

EROSION BY JAMUNA TURNS SERIOUS

# 300 families homeless in a week in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Gaibandha

With the rise of water level in Jamuna River, erosion has intensified at different places of three unions under Fulchhari upazila in Gaibandha district, rendering 300 families homeless within a week.

Most affected areas are Sankibhaga, Ziadanga and Kamalerpara in Gajaria union under Fulchhari upazila, where 150 dwelling huts along with 500 acres of cultivable land have gone into the riverbed.

Ziadanga Registered Primary School, arranged to be used as a polling centre for the July 2 union parishad

election, was eroded away by the surging water on Thursday.

"Last year the schoolhouse remained a quarter kilometre away from the erosion point of the Jamuna, but the erosion took a serious turn at the end of last rainy season and then again since February this year. Finally the erosion destroyed the schoolhouse at the end of last week," said Mokshed Ali Mandol, a member of school managing committee.

Now the school committee is trying to set up a makeshift shed nearby to prevent dropout of the schoolchil-

dren, he added.

There are 1,734 voters enrolled at this centre and most of the voters need to cross a tributary for casting votes, said Abdus Samad, a voter of that area.

Meanwhile, voters of ward No 6 appealed to the Fulchhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) to set up an alternative polling centre at local Sayeda Islam Forkania Madrasa, but the matter is yet to be settled.

Admitting the situation, Fulchhari UNO Hasan Maruf said a new polling centre will be set up at a suitable place shortly.

The school was situated one kilometre from the

riverbank five years ago and LGED in 2007 allocated Tk 22 lakh for construction of the schoolhouse comprising six rooms, but the river erosion since the last two years finally resulted in its disappearance, said Mohiuddin Ahmed, upazila education officer.

However arrangement is being made to set up a temporary schoolhouse at a new place for continuation of local children's education, he added.

Erosion has also continued in other areas of Udakhali and Uria unions where dwelling huts, lands and trees are being devoured by the surging water.



PHOTO: STAR

**Turbulent Jamuna devoured the house of Ziadanga Registered Primary School in Gazaria union of Fulchhari upazila under Gaibandha district on Thursday as river erosion has taken a serious turn in the area during the last one week.**



PHOTO: STAR

**DEVOID OF CIVIC SENSE!** A large number of voters stand, gossip and loiter on Dhaka-Aricha road during yesterday's union parishad election at adjacent Shibabaya Government Primary School polling centre in Shibabaya upazila of Manikganj district, causing disturbance to vehicular movement on the busy highway.

## Babu murder accused elected Bonpara municipality mayor



Mayor-elect Zakir Hossain

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Natore

The ruling party backed candidate KM Zakir Hossain has been elected mayor of Bonpara municipality in Natore yesterday.

Zakir is the prime

accused in Baraigram upazila chairman Sanaullah Noor Babu murder case.

He defeated BNP nominated candidate Mohua Noor Kochi, the widow of Babu, by 16 votes.

Awami League activists beat Babu to death in

Bonpara bazar on October 8, 2010.

Five magistrates, law enforcement agencies including Rab were deployed to ensure peaceful elections in the municipality, district election office sources said.

## PRE-AND POST-UP POLL VIOLENCE

# 60 people injured, 400 sued

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Pre-and post-UP poll violence in Jamalpur, Lalmonirhat, Natore, Gaibandha and Jhenidah districts left over 60 people injured yesterday and on Saturday night.

Meanwhile, Police filed a case against 400 people, including a defeated member candidate, for their alleged involvement in a post-poll clash at a polling centre in Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar on Saturday that left a boy dead and three others injured.

In Jamalpur, at least 25 people, including nine policemen, were injured during a clash between the supporters of a defeated chairman candidate at a centre in Gualerchar Union of Islampur upazila on Saturday Night.

The clash ensued as the supporters of chairman candidate Anwarul Haque tried to snatch ballot boxes and result sheets of Malmara Alia Madrasa polling centre from the presiding and polling officers.

Police fired 83 blank shots and four rounds of tear gas cells to bring the situation under control.

Seriously injured sub-inspector (SI) Shahnewaz was admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital.

After announcement of election results, Presiding Officer Jahangir Alam along with police was returning to Islampur upazila headquarters. When they reached in Mohammadpur area at around 8:00 pm, the supporters of defeated chairman candidate Anwarul Haque attacked them with lethal weapons and tried to snatch ballot boxes result sheets.

Being informed, ASP circle of Sadar upazila Saiful Haque along with additional police rushed to the spot, Police dispersed the attackers by firing blank shots and tear gas cells.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that the supporters of two candidates clashed at Tepatari Govt Primary School polling centre at Gorol Union under Kaligonj upazila on

Saturday night, leaving 13 people, including two policemen, injured.

Of the injured, five are undergoing treatment at Kaligonj Upazila Health Complex while the rest received first aid, hospital sources said.

Police said the supporters of two chairman candidates locked in the clash at around

8:30pm as the presiding officer at Tepatari Govt Primary School Centre was delaying announcement of results. Police said three motorbikes were torched during the clash.

In Natore, at least 12 people were injured in a post-poll clash between the supporters of two defeated member candidates in Tebaria Union of Sadar upazila yesterday.

The trouble began at around 2:00pm when defeated member candidate Shamsul Alam Rajob and his supporters attacked his rival Abul Hasem and his supporters at Bangabaria.

The injured are Ansar, 40, Masud Rana, 35, Ibrahim, 27, Ripon, 20, Abul Hasem, 35, Selim Reza, 36, and Babul Hossain, 40.

Of the injured, member candidate Abul Hasem, Selim Reza, and Babul Hossain were admitted to Natore Sadar hospital while the rest to the local health complex.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong report: Chakaria police sued 400 people, including a defeated member candidate, for their alleged involvement in a clash that left a boy dead and three others injured on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Abidul Islam, 10, son of Bedarul Islam. He was class four student of Kakra Government Primary School in the upazila. The injured are Obaidul Haque, 35, Farid, 30, and Azizul Haque, 200.

Mohammad Farhad, officer-in-Charge (OC) of Chakaria Police Station said they filed a case on Saturday night against the defeated member candidate of Kakra Union Kesob Paul and his 400 supporters for their involvement in the clash.

When asked about the death of the

boy, the OC said police fired blank shots to bring the situation under control.

The supporters of Kesob Paul clashed with police at the centre as the presiding officer did not pay heed to their demand for recounting of ballots.

In Gaibandha, Five policemen and a polling officer were injured in a post-poll clash in Gaibandha Sader upazila and police had to open blank shot to bring the situation under control on Saturday night.

Police said the supporters of a defeated candidate tried to snatch ballot boxes from from Balayatta Govt Primary School center in Laxmipur Union at around 11:00pm.

They attacked police and polling officers and hurled brick chips at them, leaving five policemen injured. Police fired 23 gunshots to disperse unruly people, according to our correspondent.

At Utter Barobaldia Primary School polling centre in Malibari Union, police fired blank shots and tear gas shells to disperse the supporters of a member candidate who tried to snatch ballot boxes from the centre.

Police arrested defeated member candidate Delwer Hossain as his supporters tried to snatch ballot boxes and assault the presiding officer at Kamornai polling centre. Judicial magistrate sentenced him to two years rigorous imprisonment.

Our Jhenidah correspondent add: Pre-poll violence at Shaikupa and Harinakundo upazilas yesterday left at least 31 people injured.

Of the injured, seven people were admitted to Shaikupa and Jhenidah Sadar hospitals, two were taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, while the rest given first aid at different clinics.

In Shaikupa, the supporters of AL supported chairman candidate in the upcoming election to Abaipur UP Moktar Ali Mridha and AL rebel candidate Amjad Ali Mollah clashed at Hatfajilpur Bazar in the morning, leaving at 21 people from both sides injured.

## Solar power gives them better light in less cost

*Fishermen in Kurigram chars get the benefit as NGO installs it for free*

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

Fishermen in the char areas are now enjoying solar power in three upazilas -- Phulbari, Nageswri and Chilmari.

At least 70 ultra-poor families at 13 villages are receiving the facilities. They are happy as they got 20-watt power in each of their houses.

The villages are West Dhanirum, Kuti Nagorajpur, Bhangamor, Ajoatari, Anatapur and West Phulmati under Phulbari upazila, Kumandopur, Katgiri and Char Kapna under Nageswari upazila and Khamer, Wari, Bhatto Para and Char Bailbandiarkhata

under Chilmari upazila.

RDRS-Bangladesh, an NGO, did the great job by giving solar power units free of cost among the families. The market value of each solar unit is Tk 12,500.

Moniruzzaman Monir, technical officer of the project of this NGO, said "We are distributing solar power units free of cost among the ultra-poor fishermen families who live in remote char areas and who are members of our Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC)."

Fifteen Hindu fishermen families are also using solar power at Wari village (Majhi Para) of Raniganj union under Chilmari upazila for

the last one month. Their children now study in the evening time in solar lighting. Besides, the fishermen can repair their nets at night without any trouble.

While visiting South Wari village a few days ago, Jogendra Nath Das, a beneficiary at the village praising RDRS-Bangladesh said, "My daughter Babita Rani, a student of class-IV in Pattrakhata Phaichka Government Primary School, can now prepare her lessons in evening hours. She is very happy for that".

"I also can repair fishing nets leisurely after coming home from the fish market", Jogendra said.

"We have been living at Majhi Para beside the Dharla River for years. The river devoured our houses four times. Now the fishermen here are living only on 25 decimals of land", Jogendra added.

Atul Chandra Das of the same village said, "Solar light is saving a lot of our hard-earned money. Every day we had to spend Tk 6-7 for kerosene oil".

Fazila Begum, wife of Md Samsuddin said "I am interested to get solar power connection. I am saving money so that I could purchase a small solar power unit. I need it as one of my two sons is a student of primary school."



PHOTO: STAR

**Jogendra Nath Das and his family members stand in front of their house set with a solar panel at Wari village in Raniganj union of Chilmari upazila under Kurigram district.**