on March 8 this year in connection with Kibria murder case, gave confessional statement before the Judicial Magistrate's Court in Habiganj the following day.

The CID also took former state minister for home Luthfozzaman Babar on Remand in connection with the case last week.

Contacted, CID ASP Rafiqul Islam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said 'further investigation' into the case is going on and they need some more time to submit the supplementary charge.

PROFOUND GRATITUDE

RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited announces with great pleasure that the Public Issue of Shares of the Company, which was closed on 29th April, 2010 received tremendous public support and has been subscribed to **Tk. 1,808.27 Crores (Taka one thousand eight hundred eight crores and twenty seven lacs) against Tk. 132.52 Crores (Taka one hundred thirty two crores and fifty two lacs).**

The Company takes this opportunity to express their profound gratitude to the investors for their overwhelming support and confidence reposed on the Company. The Company also acknowledges with gratitude the co-operation extended by Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Bangladesh Bank, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited, Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited, Managers to the Issue, Post Issue Manager, Registrar to the Issue, Underwriters and Bankers to the Issue.

RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited