

Jamuna devours 500 homesteads in Bhuapur in 15 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Thousands in the riverside villages of Bhuapur upazila are living amid worries, as erosion by the Jamuna has turned furious ahead of the monsoon.

Homesteads of around 500 families at Khanur Bari and Char Chitulia villages under Govindasi union in the upazila have already been devoured by the river in the last 15 days.

Moreover, people of different villages under Govindasi, Aurjuna and Nikrail unions are facing serious erosion threat due to rise of water level in the river recently.

The mighty Jamuna caused serious erosion in the same areas during the last year's monsoon.

However, the river has turned more furious this year and has already devoured about 1,000 dwelling houses, fruit and vegetable orchards and vast tracts of agricultural lands in the villages, officials said.

Scores of riverside families have left their houses for safe shelters while many others are passing days under the open sky.

During this correspondent's visit to erosion-affected Khanur Bari and Char Chitulia villages in Bhuapur on Friday, the affected people expressed their deep concern over the unabated erosion.

Many people of the two villages including Muksed Khan, Shahid Khan, Uzzal Miah, Abdur Rashid, Tota Miah, Abdur Rahman, Kismat Miah, Akrom Khan,



PHOTO: STAR

The Jamuna continues to erode homesteads and agricultural land at the villages along the river in Bhuapur upazila of Tangail district. The river has already devoured 1,000 dwelling houses and a vast tract of agricultural land at Khanur Bar and Char Chitulia villages in the upazila.

Abdul Berek, Abdur Rahim, Abdus Salam, Saheb Uddin, Bahar Ali and Mazam said they have been made homeless by recent erosion by the Jamuna.

On the other hand, scores of other panic stricken dwellers are spending sleepless nights for fear of erosion anytime, locals said.

Teacher Abdur Rahman of erosion-affected Khanur Bari village told this corre-

spondent that many houses including his dwelling hut have gone into the river in the last few days.

"Although the people suffer for Jamuna erosion every year, the authorities concerned seem indifferent, they never take any effective measure to check the erosion. Many riverside villages have already disappeared from the map of the upazila and many villages may dis-

appear within a short period," he added.

Contacted, Riazul Hasan, executive engineer of Tangail Water Development Board said, "We have no fund to take steps against the river erosion. We have written to the higher authorities for providing necessary fund for the purpose. The work will start only after getting the fund," he added.

Ikrumuddin Tara Mridha, chairman of erosion-affected Govindasi union, said he has prepared lists of 260 families from north and 90 families from south who lost their dwelling houses.

"The river erosion is also threatening the flood control embankment in the area," he added.

Meantime, lawmaker from Tangail-2 (Bhuapur-Gopalpur) Khandakar Asaduzzaman, Bhuapur

upazila chairman Shamsul Haque Talukder and upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) KM Abdul Wadud have visited the erosion-affected villages but the hapless people are yet to see any fruits.

Contacted, the UNO told this correspondent that he has already sent the lists of the erosion-affected people to the deputy commissioner's office for extending emergency helps.

SNIPPETS

Housewife murdered

UNB, Sherpur

A housewife was stabbed to death by an unruly youth at NOakura village in Nolitabari upazila early yesterday. The deceased was identified as Hazera Khatun, 22, wife of Olim Miah of the village. Police and local people said, in the absence of Olim Miah, Ashraf Ali, 22, son of late Kubbat Ali of the village entered the house at around 2.30am for violating Hazera. At one stage, Ashraf stabbed Hazera indiscriminately as she tried to resist him, leaving her dead on the spot. Hearing hue and cry, locals caught Ashraf red-handed and handed him over to police.

Rab official electrocuted

UNB, Comilla

A Rab official, who sustained injuries after coming in contact of an electric wire at his house, died at combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the capital city early Saturday. Police said Rab-12 Warrant Officer Abu Bakar Siddique, 50, of Tulatuli Shibnagar in Meghna upazila, got electric shock while watering the rooftop of his under-construction house on Friday night. He was rushed to CMH immediately where he succumbed at around 1.00am.

Current nets seized

UNB, Chandpur

Coast Guard members seized 80,000 meters of banned current nets worth Tk 45 lakh from different areas of Meghna River Saturday. Coast Guard sources said, led by Chandpur station commander Lt Saifur Rahman, they conducted a daylong drive in Mohona Baharia, Harina, Alur Bazar, Hymechar, Nilkamal and Charbhairabi areas of Meghna and seized the nets. None was arrested in this connection.

Youth hacked to death

UNB, Goalanda (Rajbari)

A youth was hacked to death by criminals near Doulatdia brothel early yesterday. The deceased was identified as Shahin Alam, 22, son of Jahurul Islam of Jessore district. Police said unidentified assailants chopped Shahin indiscriminately near the area when he was responding to the call of nature at around 5am, leaving him dead of the spot. Police detained a sex worker named Bristi and five youths for interrogation.

Shrimp trader fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A mobile court fined a shrimp trader Tk 5,000 on Saturday for injecting water into shrimps at village Jabakhali in Shyamnagar upazila. The convict was identified as Md Ala Uddin, son of Aftab Uddin of village Jabakhali. Acting on a tip-off, a team led by Shyamnagar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Sabbir Ahmed and upazila fishery officer Raj Kumar Mondal, raided the house of Ala Uddin and found his men injecting water into the shrimps to increase their weight. The court destroyed the shrimps and fined him Tk 5,000 for the offence.

Auto-rickshaw driver killed

UNB, Comilla

Mutilated body of an auto-rickshaw driver was recovered at Mohishamara village in Burichang upazila yesterday morning. Sources said some unidentified men called Abu Jafar Ikram, 30, of Kharataiia village out of house on Saturday night and he did not return at night. Family sources said, Abu Jafar had enmity with a man of the neighbouring village over money matters. Being informed by local people, police recovered the body of Abu Jafar from beside a road of the Mohishamara village yesterday morning.

Trader mugged in Narsingdi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Muggers looted Tk 1,38,000 from a pineapple trader at Kacharchar Khashmohol village under Shibchar upazila Saturday afternoon. Locals caught three muggers from the spot and gave them a good beating. The three are Ibrahim Mia, 25, of Taroa area under Narsingdi town, Shakhawat Hossain, 20, of Charsujapur village under Shibchar upazila and Nayem Mia, 18, of Gohespur village under Palash upazila. Police said, a gang of seven swooped on Feroj Mia, a pineapple trader of Srimangal upazila under Moulvibazar district, at Bhelanogor bus stand on Dhaka-Sylhet highway while he was returning home after collecting money from Jinardi area in Narsingdi Sadar upazila. They took him on an auto rickshaw and took away the money when they reached near Kacharchar Khashmohol Eidgah field.

Drug trader jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A mobile court sentenced a drug trader to two years imprisonment at Par Naogaon in Naogaon town on Saturday night. Convict Pankaj Kumar Saha, 35, is son of Modon Kumar Saha of Sultanpur village under Sadar upazila. The mobile court also fined him TK 1,000. Rab sources said, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) of Binodpur camp, Rajshahi arrested Pankaj with 20 litres of liquor at Par Naogaon in Naogaon town at around 7:50pm and handed him over to the mobile court.

Brutal killing of another housewife

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A housewife was burned to death allegedly by her in-laws at Togarchar village in Melandah upazila on Friday.

Victim Sabina Akhter, 20, was daughter of Alauddin Fakir of Baghdaduba village under the upazila of the district. She died on the way to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) at night.

Victim's father filed a case with Melandah police station accusing five in-laws. The accused are Sabina's brother-in-law Rukonuzzaman alias Rukon, Mazaharul Islam alias Sabuj, father-in-law Sirajul Islam, mother-in-law Sabironnesa and Salema Khatun, wife of Mazaharul Islam.

Sabina, wife of Moniruzzaman alias Ripon, had an exchange of hot words with her mother-in-law Sabironnesa over a trifling matter on Friday evening. At one stage, her in-laws Sirajul and Sabiron poured kerosene on Sabina's body while



Sabina Akhter

brothers-in-law Rukon and Sabuj set her afire leaving her severely burnt, family sources said.

Later, the victim was sent to Jamalpur General Hospital at 9:30 pm. The doctors at the hospital referred her to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) as she received grievous burn injuries. But Sabina died on the way to DMCH at about 3:00 in the morning.

The victim's relatives took the body to Melandah police station where the victim's father filed a case against five in-laws of Sabina.

Melandah police sent the body to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy on Saturday morning.

Contacted, Rukon admitted that, Sabina had hot talks with his mother. But he claimed that at one stage Sabina poured kerosene on her person and set herself afire.

Victim's husband Moniruzzaman alias Ripon said the incident took place in his absence. Hearing about the incident, he rushed to the spot and with the help of his cousin Lelin took Sabina to the hospital. At that time none of his family members came forward to help his wife Sabina, Ripon alleged.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case SI Shah Sekandar told this correspondent that there might be some other reasons behind the death of Sabina. It would be confirmed only after investigation, the IO said.

1 killed, 70 hurt in 2 clashes of rival villagers

STAR NATIONAL DESK

One person was killed and 70 others injured in separate clashes in Kishoreganj and Brahmanbaria districts on Saturday.

A man was killed and 50 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at Itna, a remote haor area of Kishoreganj yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Kafil Uddin, 45, son of late Abdul Qadir of Soila village.

Police and locals said, the clash ensued after the supporters of Abdul Jabbar ran a truck lorry over Farid Uddin's paddy drying ground at the village on Saturday noon.

Within minutes over 200 people from both groups, led by Abdul Jabbar and Farid Uddin, equipped with homemade arms, locked in a fierce clash, leaving 50 people injured.

Of them, 15 were admitted to local health complex while Kafil Uddin and Farid Uddin, 47, were rushed to Kishoreganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital in critical condition. At the hospital, Kafil Uddin succumbed to his injuries at 9:00pm.

In Brahmanbaria, at least 20 people were injured in separate clashes in Akhaura and Sarail upazilas on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said, a clash between two groups of villagers over previous enmity at Rajendrapur village in Akhaura upazila left at least eight people injured in the morning.

Local sources said, there



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers in Gaibandha district have started harvesting boro paddy. They said favourable weather condition and better irrigation facility have contributed to bumper production of the crop this year.



Mr. Hasnat Ahmed Hashemee, Managing Director of Euro Bangla Group & Mr. Jun Tanaka, Director, Sales & Marketing of Nankai Co. Ltd., Japan shake hands after signing and exchanging business development contract at Dhaka on 30th April, 2011 in presence of Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Vice Chairman of Export Promotion Bureau & Mr. Md. Atiqul Islam, former Vice President of BGMEA.

Signing Ceremony of Cooperative Business Agreement between Euro Bangla Group, Bangladesh and Nankai Co. Ltd., Japan held on 30th April, 2011 at "Palm View Restaurant" Army Golf Club, Dhaka.
Mr. Hasnat Ahmed Hashemee, Managing Director of Euro Bangla Group welcomed the delegates from Nankai Co. Ltd., Japan and expressed his thanks for their interest to act as representative of Euro Bangla in the Japanese market for export of readymade garments and other fabric products from Bangladesh to Japan. Mr. Jun Tanaka of Nankai Co. Ltd., Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Vice Chairman of Export Promotion Bureau and Mr. Md. Atiqul Islam, former Vice President of BGMEA also spoke on the occasion. The Vice Chairman of EPB graced the occasion as Chief Guest and he appreciated the endeavors hoping that it would boost up our national economy and assured of all possible support. President and Vice President of BGMEA Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam (Mohiuddin) & Mr. Faruque Hassan respectively and some high Government Officials and senior Bankers were also present to grace the occasion.